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ShodhShuddhi: An initiative to curb Plagiarism In Indian Academic community

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ShodhShuddhi: An initiative to curb Plagiarism

In Indian Academic community

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Abstract

India's higher education system has expanded dramatically, especially in the post-independence era and now has become the third largest system after USA and China. However, this system is disturbed by several problems, the most challenging of which is the need for the authorities to emphasize quality. Recognizing the importance of quality in higher education system and research the Ministry of Education, Government of India, has launched a programme called "ShodhShuddhi" that gives access to Plagiarism Detection Software to 1000+ Institutions. This paper investigates plagiarism and state-wise usage of the Shodhshushi project, which provides plagiarism detection software to institutions of higher learning throughout the nation.

Keywords: ShodhShuddhi, Plagiarism, Plagiarism detection Software, Plagiarism detection tool, Urkund, Original, PDS

Introduction:

Research is the creation of new knowledge and the use of existing knowledge in a new innovative ways in order to create new ideas, techniques, outcomes and concepts based on the previously established ideas, but this should be performed with care and without committing the crime of stealing the work of other researchers. The present-day world is era of a well cultured society where the education plays a vital role in shaping of a further cultured and a developed society. Every individual in society today focuses on higher education and further engages in research for their own prosperity, which will directly contribute to the growth of mankind, but this research will be of importance to the society only if it is original and genuine not plagiarized or copied from others.

Due to the technology advancement the internet has extremely impacted the society and the culture. In ancient times, one had to move a long distance from one location to another in search of material, which was held in tangible ways in libraries and museums. But, in the modern age of information technology, anything is accessible on the internet with a single click, and you can do it while sitting in

your own chair at home. The internet has influenced every part of our lives including shopping, education, business, communication, banking, and many others.

Many people believe that the internet has made it possible to plagiarise because one can quickly browse the internet for a subject of interest and then copy and paste it onto their own work. The effect of the internet on plagiarism, on the other hand, has been largely mistaken. Plagiarism was not created by the internet; rather, it was transformed by it. Internet made committing plagiarism much easier but it also made plagiarism detection much easier. Prior to the internet, finding plagiarism was a time-consuming and challenging process. Plagiarism detection has become even simpler due to the internet, which has developed a whole new industry devoted to it. The government and higher authorities engaged in higher learning and research promotion are now taking a keen interest in the originality of the research and making their best efforts to curb academic theft and misconducts.

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is derived from the Latin word 'plagiarius,' which means 'to kidnap.' As the Plagiarism is the representation of some other author's work, ideas and thoughts as your own authentic work without attribution or crediting the original source which is a form of academic misconduct that is most prevalent in higher education.

According to Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, 'to plagiarize' means

• "to use the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own words or ideas"
• "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source"
• "to commit literary theft : present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source"

UGC Notification (Promotion Of Academic Integrity And Prevention Of Plagiarism In Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018

According to the UGC Act of 1956 (clause (j) of Section 12 read with clauses (f) and (g) of subsection (1) of Section 26), the University Grants Commission (UGC) is responsible for coordinating and determining higher education standards and in order to set limits on Plagiarism and suggest certain institutional mechanisms to prevent Plagiarism in the Higher education system in the country, the University

Grants Commission in its 530th meeting approved the UGC (Promotion Of Academic Integrity And Prevention Of Plagiarism In Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018. These Regulations have been notified in the Official Gazette of India on 31st July, 2018 and are available on UGC website.

Penalties as per UGC Draft

(a) Penalties for students

Plagiarism Disciplinary Authority (PDA) of the HEI, based on recommendations of the Academic Misconduct Panel (AMP), shall impose penalty considering the severity of the Plagiarism.

i. **Level 0: Similarities up to 10% -** Minor Similarities, no penalty.

ii. **Level 1: Similarities above 10% to 40% -** Such student shall not be given any mark/credit for the plagiarized script and shall be asked to submit a revised script within a stipulated time period not exceeding 6 months.

iii. **Level 2: Similarities above 40% to 60% -** Such student shall not be given any mark/credit for the plagiarized script and shall be asked to submit a revised script after a time period of one year but not exceeding eighteen months.

iv. **Level 3: Similarities above 60% -** Such student shall not be given any mark/credit for the plagiarized script and his/her registration for that course to be cancelled.

(b) Penalties for faculty, staff, researcher of HEI

i. **Level 0: Similarities upto 10% -** Minor Similarities, no penalty.

ii. **Level 1: Similarities above 10% to 40% -** Shall be asked to withdraw manuscript submitted for publication and shall not be allowed to publish any work for a minimum period of one year.

iii. **Level 2: Similarities above 40% to 60% -** Shall be asked to withdraw manuscript submitted for publication and shall not be allowed to publish any work for a minimum period of two years and shall be denied right to one annual increment and shall not be allowed to be a supervisor to any UG, PG, Master's. M.Phill., Ph.D. student for a period of two years.

iv. **Level 2: Similarities above 40% to 60% -** Shall be asked to withdraw manuscript submitted for publication and shall not be allowed to publish any work for a minimum period of five years and shall be denied a right to two successive annual increment and shall not be allowed to be a supervisor to any UG, PG, Master's. M.Phill., Ph.D. student for a period of five years.

