

Plagiarism Compliance Attitude of the Urban and Rural Academicians

By

Ramesh Sutar¹, Dr. Rajkumar Bhakar²

¹Research Scholar, ²Head & Associate Professor

^{1&2}Department of Library & Information Science,

^{1&2}Shri JJT University, Rajasthan, India

¹Email ID: pramesh2907@gmail.com, ²Email ID: library@jjtu.ac.in

Abstract: *Abstract: In this article, academicians working in the engineering colleges affiliated to the University of Mumbai are considered for the research. The focused has been given on the attitude of the academicians in urban and rural area towards plagiarism compliance. Online survey has been conducted through Google forms. The views of the academicians in urban and rural area, regarding plagiarism compliance have been studied. The collected data have been analyzed and tested with T-test. It is found that, there is highly significant difference of opinion among these two groups except few statements. Academicians working in rural area are very much alert about the plagiarism issues. Also, most of the academicians are very much enthusiastic to fill the Google form as a part of virtual education system. The analyzed data have been showed with the help of charts and graphs.*

Keywords: *Academicians, Plagiarism, Engineering colleges, Attitude, University of Mumbai.*

Introduction:

Now a days plagiarism has become a very serious issue as far as research activities in academic fields are concerned. Due to the regular practice of copy-paste material among students, the plagiarism checking has become more important in all research activities in higher educational institutions. There are many examples in world history about the literature theft and many authors have faced the serious legal consequences. Some academic ethics should have follow in the academic career by the students because this is a right stage where the students learn many things about good citizenship; they learn various honest things which will be helpful in their future life; they learn about the honesty. But if students fell to do this and tried to follow some unethical things, their carrier will be spoiled. Plagiarism is also one of the unethical way choose by some students intentionally or unintentionally. It is a disciplinary offence as per the regulations, though the plagiarism happened intentionally or unintentionally.

Hence, there should be some rules in higher educational institutions regarding the prevention of plagiarism in respect of the promotion of academic integrity. Many universities and colleges in developed countries have addressed the rules regarding plagiarism. However, in India there was no such rule in education field at central level till July 2018. In a present study the main objective is to find out the knowledge of the urban and rural academicians regarding the plagiarism.

Definitions of plagiarism:

Plagiarism is an act of theft a content of others and uses it as own. Some definitions of plagiarism are as under:

“The Merriam Webster dictionary defines the act of plagiarism as - to steal and pass off ideas or words of another as one’s own”.

Oxford University: “Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work or ideas as your own, with or without their consent, by incorporating it into your work without full acknowledgement”.

Indian scenario: Overview:

Nowadays, there is enormous information is available online through internet on any subject. Since this material is easily available, there has become a tendency in students to copy the material from internet and paste it in the academic project and presents it as their own without acknowledgement of the original author. If any scholar cheat through plagiarism it means they have lost the chance to uplift their knowledge in a specific subject area. Therefore, at any cost,

students have to avoid plagiarism. In developed countries, many students have faced to serious consequences. Their academic future and sometimes work career also has been spoiled due to the strict provisions made in the regulations of plagiarism in higher educational institutions.

After the publication of UGC Regulations, 2018 in India regarding “Promotion of academic integrity and prevention of plagiarism in higher education institutions”, many higher education institutions have become very much alert on this issue. Many Indian Universities have introduced the topic of Research and Publication Ethics in the syllabus of their PHD coursework for the good quality research.

