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Assessing Similrity Check in Ph.D Thesis of Karnatak University, Dharwad : A Cross Disciplinary Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the extent of plagiarism in thesesof Karnatak University, Dharwad submitted for plagiarism check, as part of the PhD degree fulfilment. The university library uses the antiplagiarism software of Shodh Shuddito calculate the similarity index of each thesis. The study covers the period from 2017 to 2022 and includes theses from Sciences and Social Sciences written in English. The study reveals that 779 theses were checked for similarity index during this period, with the highest number (177) in 2018 and the lowest number (97) in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



The research output of Sciences and Social Sciences was almost equal, with Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics being the leading departments in Sciences, and Education, Economics and Sociology being the leading departments in Social Sciences. The study also shows that more than half of the theses had a similarity index of 0-5%, indicating a low level of plagiarism, while only 4.6% of the theses had a similarity index of more than 30%.The number of theses with low plagiarism (0-5%) have grown significantly in five years, from 76 in 2017 to 112 in 2022 which is a consequence of increased awareness about plagiarism. This is a positive trend and also the thesis with percentage of plagiarism more than 30% is only 4.6% of the total thesis checked.

Keyword :

Karnatak University Library, Plagiarism, Plagiarism Detection Software (PDS), Similarity Index (SIC), Shodhganga, Shodh Shuddi, and Thesis.

1. INTRODUCTION

Doctoral theses are the result of years of original research and hard work. Plagiarism in thesis is a serious academic misconduct that can undermine the credibility and integrity of scholarly research. It is defined as the act of using someone else's words, ideas, or data without proper acknowledgment or citation. Plagiarism can take many forms, such as copying, paraphrasing, summarizing, or translating from another source without giving credit. Plagiarism can also occur when authors fail to disclose their own previous publications or reuse their own material without indicating that it is already published. Plagiarism can lead to negative consequences such as loss of reputation, legal actions, sanctions, or retractions.



Many universities around the world have adopted anti-plagiarism software tools that can compare and analyse the similarity between texts. These tools can help students and researchers to avoid unintentional plagiarism and to improve their writing skills. They can also help the authorities to verify the originality and quality of the submitted works.

2. PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a form of cheating as it involves use of someone's work without giving due credit. Plagiarism can be mainly classified as Direct Plagiarism, Paraphrasing/Rephrasing, Summarizing, Self-Plagiarism, Mosaic Plagiarism, Intentional Plagiarism and Unintentional Plagiarism. Plagiarism may be due various reasons in academic institutions, depending on the context and the motivation of who is engaged in it.

Some of the possible causes of plagiarism are; availability of abundant information through internet, which allow students to easily locate and copy information from different sources without much effort or critical thinking; Pressure to meet deadlines, achieve high grades, API scores or to impress instructors and peers; The lack of awareness about understanding of the ethical and academic standards of citation and referencing, not understanding the assignment requirements, which makes it difficult to produce original work or to paraphrase correctly; lack of time, skills or confidence to conduct original research, write effectively and cite sources correctly; Cultural differences or language barriers also make it difficult to paraphrase or quote sources appropriately and intentional dishonesty or cheating to gain an unfair advantage over others.

However, there are a few key ways to avoid plagiarism such as giving credit where it is due.



Using quotation marks and citing the source. In case of paraphrasing the information must be put in own words and again, cite the source.

Finally, if one is unsure whether something might be considered plagiarism, it is always best to err on the side of caution and cite it.

Institutions on priority should educate the students and faculty about ethics by developing information literacy skills by teaching them how to :

- Identify their information needs and formulate research questions
- Locate relevant and reliable sources of information using various tools and methods
- Analyse and synthesize information from different sources and perspectives
- Cite sources correctly using appropriate citation styles and formats
- Avoid plagiarism by paraphrasing, summarizing, quoting, and acknowledging sources.

There are different types of plagiarism checking software available both free and paid, some of free softwares arePlag Patrol, WCopyfind, Copyleaks, PlagScan and paid Plagiarism Softwares are Scribbr, Quetext, and Grammarly.