ShodhShuddhi : An Overview

INFLIBNET Centre has long taken the initiative to prevent plagiarism in academic and research works, as two anti-plagiarism software, namely iThenticate and Turnitin, were given to 110 universities in 2014-15 and URKUND since 2015 to universities that came under section 12(B)/2F of the UGC Act and have signed the Shodhganga/Shodhgangotri MoU with INFLIBNET Centre.

The Ministry of Education, Government of India, has launched a programme called "ShodhShuddhi" that gives access to Plagiarism Detection Software to 1000+ Institutions since 1st September, 2019 and the responsibility to execute the initiative is given to INFLIBNET Centre under the supervision of the MHRD.

The term "ShodhShuddhi" is a combination of the two Sanskrit words Shodh and Shuddhi. "Shodh" means "research and discovery" and the "Shuddhi" term is Sanskrit word for "Purification". Hence ShodhShuddhi refers to the process of purifying research through the Plagiarism Detection Software.

Under the initiative "ShodhShuddhi", URKUND (now renamed Ouriginal since 15th March, 2021), a Web Based Plagiarism Detection Software system, is being made available to all universities/intuitions of the Country which has been selected based on Global Tender Process by INFLIBNET Centre. The anti-plagiarism software allows you to compare submitted documents with multiple document databases. It includes subscription-based resources, existing and archived Internet web pages and web documents, open access resources from main publishers and aggregators, database of student papers, and so on.

Objectives

Every study has an objective in mind that is beneficial to society and the research community. The main objectives of this paper are as follows:

- To raise awareness among academic community about plagiarism, which has become a major topic of concern in the age of information overload.
- To examine the state-wise top document submitters in the "ShodhShuddhi"
    - To examine the top states in terms of Users in the "ShodhShuddhi"
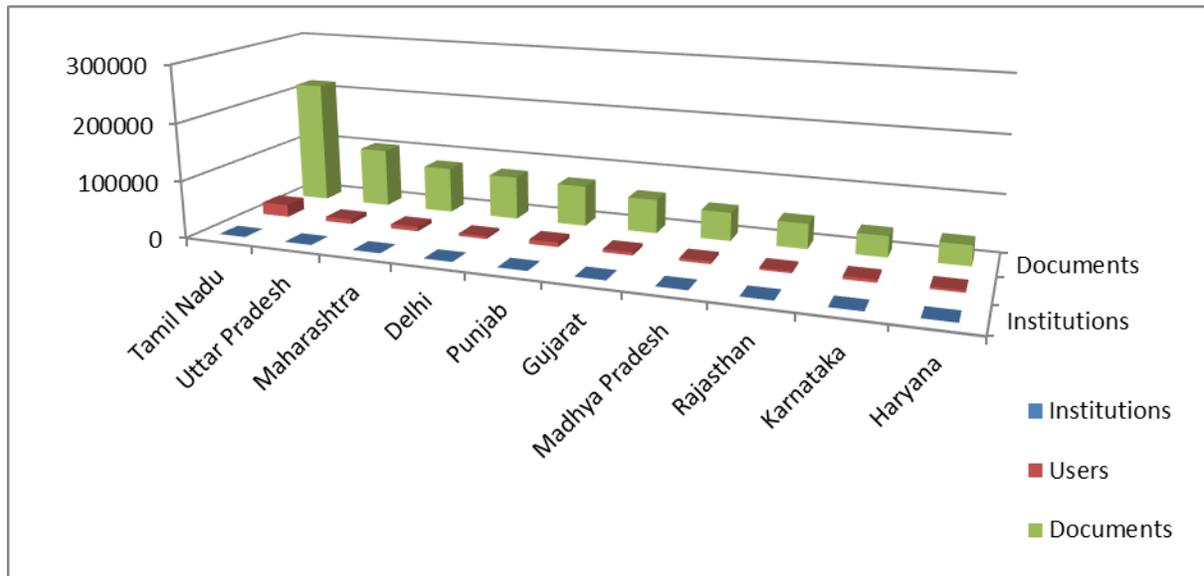- To find out Category wise Institutions covered under "ShodhShuddhi"

Table 1: Universities covered under ShodhShudhhi as on 30.10.2021

Sr.no	Institution Category	No. of Institution joined ShodhShuddhi	Total number of Universities
1	Central Open University	1	1
2	Central University	51	51
3	Deemed University - Government	34	34
4	Deemed University – Government Aided	10	10
5	Deemed University - Private	81	81
6	Institute of National Importance (CFTI)	144	144
7	Institute under State Legislature Act	5	5
8	State Open University	16	16
9	State Private Open University	1	1
10	State Private University	332	334
11	State Public University	371	372
12	IUCs of UGC	9	9
	Total	1055	1058

Table 1 shows the Category wise Universities and Institutions getting plagiarism detection software under "ShodhShuddhi" project.

Table 2: Top 10 Submitters (State) as on 30.10.2021.