Present study:

Table1: Area wise districts considered and responses received from the academicians

Sr.no.	District	Area (Location)		Total Responses received
		Urban	Rural	
1	Mumbai	99		99
2	Thane	132		132
3	Palghar		48	48
4	Raigad		114	114
5	Ratnagiri		33	33
6	Sindhudurg		13	13
		231	208	439

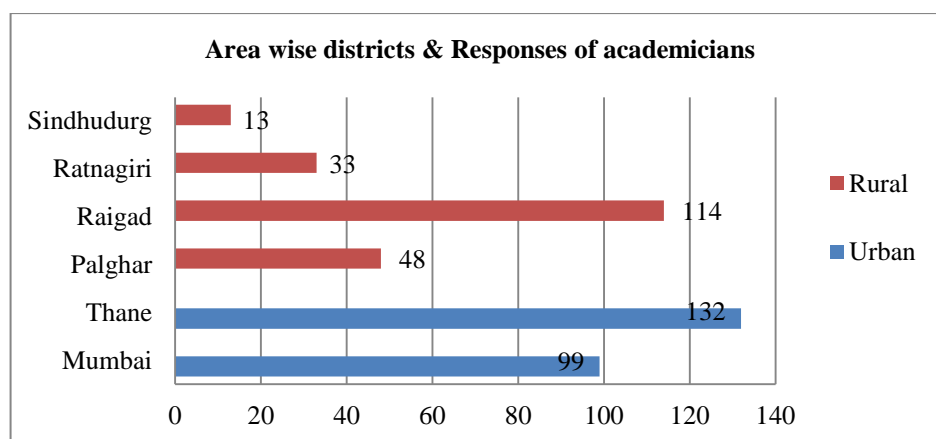


Figure1: Area wise districts and responses of the academicians received

Though the UGC Regulations has been published in the year 2018, there are many research scholars as well as academicians are not fully aware about these changes took place in higher education field in India. At the same time, there are many educational institutions have addressed the research and publication ethics at their institutions since the secondary school level. It is heard that, many PhD thesis are also observed as plagiarised. Earlier, there was no provision of software's to check the plagiarism by rules in research activities in academic field. Therefore, there was no control on such activities. But the situation is changing slowly in India for the quality research. Considering the seriousness of the plagiarism issues in academic activities, the survey has been conducted to study the plagiarism awareness of the academicians working in engineering colleges affiliated to the University of Mumbai. The urban and rural academicians are focused for the same. Comparative study of the academicians working in urban and rural area has been done. The engineering colleges under University of Mumbai are scattered in 6 districts of Maharashtra which covers urban as well as rural area. There are six districts comes under the University of Mumbai namely 1) Mumbai, 2) Thane, 3) Palghar, 4) Raigad, 5) Ratnagiri and 6) Sindhudurg. Out of these six districts, 1) Mumbai and 2) Thane are considered as urban district and remaining four are considered as rural districts.

The online survey has been conducted for the study. The questionnaire has been prepared on Google form and sent through the emails of the academicians, to find out the awareness of the plagiarism among academicians in Engineering institutes affiliated to the University of Mumbai. Total 67 engineering institutions are there affiliated to the University of Mumbai. Total 500 academicians from 67 colleges have been selected with random sampling technique.

Total 500 Google forms have been mailed to the selected faculty members of engineering institutions affiliated to the University of Mumbai. Out of 500 academicians 439 have been responded to the questionnaires.

Study of the Urban and Rural Academicians:

Two groups of academicians have been focused in this survey namely –

1. Academicians in urban area &
2. Academicians in rural area

The study has been carried out with the intension to the knowledge of the academicians regarding plagiarism in general. To examine their knowledge, following important questions were asked to the academicians about plagiarism in general.

1. No one will check and detect copied material
2. Fear of failing to comply with the requirements of publications during research
3. Many research scholars copy others work hence me too
4. Plagiarism is justified due to burden of academic activities
5. No other option but to plagiarized because of deadlines and work pressures
6. We can copy paste our own article in our other article
7. Without copying others work nobody can write research article
8. Easy availability of content on web leads to plagiarism
9. Copy-pasting sentences from Internet is easier than creating ones own
10. Poor understanding of research topic compels to plagiarize

The questionnaire received from the Google form have been exported in excel sheet and analysis has been done with SPSS statistical software. The data has been tested with the 't' test to find out the 'p' values of the collected data. The analyzed data has been examined with 't' test is as below -

Data examination with T-Test

Here, the mean value of the collected data has been found. Also, only the "assumed" equal variances are considered while analysis of the data and the calculations of mean value, t-value and 'p' value.