While, Plagiarism Softwares for Regional and Foreign Languages are Drillbit Anti-Plagiarism Software, CheckForPlag (CFP) and ShodhMapak.



3. UGC GUIDELINES FOR PLAGIARISM

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has considered plagiarism as serious academic offense that can result in penalties such as loss of marks, rejection of papers, suspension, or expulsion.

It has issued guidelines in 2018for plagiarism prevention and detection in higher education institutions. According to which, plagiarism is classified into four levels based on the percentage of similarity with the original source :

Level	Percentage of Similarity	Penalty
Level 0	Up to 10% similarity	No penalty
Level 1	Between 10% and 40% similarity	Reduction of marks or grades, resubmission of work, or warning
Level 2	Between 40% and 60% similarity	Cancellation of work, suspension, or debarment from the institution
Level3	Above 60% similarity	Cancellation of degree or certificate, dismissal from the institution, or legal action

The UGC guidelines also prescribe different actions and penalties for each level of plagiarism, ranging from re-submission of the work with reduced marks to cancellation of registration or degree. The guidelines also mandate the use of plagiarism detection software and tools by the institutions to check the originality of the submitted work. The UGC guidelines aim to promote academic integrity and ethical conduct among students, researchers, and faculty members. INFLIBNET provides access to antiplagiarism softwares for the Universities under ShodhShuddhi project.



4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Pandita, R. and Singh, Shivendra (2019) discuss the measures taken by governing bodies, such as the UGC, to prevent plagiarism in Higher Education Institutions in India. It highlights the limitations of these measures and the reasons for plagiarism in academic and research circles and concludes that there is no fool proof mechanism to completely curb plagiarism.

Dinesh Kumari (2019) explores the concept of plagiarism and its related aspects in the context of India, examines the different types of plagiarism and how to avoid them in academic writing and research and the recent initiatives by the Indian government to prevent plagiarism in academia. N. Ashok Kumar (2020) examines the role of the UGC in implementing anti-plagiarism software in Indian academic institutions and discusses the challenges and benefits of using such software to detect and prevent plagiarism and also analyses the UGC regulations and guidelines on plagiarism and suggests some measures to improve the quality and integrity of academic research in India

Vinod V. M. and Azeez T. A. (2020) show the impact of plagiarism check policy on the similarity indices of 100 doctoral theses submitted to the Calicut University and found that there was a significant reduction in the similarity indices after the policy implementation, indicating a positive effect of plagiarism check policy. Garg, N., Joshi M. and Bansal J. (2021) investigate the level of awareness and attitude towards plagiarism among postgraduate students and research scholars of social sciences departments of Kurukshetra University and Panjab University. The authors used a questionnaire to collect data from 303 respondents and found that only 23.97% had attended plagiarism awareness programmes.



Sutar and Sadlapur (2021) conducted a survey using Google forms and collected responses from 100 academicians to compare the awareness of plagiarism in urban and rural areasand revealed that most of the academicians are alert about plagiarism issues. Awasthia and Tripathi (2021) compared four anti-plagiarism software tools used at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi : Turnitin, Urkund, Drillbit and Check-for-plagiarism regarding their features, functionalities, coverage, access levels and performance. It also identifies the challenges and limitations of using these software tools for checking originality of documents. It emphasizes that human intelligence is essential along with anti-plagiarism software to ensure quality and honesty in education and research. Prathiba S. N. and Shilpa Rani N. R. (2022)explore about awareness, usage of plagiarism detection software, citation styles, and punishment for plagiarism among the faculty members of engineering colleges in Bengaluru and show that most of the faculty members are aware of plagiarism and its consequences.

Kumar, R., Pratap, B. and Pateria, R. K. (2022) examine the impact of plagiarism on academic integrity in research and explore the reasons, types, and forms of plagiarism, as well as the tools and techniques to detect and prevent it. Abdullal, A. and Abdellatif,M.(2022)discuss the role of academic libraries in detecting plagiarism in research output, their responsibility and the capacity to provide plagiarism education and prevention services to researchers and students.

