ACADEMIC WRITING AND PUBLISHING IN INDIA: IS QUALITY A TOUCHSTONE?

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Abstract: *This paper explores the current trends of academic writing and publishing in India. The recent past has marked the reverberation of journals and other opportunities for publishing scholarly works in numerous platforms. Negative trends have also grown along with this publication boom as far the quality is concerned. Paid publication, publication without a peer review system, plagiarism and unethical practices have become quite common these days. The contest to increase API (Academic Performance Indicator) through publication has done injustice to the system of knowledge dissemination. This analysis is based on an assessment conducted by reviewing a number of research papers/articles and books. The papers for analysis were selected using the criteria developed by Jeffrey Beall for 'Determining Predatory Open-Access Publishers' (This criterion is in accordance with Committee on Publication Ethics). Fifty articles/research papers were analyzed from the field of social sciences and humanities. The probable chances of being reviewed, plagiarism, language, citation, referencing, nature of author's institutional affiliation and other aspects are analyzed.*

Keywords: *Academic Writing, Publishing, API (Academic Performance Indicator), Plagiarism*

Introduction

India is a country which bestows thousands of books, articles and research papers every year. The advancement and revolution in the arena of information technology has brought radical changes in the field of academic writing as well as publishing. At one dimension, it has brought certain best practices and on the other side, it has created venues for unethical practices. Initiatives like Open Access Resources, Digital Object Identifier (DOI), Indexing, calculation of impact factor are appreciable but the legitimate use of the same is worrisome. A large number of predatory/dubious/fake journals and periodicals had taken birth in the recent past. They have become a viable business for many as they publish they publish articles which do not comply with any scientific rules at a stunning cost. The concern of quality, relevance and research

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components are neglected or have never been considered in such journals. Paid publication, plagiarism and non-reviewed publications are common among them. These bogus/predatory journals have high coverage among the authors from developing countries especially India, Nigeria and some African and Middle East countries (Xia J et al., 2014). As a person working with an educational institution, with a public email address, I usually get 4-5 e-mails every week on the 'call for paper' from a series of so-called journals. I think probably many of you have the same experience. The call for paper have rather an academic than a marketing component where the reader is 'attracted' by the catchy sentences like: *'acceptance within 5 days', 'publication within 21 days', 'indexed journals', 'impact factor-5.24', 'digital certificate' and so on.* The introduction of API system by the University Grants Commission has significantly contributed to the initiation of new publishing venues by business minded people. A large number of students and academicians are crazy to publish their papers wherever possible to double and triple their API score. Being a mandatory requirement for entry level, API score plays a pivotal role in Career Advancement (CAS), promotion, increment and so on. Here arises the query "Why we publish? Is it just for the sake of publishing, increasing API score or to fulfill the real aim of dissemination of knowledge?". The unnatural boom of predatory journals and the quality of papers published in such journals indicate that some are publishing just to enhance the API score.

India has an appalling policy to determine what makes a good publication or how to determine the quality of a journal, considering the API score. It is ambiguous to define the quality of journal or publication by just having an ISSN or ISBN. Albeit all the dubious/ spurious journals hold this number, the concern of quality has never been satisfied in their cases. Some Universities have developed certain yardsticks for considering the quality of publications and warned their faculties and students to be away from publishing in such journals. Savitribai Phule Pune University has recently prepared a document as 'Guidelines for Research Publications' which is a comprehensive document that discusses what to do or not to do. The document clearly mentions that there is nothing to do with the mere classification of 'International' or 'National' as many of the quality journal published from India is in real sense international and many spurious journal are getting this privilege of international by just adding a word international in the journal title. The confusing terms like 'recognized journals' in the UGC Guideline of 2010 must be rectified and at least API score of the paper published in the predatory journals must not be taken into account.

The guidelines of Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) are not followed by most of the paid open access journals operating in India. The ethical aspects of research and publication have never been considered in such publications.
It is devastating and disheartening to know that academicians in the rank of Professors are also engrossed in publishing their works in such journals. Even though the lists of such fake/spurious journals are publicly available (see:_https://scholarlyoa.com/ individual-journals) people still publish in such journals by paying. By doing this unethical act, they are not just dishonoring the institutions they represent, but eclipsing the academic image of the country when such sources are openly available at our fingertips.