Table 2: Attitude Towards Plagiarism

Attitude Towards Plagiarism	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t- value	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
No one will check and detect copied material	Urban	231	2.34	1.265	3.454	437	.001
	Rural	208	2.77	1.356			
Fear of failing to comply with the requirements of publications during research	Urban	231	3.00	1.249	1.524	437	.128
	Rural	208	2.82	1.252			
Many research scholars copy others work hence me too	Urban	231	2.06	1.206	2.739	437	.006
	Rural	208	2.39	1.343			
Plagiarism is justified due to burden of academic activities	Urban	231	2.14	1.303	2.297	437	.022
	Rural	208	2.45	1.516			
No other option but to plagiarized because of deadlines and work pressures	Urban	231	2.13	1.242	3.169	437	.002
	Rural	208	2.54	1.431			
We can copy paste our own article in our other article	Urban	231	3.03	1.401	3.151	437	.002
	Rural	208	2.63	1.313			
Without copying others work nobody can write research article	Urban	231	2.24	1.275	.999	437	.318
	Rural	208	2.13	1.074			

Easy availability of content on web leads to plagiarism	Urban	231	3.25	1.337	3.272	437	.001
	Rural	208	2.85	1.245			
Copy-pasting sentences from Internet is easier than creating ones own	Urban	231	2.77	1.330	.028	437	.977
	Rural	208	2.77	1.221			
Poor understanding of research topic compels to plagiarize	Urban	231	3.50	1.298	2.271	437	.024
	Rural	208	3.75	1.041			
Attitude towards Plagiarism- Total Score	Urban	231	26.47	8.526	.754	437	.451
	Rural	208	27.10	8.950			

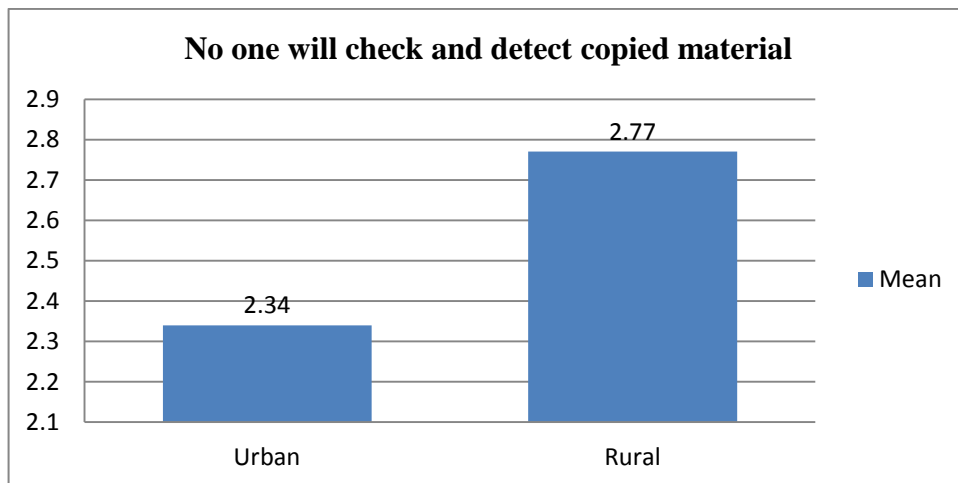


Figure no. 2: No one will check and detect copied material

Out of 439 total academicians 231 are from urban area and 208 are working in engineering colleges of rural area. The mean value for the responses received from the academicians in urban and rural area is found 2.34 & 2.77 respectively. The ‘t’ value is observed as 3.454 with degree of freedom 437 and ‘p’ value is .001. Hence, it is inferred that, there is significant difference of opinion among urban and rural academicians when asked about the attitude towards plagiarism with the statement ‘No one will check and detect copied material’.