Subaveerapandiyan and Sakthivel (2022) explore the challenges and problems faced by colleges affiliated with Tamil Nadu State Universities in subscribing plagiarism detection software. The survey results show that 70.9% of the colleges did not subscribe to any software. 41.7% said it was too costly, and 30.5% said it was not necessary for their college.



They also recommend that the UGC should make it mandatory for colleges to have plagiarism detection software. Kumbhar and Patil (2023) examine the issue of plagiarism in academic research and the role of the UGC and INFLIBNET in India to prevent it with regulations and guidelines on its detection and prevention.

Prashara, Gupta and Dwivedi (2023) explore how ethical awareness efforts by HEIs influence the student's ethical judgments and behaviours. The study also examines how individual factors such as religiosity, age, gender, and work experience moderate plagiarism behaviour. Sharma S. and Manish (2023) examine the awareness and use of antiplagiarism methods among faculty members and research scholars of selected central universities in Uttar Pradesh and found that the main factors that affect their use of antiplagiarism methods are the availability and accessibility of resources, the institutional policies and support, and the personal attitudes and motivations.

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the total number of theses checked for plagiarism during 2017-22;
2. To know the year wise trend in growth of thesis;
3. To know the productivity of various departments during 2017-22;
4. To know the percentage of plagiarism in various subjects;
5. To compare the levels of plagiarism between thesis in Science and Social Science subjects; and
6. To know the trend of plagiarism during 2017-2022.

6. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The scope of the present study is limited to thesis submitted for plagiarism check to Karnatak University, Dharwad for award of PhD degree during the period from 2017 to 2022. Percentage of plagiarism in the thesis from the field of Sciences and Social Sciences written in English language only are considered for the present study.

7. METHODOLOGY

An attempt has been made in this article to study about the percentage of plagiarism in thesis submitted for plagiarism check to Karnatak University, Dharwad. All the theses submitted for award of PhD degree have to mandatorily undergo Similarity Index Check/ Plagiarism Check from the University library.

The theses are uploaded to ShodhShuddhi where the antiplagiarism software gives the percentage of similarity in them. The data for the present study is taken from the University library for the period of 2017 to 2022.

8. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

The study is based on the data collected from Prof. S. S. Basavanal Library, Karnatak University, Dharwad for the period 2017 to 2022. The entire theses in English language subjected for plagiarism check were listed along the percentage of plagiarism. This data is used for further analysis in this study.

Year wise trend : The process of checking for percentage of plagiarism started in Karnatak University, Dharwad during 2017. Hence the data is taken from 2017 to 2022. An attempt to know the thesis submitted for plagiarism check during 2017-22.

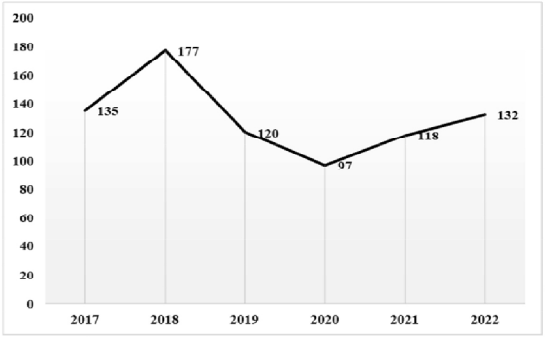


Table No. 1 shows the year wise number of submission of thesis.

Year	Total
2017	135
2018	177
2019	120
2020	97
2021	118
2022	132
Total	779

Table No. 1 : Year wise submission of thesis

During the period 2017 to 2022 totally 779 theses were subjected to plagiarism check. It is seen that highest number of thesis i.e., 177 were submitted during 2018 and lowest 97 in 2020 with 135 in 2017, 120 in 2019, 118 in 2021 and 132 in 2022.



Graph No. 1 : Year Wise trend in the submission of thesis

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Graph 1 depicts the trend in the research output during 2017-2022.The effect of outbreak of the pandemic COVID19 and closing of University for some time is reflected in the reduced submissions in 2019 and 2020. However, gradual increase is observed in 2021 and 2022. The research productivity in 2017 and 2022 is almost same with 135 and 132 respectively showing the restoration of normalcy in research.