Getting published by paying does not require any hard work, years of laborious training or intellectual ability; you just need to have a stuff or just letters filled in a page. Your paper will be 'accepted' and published irrespective of what has been there in the text. Anyone can submit and get it published as 'own' contribution with full plagiarism or an 'original' nonsense. The practice of peer review is far different from the predatory journals as the intention of latter is just to display in their website. The quality of peer review has never been seen in the paper published in such journals where people dump the spurious items and get them published.

The study of John Bohannon (2013) is quite relevant to the context of fee charging journals of India. His study entitled 'Who is afraid of peer review' is a typical example of how can one get published her/his fake/plagiarized paper in such journals. Bohannon has submitted his fake/manipulated paper to 304 fee-charging journals; interestingly, more than 60% of them send him an acceptance notification. This is a crucial indication that the system of peer review has never been practiced by many fee-charging journals. The story of India is not different, as large volume of such gibberish is getting published every year and subsequently such spurious papers increase their API Scores. The western 'debate about publish and perish' is also more relevant here. The quality of publications in India is not sufficiently empirically discussed.

It is really worrisome that 2462 journals of Indian origin have been assigned an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) in last year by the National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources. Are we really contributing to the field of academia and research as proportionate to the number of registered journals? Many of the publishers or interested people are curious to get this number as the guideline of UGC says that "journal with ISSN number".

Method

Fifty articles/research papers from ten predatory journals of Indian origin were analyzed. Journals were selected using the Criteria developed by Jeffrey Beall for 'Determining Predatory Open-Access Publishers'. A random sample of five from every journal was selected. Major component of analysis were the probable chances of being reviewed, plagiarism, language, citation, referencing, nature of author's institutional affiliation and editorial board of the journal and publication charged fees.

Results

1. Why People Publish in Predatory Journals?

The reasons for publishing in factitious journals may vary. The obsession for increasing API or at least having a minimum API to qualify for different academic positions or to show academic contribution at the end of the year are some of the reasons. Many universities (especially private universities) allocate an increment and a special allowance for publishing papers. Instead of serving the purpose of knowledge dissemination, these journals help to publish whatever has been sent, within a very short span of time. If there is an opportunity to publish the 'cut and paste' without any hardship, who will be ready for waiting longer just for the process of peer reviewing.

These journals are the venues for flexibility and a source of 'help' for many during crisis. Do you have enough API for applying for the post of Professor or Associate Professor or for a promotion? If not, do not worry; there are journals that publish predated papers. No matter how old you want to make the paper (one year or two years) it can be done. Where else can authors have this flexibility? And why waste such opportunities of promotion and new posts when vistas are readily available for exhibiting your 'persistent' engagement in research through such unethical mediums?

2. Time until the Articles are Published

Time taken for getting the work published is minimal. Author can have the printed version in hand within 20-30 days. Authors who submit their works to such journals have two main responsibilities after submission. Firstly, once the author receives the acceptance notification (there is no doubt on getting that), he or she has to make the payment. Secondly, send a filled copyright form with signature, even this is not mandatory for many journals. While the peer reviewed journals take three to eighteen months to complete the entire publication process, the journals analyzed in this study offer this within a maximum of 30-45 days. Most of the open access fee charging journals operating in India publishes monthly.

3. The Question of Peer Review

Peer review is the corner stone of a quality publication. It is a process in which a manuscript or a contribution is thoroughly checked, read and re-read for analyzing its academic and scientific quality to be published, by an expert in the respective field. Every journal in the analysis and many other fee charging journals indicate in their website that their journal is 'double blind peer reviewed journal', unfortunately it is written for the sake of attracting prospective 'customers'.

I contacted eight editorial members/reviewers as shown in the journal website to ask them whether they really do peer-review assignments for the journal. The answer was 'no'. They have accepted to be the members of the editorial board or become editorial board member on their own request but none of them have contributed to any peer reviews or editorial services. There is a mismatch in the number of papers published and the number of peer reviewers or editors each journal have. Is it really possible for a journal to publish 40-80 papers every month without a hired team of editors or experts? As a person involved in editorial tasks, I know it is unfeasible for any journal. This is an indication that 'peer review' just mentioned in the journal's website does not happen in the real sense. Although many journals earn huge amount of money, all the analyzed journals (even most of such journals) invite reviewers on voluntary basis.