Sr.no.	State	Institutions	Users	Documents
1	Tamil Nadu	60	21895	216984
2	Uttar Pradesh	79	7934	103717
3	Maharashtra	66	7767	80719
4	Delhi	30	4552	76103
5	Punjab	32	7920	71475
6	Gujarat	77	5339	59614
7	Madhya Pradesh	68	4816	49645
8	Rajasthan	86	3337	43916
9	Karnataka	70	5165	36624
10	Haryana	48	3766	35382

Acknowledge: Source: https://pds.inflibnet.ac.in/
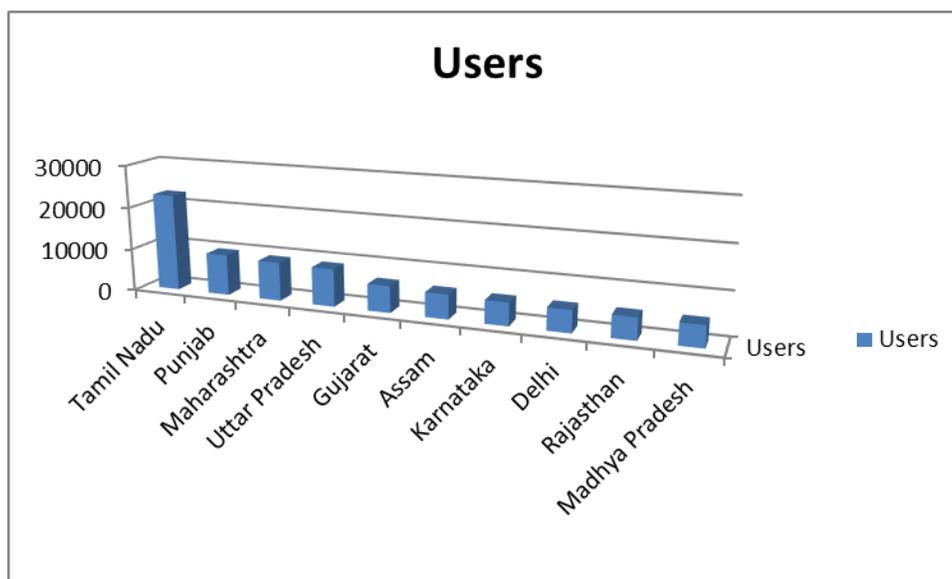
Table 2 lists the top ten states that have reviewed the most documents in plagiarism detection software **(where 1 document equals to 20 Pages 60,000 characters)**.
(https://www.inflibnet.ac.in/publication/newsletter/jul_sep_2020/jul_sep_2020.pdf) The table reveals that the Uttar Pradesh state has the most institutions using plagiarism detection software i.e. 79 out of total 1055 (7.48%) under ShodhShudhhi, but the Tamil Nadu state has the most users (21895) out of total 116162 (18.84%) users under ShodhShuddhi and has reviewed the most records (216984) out of total 1042438 (20.81%) submitted documents under ShodhShudhhi project with 60 institutions getting Plagiarism detection software.

Table 3: Top 10 State in terms of Users as on 30.10.2021

Sr.no.	State	Users
1	Tamil Nadu	21895
2	Uttar Pradesh	7934
3	Punjab	7920
4	Maharashtra	7767
5	Assam	5451
6	Gujarat	5339
7	Karnataka	5165
8	Madhya Pradesh	4816
9	Delhi	4552
10	Haryana	3766

Acknowledge: Source: https://pds.inflibnet.ac.in/

Table 3 lists the top ten states that have the most Users who have joined the "ShodhShuddhi" initiative and account has been created for these users to check Plagiarism in Research and Tamil Nadu state has the most users (21895) out of total 116162 (18.84%) users under ShodhShuddhi

User Awareness Programs and Training Programs

The union Ministry of HRD providing Plagiarism Detection Software (PDS) under the initiative "ShodhShuddhi" to improve the quality of research outcome by ensuring originality of ideas and publication of the research but it will be of importance only if the research community and people

associated with it are well aware and having sound knowledge, skills and techniques to use Plagiarism Detection Software/Tool to cope with the issue of academic misconduct. So far Inflibnet had conducted 8 Physical and 35 Online Online Awareness Programme on "PDS – ShodhShuddhi.

Recommendations

University authorities should conduct more and more awareness / training programme on ShodhShuddhi among research scholars and academicians to create awareness to curb academic misconducts and to maintain academic honesty and integrity in India's higher education system.

Conclusions

Priorily, Plagiarism detection was a difficult and time consuming job but due to technological advances now it's possible to detect plagiarism within in hours using Plagiarism detection tools and software's. However, the service is pretty expensive for an individual but the Ministry of Education is providing such services free of cost to the Universities/Institutions under the initiative called ShodhShuddhi. Higher education universities/Institutions should be concerned and should make better use of it to enhance the standard of the Indian higher education system. However, certain states, like as Tamil Nadu, which have a stronger higher educational system, are leveraging this service to more strengthen their higher education system by preventing Plagiarism in academic writing among student, faculty, researcher and staff.

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