8.1 Productivity of Various Departments :

The data was analysed to know the research productivity of various departments of the University during 2017-22, for this thesis checked during 2017-22 for plagiarism from each department were tabulated. Table 2 shows the productivity of various departments for the period 2017-2022.

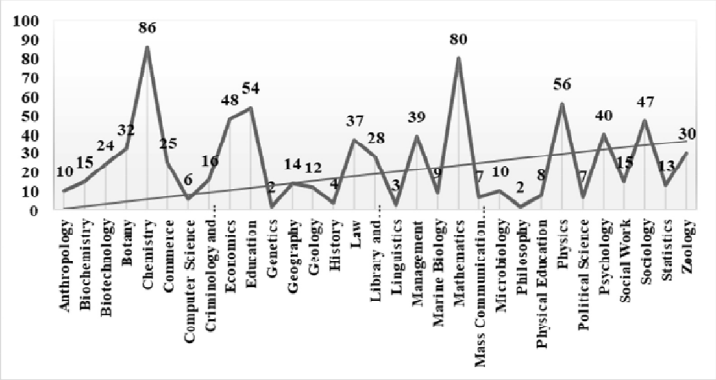
Subjects	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Anthropology	2	2	1	3	1	1	**10**
Biochemistry	3	2	2	3	4	1	**15**
Biotechnology	6	1	4	8	1	4	**24**
Botany	10	2	8	1	4	7	**32**
Chemistry	9	37	14	9	3	14	**86**
Commerce	2	7	3	1	9	3	**25**
Computer Science	--	2	1	--	3	--	**6**
Criminology and Forensic Science	--	4	3	4	3	2	**16**
Economics	11	2	9	6	8	12	**48**
Education	4	19	14	4	8	5	**54**
Genetics	--	--	--	1	--	1	**2**
Geography	--	2	3	2	6	1	**14**
Geology	--	4	2	3	1	2	**12**
History	--	--	--	--	--	4	**4**
Law	6	11	10	3	2	5	**37**
Library & Information Science	6	10	2	--	6	4	**28**
Linguistics	1	1	--	1	--	--	**3**
Management	2	7	7	9	7	7	**39**
Marine Biology	--	3	1	2	3	--	**9**
Mathematics	30	14	4	13	8	11	**80**
Mass Communication	1	1	1	1	2	1	7



and Journalism							
Microbiology	2	2	--	2	2	2	**10**
Philosophy	--	1	--	--	1	--	**2**
Physical Education	--	5	1	1	--	1	**8**
Physics	10	10	7	2	16	11	**56**
Political Science	2	4	1	--	--	--	**7**
Psychology	12	8	4	1	5	10	**40**
Social Work	2	1	2	4	1	5	**15**
Sociology	5	5	9	9	11	8	**47**
Statistics	4	1	4	2	1	1	**13**
Zoology	5	9	3	2	2	9	**30**
Total	**135**	**177**	**120**	**97**	**118**	**132**	**779**

Table No. 2 : Productivity of various departments during 2017-2022

It is seen from the table No. 2 that out of 779 total theses the highest number of theses were from the department of chemistry with 86 theses, followed by Mathematics with 80 and Physics with 56.



Graph No. 2 : Productivity of Various Departments for the Period 2017-2022

This can be clearly observed in the graph No. 2 which depicts the overall productivity of the departments from 2017-22. It can be inferred that the research productivity of basic science subjects like Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics is higher in Karnatak University.



The data was further analysed to know the trend in research in various department under science faculty.