Another indication from which we can conclude the papers are not reviewed is the quality of published papers. If you go through the paper, it makes you feel that it is just filled with letters; no scientific vigor and attempts are made to address the issues under investigation. Many have done injustice to the 'English language' as the very basic grammar rules are even violated; this specifies the dire reality that the papers are not even proofread.

The structure and content of published papers are poor, the manuscripts have not followed an unique structure and everyone has prepared the manuscript according to their own convenience. The guidelines indicated in these journals' website are not followed in many papers, but articles got published anyway. There are papers that are just cut and pasted from the published dissertations. I come across a number of titles which inappropriately highlighted the usage a particular methodology of research and investigation, i.e. qualitative study, quantitative analysis, longitudinal or cross-sectional study, meta-analysis etc., while such methodology has not been adopted inside the paper. Then how would such papers get published? This would not have happened if an expert from the field had read or reviewed the paper.

Generally, once a paper is received, journals with strong peer review system analyze the structure of paper, followed style, language etc. before it is approved for peer review. They will make a through checkup to confirm whether the contribution is publishable or not. Those papers that do not meet the basics of publication requirement are firmly rejected or asked to resubmit and this happens even before the peer review. To my disappointment, no such endeavors have been followed in the papers analyzed here. Many of the papers are a mixture of a number of styles and modes, in a same paper authors following APA style of referencing along with MLA, Chicago and Harvard.

4. Plagiarism

Plagiarism is rampant in Indian academia. We are brought to limelight by media for the imitation and copying achieved by people hailing from higher profile to the bottom of academics. Many universities face the scandal of awarding PhDs for plagiarized works. Recently, many universities have taken initiatives for preventing plagiarism in the PhD thesis by making an anti-plagiarism check compulsory before submission. But the prevalence of plagiarism at other levels is not potentially addressed. What can we notice now is that plagiarized works act as a reward for many to increase their academic points.

The reflections from this analysis show that academic integrity is jeopardized and they are proving the typical unethical behavior persistent in Indian academia. Most of the analyzed papers underline the fakeness of paid publications as they are just plagiarized and the basic publishing rules are violated. Resources that are easily available in the online networks are re-used as their own by many authors. Some people are smart enough to mix the copied items in between the original own arguments and pretend them as original. But some are not even clever for that, instead they just copy paste the stuffs from wherever it is available.

The basic rules of citation and referencing are desecrated in many papers. Several authors have just copied the literature from a published work along with its reference as this is an easy task, which fulfills the requirement of citing enough literature without reading the original work. However, it shows that many have failed to understand that the source they are copying is a paraphrased one or a quotation. Other technical issue includes the presence of un-referred items in the text; authors have cited a particular literature in the manuscript but not given the reference as endnotes or footnotes. There are papers that have given a detailed list of 'Reference' at the end of the manuscript but

no such citations are made in the text; it indicates they just made a section in the title 'Reference' for the sake of doing it. Authors are supposed to indicate the References, not the Bibliography.

Can you publish a paper with same title and content in more than one or two journals? Yes, one can do that. I found that some of the authors published their single work (same title and content) in more than two journals. You may be wondering if it is a mere mistake done by a student of an undergraduate or post graduate, but the reality is that people with higher academic grades are involved in such acts. Many authors in different ranks of academic repute are doing such immoral acts. I simply do not understand why people do this. It is sure that they cannot show a paper with same title published in different journals together for any academic purpose. Then why this happens? Is this a syndrome like diploma seeking syndrome? This requires further investigation.

The analyzed journals in this study indicate detailed notes on plagiarism in their websites. Some of the captions are: "zero tolerance to plagiarism', 'paper found with plagiarism will be firmly rejected'. In reality, these are written for the sake of proclaiming the quality of publication. If this was their policy, they should not have published a paper that has already been published in another journal and available in the open space. Most of the publishers do a plagiarism check before it proceeds for publication or even before review. Paid publication analyzed here are the typical examples for unscrupulous acts of money earning.

It is understood that many of the papers are plagiarized. To establish it scientifically, ten papers were randomly selected from the fifty papers under analysis to examine plagiarism content. These papers were checked through the Urkund software. The result was alarming and showcasing the unethical Indian academia. Seven among the ten papers were highly plagiarized. Most of the items appeared in the papers were taken from web resources and already published resources which are easily available in the public domains. Seven among the analyzed papers have more than 50% of plagiarized content, after waiving off the cited items in the text. Citations made by some authors also are a great matter of confusion, as they cited items from a secondary source and treating them as the contribution of the same author and without acknowledging the original author. A number of such mistakes are visible in the analyzed papers.