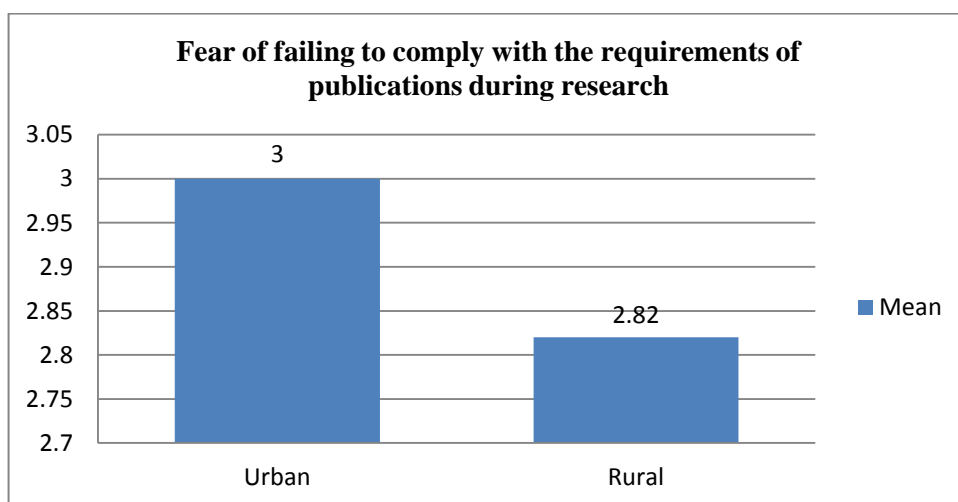


Figure no. 3: Fear of failing to comply with the requirements of publications during research

As per the responses received from the academicians for the statement above, it is observed that the mean values of the urban and rural academicians' responses are 3 and 2.82 respectively. The t-value is 1.524 with 437 degree of freedom and the 'p' value is .128 which is not significant. Hence, we can say that, there is a no significant difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the attitude towards plagiarism compliance.

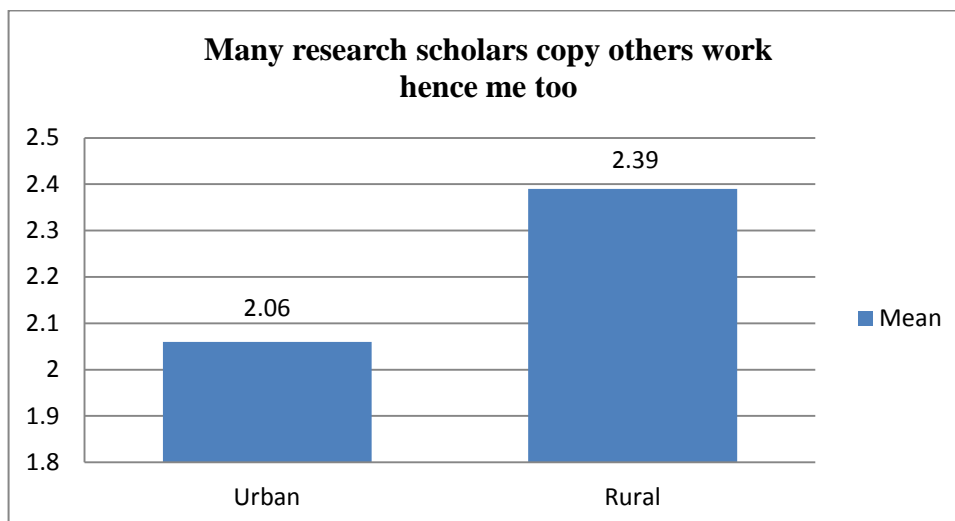


Figure no. 4: Many research scholars copy others work hence me too

As per the responses received from the academicians for the statement above, it is observed that the mean values of the urban and rural academicians' responses are 2.06 and 2.39 respectively. The t-value is 2.739 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is .006 which is significant. Hence, we can say that, there is a significant difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the attitude towards plagiarism.