Department of Sciences	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Biochemistry	3	2	2	3	4	1	**15**
Biotechnology	6	1	4	8	1	4	**24**
Botany	10	2	8	1	4	7	**32**
Chemistry	9	37	14	9	3	14	**86**
Computer Science	--	2	1	--	3	--	**6**
Genetics	--	--	--	1	--	1	**2**
Geography	--	2	3	2	6	1	**14**
Geology	--	4	2	3	1	2	**12**
Marine Biology	--	3	1	2	3	--	**9**
Mathematics	30	14	4	13	8	11	**80**
Microbiology	2	2	--	2	2	2	**10**
Physics	10	10	7	2	16	11	**56**
Statistics	4	1	4	2	1	1	**13**
Zoology	5	9	3	2	2	9	**30**
Total	**79**	**89**	**53**	**50**	**54**	**64**	**389**

Table No. 3 : Productivity of science departments

Table No. 3 gives the year wise submission of thesis in subject under science faculty, 14 different departments fall under science faculty in Karnatak University, Dharwad. During 2017-2022, 389 theses were subjected to plagiarism check.

The table clearly shows that Chemistry is leading with 86 theses, followed by Mathematics with 80 and Physics by 56.

This indicates that the core basic subjects in sciences have an upper hand in research output.

Similarly, the thesis submitted for plagiarism check during 2017-2022 were analysed to study the productivity of social science subjects.



Table No. 4 : Productivity of Social Science departments

Department of Social Sciences	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Anthropology	2	2	1	3	1	1	**10**
Commerce	2	7	3	1	9	3	**25**
Criminology and Forensic Science	--	4	3	4	3	2	**16**
Economics	11	2	9	6	8	12	**48**
Education	4	19	14	4	8	5	**54**
History	--	--	--	--	--	4	**4**
Law	6	11	10	3	2	5	**37**
Library & Information Science	6	10	2	--	6	4	**28**
Linguistics	1	1	--	1	--	--	**3**
Management	2	7	7	9	7	7	**39**
Mass Communication and Journalism	1	1	1	1	2	1	**7**
Philosophy	--	1	--	--	1	--	**2**
Physical Education	--	5	1	1	--	1	**8**
Political Science	2	4	1	--	5	10	**22**
Psychology	12	8	4	1	--	--	**25**
Social Work	2	1	2	4	1	5	**15**
Sociology	5	5	9	9	11	8	**47**
Total	**56**	**88**	**67**	**47**	**64**	**68**	**390**

Table No. 4 shows the distribution of 390 thesis among 17 social science subjects during the period of six years i.e., from 2017 to 2022. The leading contribution is from the Department of Education with 54 theses, followed by Economics with 48 and closely by Sociology by 47 theses. This shows that Department of Education is actively involved in research activities and Economics and Sociology being the core subjects are also conducting active research programs.

8.2 Percentage of Plagiarism :

In this study an attempt was made to study percentage of plagiarism in thesis of various departments of the University. The thesis were grouped into 7 groups based on range of percentage i.e. from 0-5%, 6-10%, 10-15%, 16-20%, 21-25%, 26-30% and 30% or more percentage of plagiarism.



Table No.5 : Percentage of plagiarism in various departments

Subject	0-5%	6-10%	11-15%	16-20%	21-25%	26-30%	>30%	Total
Anthropology	7	1	--	--	2	--	--	**10**
Biochemistry	10	5	--	--	--	--	--	**15**
Biotechnology	15	5	3	--	--	1		**24**
Botany	24	6	--	1	--	--	1	**32**
Chemistry	38	15	3	3	8	8	11	**86**
Commerce	19	2	2	1		1		**25**
Computer Science	1	2	3	--	--	--	--	**6**
Criminology and Forensic Science	9	4	1	1	--	1	--	**16**
Economics	36	7	2	2		1		**48**
Education	14	8	6	8	3	6	9	**54**
Genetics	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	**2**
Geography	9	3	1	1	--	--	--	**14**
Geology	8	2	1	1	--	--	--	**12**
History	1	1	1	--	--	--	1	**4**
Law	10	13	5	4	3	--	2	**37**
Library & Information Science	17	5	5	--	--	--	1	**28**
Linguistics	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	**3**
Management	30	2	3	1	2	1		**39**
Marine Biology	7	1	1	--	--	--	--	**9**
Mathematics	26	13	6	8	8	9	10	**80**
Mass Communication and Journalism	6	1	--	--	--	--	--	**7**
Microbiology	6	2		1	1			**10**
Philosophy	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	**2**
Physical Education	5	2	1	--	--	--	--	**8**
Physics	49	5	2	--	--	--	--	**56**
Political Science	1	1	2	--	--	2	1	**7**
Psychology	26	7	5	--	1	--	1	**40**
Social Work	11	3		1		--	--	**15**
Sociology	36	6	3	1	1	--	--	**47**
Statistics	9	2	1	--	--	1	--	**13**
Zoology	22	4	4	--	--	--	--	**30**
Total	**459**	**128**	**61**	**34**	**29**	**31**	**37**	**779**