5. Fee Charging as a Business

Publication becomes a business rather than a medium of knowledge dispersal. Many have taken the initiative of fee charging journals, as it is a potential business where income can be generated without much workforce and hard work. Table 1. shows journals' charges for publication and probable earned income. Huge amount of income has been generated by many journals in the short span of one year.

The charges for publishing papers are varying from one journal to another and from one situation to another. If you are publishing with one co-author, you may be charged more, if you require a hard copy of the journal, you may have to pay double. If someone prepares a very lengthy paper and wants to get it published, then he/she will have to pay an additional charge for each page after a limit, which may be seven or

eight dollars. Publication charges for foreign authors are charged in dollars, which are ranging from 50 to 300 dollars, as per the nature of publications earlier discussed.

Table no. 1: Papers Published from March 2015 to March 2016

Journal	Publication Charges/per Paper (in $)	No. of Papers published last Year	Probable Income Earned in a Year* (in $)
Journal- 1	1100	121	133,100
Journal-2	1900	431	818,900
Journal- 3	2500	291	727,500
Journal- 4	2000	1590	3180000
Journal- 5	2500	290	725,000
Journal- 6	1500	1275	1625625
Journal- 7	2500	322	805000
Journal- 8	1500	706	1059000
Journal- 9	2000	2487	4974000
Journal- 10	2000	891	1782000

*The probable income earned is calculated on the basis of total papers published multiplied by the publication fee charged. Fees for multiple or foreign authors are not considered for the calculation here. It is done against the value of single Indian author charges for all papers.

6. Title of articles

Many of the fee charging fake/predatory journals have both attractive and confusing titles. Many have included 'International', 'Asian', 'South Asian', 'Universal', 'Global' in the journals' titles. There are usually confusing titles, which does not make any sense, 'Physical and Social sciences', 'Natural and Social Sciences', 'Arts and Science', 'Arts, Humanities and pure Science' and so on. It is a common trend among such journals to add catchy titles like 'Multidisciplinary', 'Interdisciplinary', 'Contemporary' etc. in their title. But the contents of the published articles are not justifying the journal's titles.

Starting with words like 'International' or 'Asian' makes a journal to be considered as an international journal. Are they really international in nature? The answer is no, as the contributions have no such international characteristics regarding contributors or the standards. The titles are just beguiling, sometimes odd, rather than area or field specific.

7. Language inside the articles

Many papers do not have any sort of readability or do not make any sense. As earlier said, they are just filled with letters rather than ideas. It is very easy for anyone to discrete what has been written by the author and what has been copied, as the written stuffs are not at all convincing and grammatically vague in nature. I have asked some of my friends who have expertise in English language to comment on a few of the selected papers to confirm the language perfection. They were reverted back to me with comments like 'the language is poor', 'essence of idea is not persistent in sentences', 'it seems like copied and inserted in between', 'there is often subject-verb confusion',

'confusion in passive/active voice usage'. The comments and whatever I have read makes me stick on to the fact that proofreading is not done for the papers. But does it matter? The reality is their paper got also published and an increase is made into the scorecard of 'academic performance'.

8. Editorial Boards

It is interesting to make a note on who constitutes the Editorial Board of these journals. It is understood from the journal websites that marketability is given preference while selecting the editorial board members. Most of the journals have at least a few international editorial board members in their list, especially those who are from the above-mentioned Middle East and African countries. Apart from this, a handful belongs to the western countries. Some of the names indicated in the websites as editorial members were not found anywhere in the respective University profiles or through Google Search. I felt that many of the members in the editorial board become members just because of their virtue of being from a foreign nation. The available information on the internet sources shows that the profiles of the members in the board are not that promising and I strongly agree that 'Google Search' or other Indexes are not the only criteria to assess the academic quality of a person. However, in the era of citations and impact factor, it does matter. A very few people from institutes of repute have been found in the editorial board of some journals. Hence, I was curious enough to know why this people are in these editorial boards. These journals are already declared as predatory, are they not aware? I decided to write to three selected people based on their academic contribution reflected in the common platforms. Interestingly I have received reply from one of the professors from Australia and the response was 'I am not aware'.

Editorial board members who are from India mainly hail from colleges located across country. Most of them belong to either private colleges or public colleges. Although faculties from Government colleges also constitute a considerable number, presence of people from public universities are very limited in analyzed journals as editorial board members. Is this not due to their sensitivity and awareness about the business mindedness of such journals? Probably the answer is yes.

Analysis of the profile of people in the editorial board was insightful. People were invited and included into the journal profiles by understanding the potency to tempt the prospective customers.

9. Authors and Institutional Affiliation

It is found that people in the rank of professors to young academicians, PhD and postgraduate students are publishing in such journals. I was eager to analyze the affiliation of authors and whether people from Central Universities, State Universities, Institutes of National Importance and renowned private Universities have made their presence as contributors in the analyzed journals. I was excited to examine what else this people have published or where else they have published. It was a source for me to identify more such fake journals, as many of them are the frequent contributors of them. The scrutiny of authors helped me to find the snowball samples of other such journals.

A considerable number of PhD students have published their papers in the analyzed journals. This has to be understood in relation with the new rules implemented by many universities, which made compulsory to have at least two papers published before the submission of the thesis. It is noteworthy here that most of the PhD students publish their papers with a co-authorship of their supervisors.

Publishing in predatory journals are not isolated incidents. It is prevalent among all the levels of academic. But it is really disheartening that people who are representing Universities of repute are engaged in such acts. Are they really unaware of what they are doing or just ignoring to create scores? They are not only degrading their image as academicians but also the institute they belong to.

As shown by Xia J. et al. (2014) a sizeable proportion of authors in the analyzed journals belong to Middle East and African countries. At least ten percent of the total published papers are contributions by authors of foreign origin. Countries like Nigeria, Ethiopia and Iran etc. are the main countries where author hails from.

10. False Indexing and Impact Factor

All the journals analyzed in this study have indicated in their websites that they are being indexed in various reputed indexes. But the given information is false and non-existent in the indexes. Journals are claiming reputation and quality in the name of indexes. Unfortunately, the contributors to these journals are not aware or not concerned of the reliability of information provided in the websites. They just wanted to claim that they have published in indexed journals; this can be even proved from the reprints of the paper where many of the journals indicate the journal is indexed in. Special privilege given for indexed journals by many universities in API scoring tempts many journal operators to give false information to attract contributors.

Another unethical act is the claim of fraud impact factor. Neither the impact factor journals claims are true nor are they accepted in the wider academic communities. Most of the journals that claim very high impact factor do not match with any available data. Journals that have just started two-three ago years also claim impact factor of more than five. Is it really possible for a journal to have such an impact factor within short span of time? As far as concerning the quality of the mentioned published papers, the answer is that they are of low quality and the probability of getting cited for such works is low. The details of citation of a particular paper are not mentioned anywhere as many other journals do. Therefore, we have to conclude that such information based on the 'citation' is forged in the light of non-availability of reliable data.

Some of the journals in the analysis proclaim a long list of indexing sites in their website. When I explored the reliability of the data, most of them are non-existent. Claiming fake indexes and impact factor have also grown along with the mounting trend of paid publications. The database of publications, at least abstracts, are not visible anywhere other than journal's own website. Indexes claimed by the journals are not even offering any such service or even if exist, these journals have not services exist.

Impact factors and indexes are mainly highlighted to attract the prospective customers to contribute with their papers. A number of indexes have been recently initiated with

the purpose of providing 'Impact factor' to fake journals. In the absence of reliable data of citation, such claiming should be treated as fake.

11. Alternative Means

We have just discussed on the spurious/predatory journals and periodicals. Is this the only mode where people have unethical behavior in publishing? Probably the answer is no, as there are ample venues for the same. The culture of edited book and self-publishing becomes very common nowadays. Many of such books are initiated with the objective of hiking API score. Local publishers offer this service with 15000-25000 rupees, peer review system is non-existent in such publications. Local to international level publishers are publishing such works. If you want to be an author of a book, just prepare a draft, does not matter whether cut and copied from or blunders, pay an amount, 'your work' will be published. The basic principle of review, even proof reading does not matter at all.