Table No. 5 gives the distribution of 779 theses submitted from 2017 to 2022 among 7 groups based on their percentage of plagiarism. It is



seen from the table that 459 theses have percentage of plagiarism between 0-5% which is 58.92% of the total thesis checked, 128 within the range of 6-10%, 61 thesis between 11-15%, 34 with 16-20%, 29 with 21-25%, 31 with 26-30% and 37 theses have percentage of similarity above 30% which is less than 5% of the total thesis checked. This shows that the level of plagiarism is fairly low in the theses submitted at Karnatak University.

8.3 Comparison of levels of plagiarism between science and social science departments :

Out of the total 779 thesis 389 belong to sciences and 390 to social sciences which is almost equal hence a comparative analysis among both the faculties was undertaken.

Table No. 6 : Comparison of Levels of Plagiarism

Faculty	0-5%	6-10%	11-15%	16-20%	21-25%	26-30%	>30%	Total
Sciences	226 (58.10%)	65 (16.71%)	25 (06.43%)	15 (03.86%)	17 (04.37%)	19 (04.88%)	22 (05.66%)	**389 (100.00%)**
Social Sciences	233 (59.74%)	63 (16.15%)	36 (09.23%)	19 (04.87%)	12 (03.08%)	12 (03.08%)	15 (03.85%)	**390 (100.00%)**
Total	**459 (58.92%)**	**128 (16.43%)**	**61 (07.83%)**	**34 (04.36%)**	**29 (03.72%)**	**31 (03.98%)**	**37 (04.75%)**	**779 (100.00%)**

Table No. 6 shows the thesis in science subjects and social science subjects grouped according to range of percentage of plagiarism. The figures in the parenthesis indicate the share of the thesis from total number of thesis in percentage.

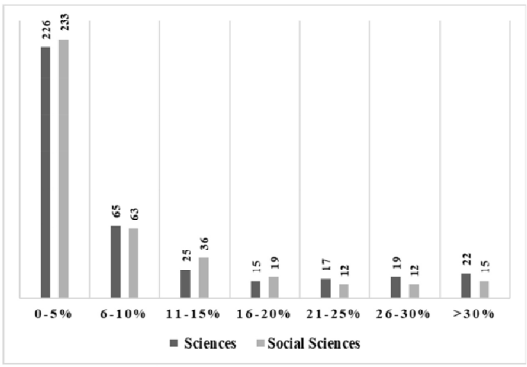
It is evident through table that more than half (58.92%) of the total thesis have percentage of plagiarism within the range of 0-5%. This trend is seen in both the faculties with 58.20% of science thesis and 59.74% social science thesis are between 0-5%, while 16.15% of the science and 16.43% of social science have similarity range between 6-



10%. Some difference is seen in the range of 11-15% of similarity with 6.43% of sciences and 9.23% of social science subjects. 3.86% of science thesis fall in range of 16-20% similarity which 4.87% of social science are in this range. 4.37% of sciences and 3.08% of social sciences thesis are in the range of 21-25% of similarity. It is observed that 4.88% of sciences and 3.08% of social sciences have similarity between 26-30%. Some of the theses have shown plagiarism more than 30%, it is found that 5.66% of science subjects and 3.85% of social sciences are in this category which is a very small percentage.