Every year, a number of publishers/distributors (mainly local) visit our University for the purpose of marketing books and possible suggestions to library. We have to recommend books to the library based on the curricula, needs of the students and faculties. This exercise enabled teachers like me to think very rationally on the pathetic state of our publication system. I come across a number of books which are mere 'cut and paste' and illogical in nature. Unfortunately, many have fulfilled the criteria to get the score by having an ISBN. Quality measures are far from the scene. Edited book becomes a shortcut for many to hike API, as it involves only inviting papers, compiling it and publishing. 'Editing' never happens in such initiatives, it's a mere compilation of whatever they have received. However, the compilation becomes a striking source for crediting API to their accounts. The case of conference/seminar proceedings is also not different.

Conclusion

Most of the Universities have negligent attitude towards the publications made by their faculties (where they publish and what they publish). As far as promotion is concerned, it should not be deemed as a mere personal activity and the Universities ought to give concern for the faculties and their publications. A few universities have taken considerable measures to check the quality of what have been published or at list where have been published. Some of the universities give weight age to paper published in journals with Impact Factor and books with strong peer review system. However, impact factor alone must not be the criteria and every subject must have proper system, as there are limited choices available for subjects like humanities and social sciences, which lack high impact factor as par with science subjects. There is no suspicion that 'indexing' has relevance. Therefore, clarity on which index is needed to be considered for what subject should be explicit. Now several universities consider the indexes that are all 'science centric'. Subject/theme wise delineation of such consideration should be initiated. Points should not be awarded just because the journal is indexed anywhere.

There are cries and woes for removing the API system. There is no hesitation that there must be a performance appraisal system, otherwise the already devastated Indian

Academia becomes idle as we can see that many of the part of universities and colleges have never made any contribution to research and dissemination hitherto. They just become the 'teachers' by only teaching and neglecting the other two dimensions; research and extension. A quality publication is a positive mark that showcases the ability of a person to be engaged in research and innovation. The API system has to be revised, redefined and restructured so that the existing vague divisions and classifications of allotting score for whatever have been 'printed' must be in control.

Those who are blindly deceived by the API system are disturbed by the tedious task of preparing, submitting, revising, waiting so long and getting published. Another group of people are against this practice, due to the prevailing practice of awarding marks for anything and everything. Yes, their concern is real; people should not enter into academics with their pseudo-publications. In the absence of such system of performance appraisal, how can we assess the quality of a person engaged in research? Truly speaking, we do not have any other mode to assess it. We must understand that many of the reputed foreign universities consider 'quality publications' as par with a doctoral degree. Such waiving off is provided in the context of people's ability to engage in research and dissemination. In India, we are lacking uniform policies to bring quality into academics writing and publishing. Every university must have its own clear policy on ethics in publication and plagiarism.

Most of the western universities have well defined policy on plagiarism that is even applicable for writing academic assignments. This policy is applicable from the undergraduate level itself. It is a matter of profound regret that we don't have such policies even at PhD and faculty level. In western universities, at the time of admission, students were oriented on what is plagiarism, how can it be avoided and the consequences of it. There are incidents where many students are thrown out from the universities due to the allegations of their involvement in plagiarism.

Although many initiatives have been taken in order to ensure quality in the field of research, India still performs faulty in such quality concerns. University Grants Commission in the year 1984, through its document, has given strong indication against plagiarism and other academic unscrupulous acts. For 32 years from that point, we have not made it standard and systematic. Even though the recent guidelines brought forth by the University Grants Commission (2016) is a beacon of hope for reducing some of the existing unscrupulous acts and many of the unanswered ambiguities. The guideline emphasizes to consider those publications in "Refereed Journals as notified by the UGC", "Other Reputed Journals as notified by the UGC" and National/International publishers as identified by the UGC. The criterion of being notified as a journal/publisher by UGC is not indicated. It's a relevant question what mechanism would be used for identifying such journals. The guidelines have to be clear. There must be a solid system to identify journals/publishers.

Recently, many of the universities began the system of plagiarism check, before the submission of thesis. Many more initiatives have to be taken place in the field of research and academic writing. The culture of 'cut and paste' must not be promoted and orientation must begin right from the primary levels of education. The initiation of strict and viable policies in this field is a prime need in India. A qualitative

transformation is required so as to safeguard India from the damages imparted by the present system and to carve a niche of its own in the circle of world academia.

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