It is seen clearly from the graph 3 that both the faculties show almost similar pattern in each range with few variations. There is a steady decrease in the number of theses as the percentage of similarity increases in social sciences but it is not so in sciences.

Graph No. 3 : Faculty Wise Comparison of Percentage of Similarity



Further to study the percentage of plagiarism in various departments individually, the thesis were grouped department wise in sciences and social sciences separately according to the percentage of plagiarism into 7 groups similar to earlier analysis. The 389 thesis of sciences were segregated into 14 subjects.



Department of Sciences	0-5%	6-10%	11-15%	16-20%	21-25%	26-30%	>30%	Total
Biochemistry	10	5	--	--	--	--	--	15
Biotechnology	15	5	3	--	--	1	--	24
Botany	24	6	--	1	--	--	1	32
Chemistry	38	15	3	3	8	8	11	86
Computer Science	1	2	3	--	--	--	--	6
Genetics	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Geography	9	3	1	1	--	--	--	14
Geology	8	2	1	1	--	--	--	12
Marine Biology	7	1	1	--	--	--	--	9
Mathematics	26	13	6	8	8	9	10	80
Microbiology	6	2	--	1	1	--	--	10
Physics	49	5	2	--	--	--	--	56
Statistics	9	2	1	--	--	1	--	13
Zoology	22	4	4	--	--	--	--	30
Total	226	65	25	15	17	19	22	389

Table No. 7 : Department wise percentage of plagiarism in sciences

The percentage of plagiarism among the various subjects of sciences is shown in the table No.7. It is observed that more than half of the total thesis i.e. 226 were within the range of 0-5%,amongst which thesis from Physics department were highest with 49 followed by Chemistry department with 38. Mathematics and Botany are close with 26 and 24 respectively. Department of Zoology has 22 thesis within the said range.It is evident in the table that only Chemistry and Mathematics being large deparments have thesis with similarity index in all the ranges from 0-5% to more than 30%. Genetics has only 2 thesis and bth are in 0-5% range.

Department of Social Sciences	0-5%	6-10%	11-15%	16-20%	21-25%	26-30%	>30%	Total
Anthropology	7	1	--	--	2	--	--	10
Commerce	19	2	2	1	--	1	--	25
Criminology and Forensic Science	9	4	1	1	--	1	--	16
Economics	36	7	2	2	--	1	--	48
Education	14	8	6	8	3	6	9	54
History	1	1	1	--	--	--	1	4

Law	10	13	5	4	3	--	2	**37**
Library and Information Science	17	5	5	--	--	--	1	**28**
Linguistics	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	**3**
Management	30	2	3	1	2	1	--	**39**
Mass Communication and Journalism	6	1	--	--	--	--	--	**7**
Philosophy	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	**2**
Physical Education	5	2	1	--	--	--	--	**8**
Political Science	1	1	2	--	--	2	1	**7**
Psychology	26	7	5	--	1	--	1	**40**
Social Work	11	3	--	1	--	--	--	**15**
Sociology	36	6	3	1	1	--	--	**47**
Total	**233**	**63**	**36**	**19**	**12**	**12**	**15**	**390**

Table No. 8 : Department wise percentage of plagiarism in social sciences

Similarly, thesis in social sciences grouped into seven groups and were analyzed. Table No. 8 shows the distribution of the 390 thesis among 17 subjects. Department of Education was highest contributor with 54 theiss followed by Economics with 48 and Sociology with 47.

36 of the total thesis of Economics fall under 0-5% range while36 Sociology and 30 Mangement Studies thesis are under 0-5% range of similarity.Psychology has 26 thesis in the 0-5% range. Linguistics and Philosophy submitted 3 and 2 thesis respectively which are in 0-5% range.

8.4 Trend of Plagiarism During 2017-22 :

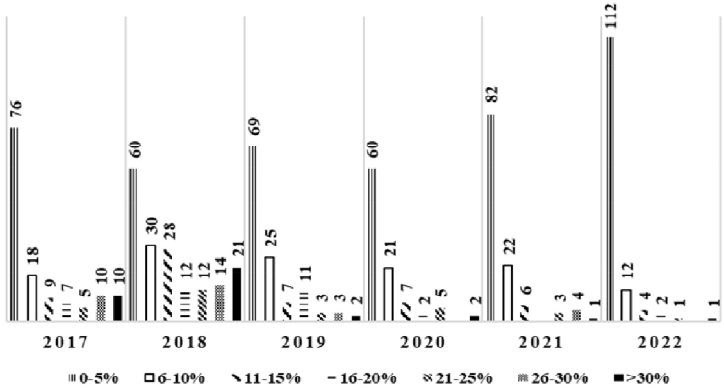
An attempt was made to study whether the awareness of about plagiarism and guidelines of UGC has an effect on percentage of plagiarism during 2017-2022 by analysing the trend in percentage of plagiarism.



Year	0-5%	6-10%	11-15%	16-20%	21-25%	26-30%	>30%	Total
2017	76	18	9	7	5	10	10	**135**
2018	60	30	28	12	12	14	21	**177**
2019	69	25	7	11	3	3	2	**120**
2020	60	21	7	2	5	--	2	**97**
2021	82	22	6	--	3	4	1	**118**
2022	112	12	4	2	1	--	1	**132**
Total	**459**	**128**	**61**	**34**	**29**	**31**	**37**	**779**

Table No. 9 : Trend of plagiarism during 2017-22

Thesis were grouped yearwise into seven groups indicating the range of plagiarism. There is a increase from 76 in 2017 to 112 in 2022 in the minimium range of 0-5% similarly there is a decrease in all other higher ranges of percentage of plagiarism. Especially in higher ranges of 21-25%, 26-30% and 30% and more in 2022 it has decreased to zero and 1 which is a positive trend in research ethics.



Graph No. 4 : Trend of Plagiarism During 2017-22



9. FINDINGS

During 2017 to 2022, 779 thesis have been subjected to plagiarism Check at Karnatak University Library. In 2018 highest number of thesis i.e. 177 were submitted.

The effect of lock down due to COVID -19 pandemic is seen with lowest number of submissions of 97 in 2020.

The research productivity of sciences and social sciences is equal with 389 and 390 respectively. In sciences the leading department in research are Chemistry with 86, followed by Mathematics with 80 and Physics with 56.

In Social Sciences highest thesis are from department of Education with 54, followed by Economics with 48 and Sociology with 47. It is very clearly seen from the analysis that more than 50% of the total thesis submitted have only 0-5% of plagiarism. It is clear from the analysis that 75% (587) of the total thesis submitted to Karnatak University are in the level 0 (0-10% Similarity) as per UGC guidelines of 2018.

This is a good trend and also the thesis with percentage of plagiarism more than 30% is only 4.6% of the total thesis checked. The number of thesis within the range of 0-5% have increased considerably from 76 in 2017 to 112 in 2022 which is a result of increased awareness about plagiarism.



10. CONCLUSION

Plagiarism is a grave violation of scholarly ethics that can harm the trustworthiness, standing of scholars and organizations and needs to be discouraged in academic environment.

Plagiarism is not only an ethical issue but also a reflection of the lack of critical thinking and research skills among students and teachers. Plagiarism Check helps to unveil the unhealthy practices in research output. Lack of awareness and writing skills are the main reasons coupled with the easy access to abundant information on internet.

The plagiarism detection softwares work well on textual information which students can overcome by paraphrasing or syntactic variations. In some cases the plagiarised document may not be available electronically and also ideas may be used from text of other languages without giving proper credit.

Anti-plagiarism software is not a panacea for plagiarism prevention. It has its own limitations and challenges, such as accuracy, reliability, accessibility, usability, and ethical issues. Hence, if the students are not made aware of ethical side of plagiarism, they will find out ways to overcome the textual plagiarism. Suitable pedagogy at the undergraduate level stressing about originality in work and the importance of acknowledging others ideas is most essential to control this rampant phenomenon of plagiarism in academic community.

As the awareness about this increases, the researchers will take measures to improve their writing skills and demonstrate their academic integrity.

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