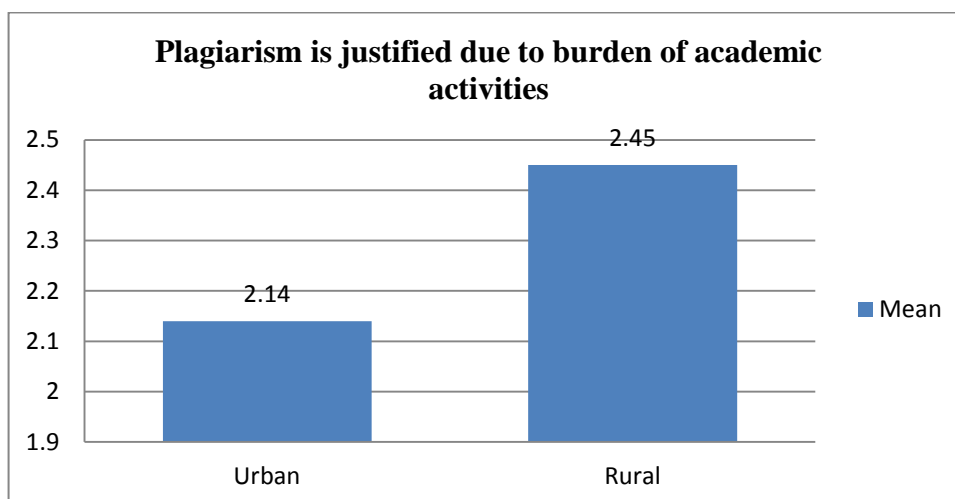


Figure no. 5: Plagiarism is justified due to the burden of academic activities

As per the responses received from the academicians for the statement above, it is observed that the mean values of the urban and rural academicians' responses are 2.14 and 2.45 respectively. The t-value is 2.297 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is .022 which is significant.

Hence, we can say that, there is a significant difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the attitude towards plagiarism.

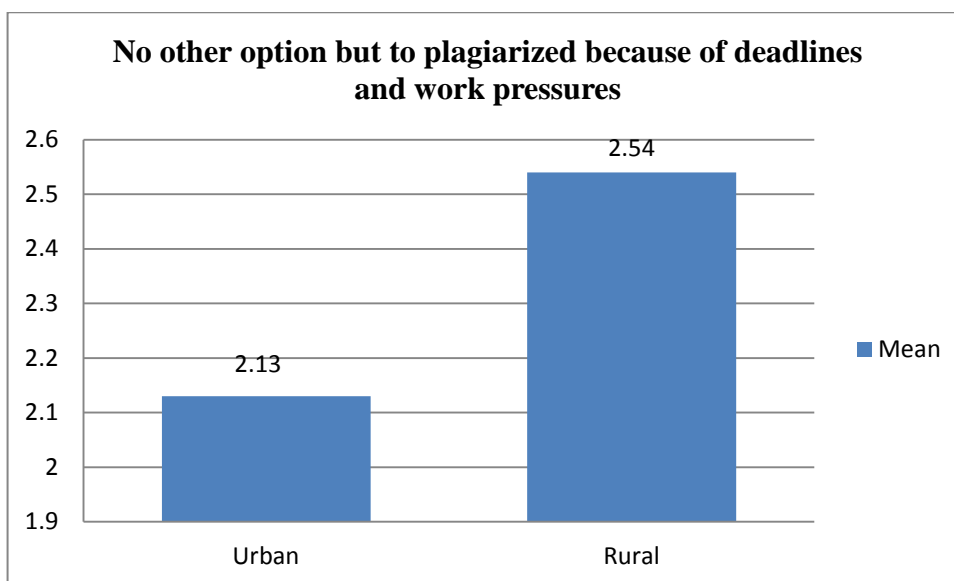


Figure no. 6: No other option but to Plagiarized because of deadlines and work pressure

As per the responses received from the academicians for the statement above, it is observed that the mean values of the urban and rural academician's responses are 2.13 and 2.54 respectively. The t-value is 3.169 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is .002 which is also highly significant. Hence, we can say that, there is a significant difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the attitude towards plagiarism.

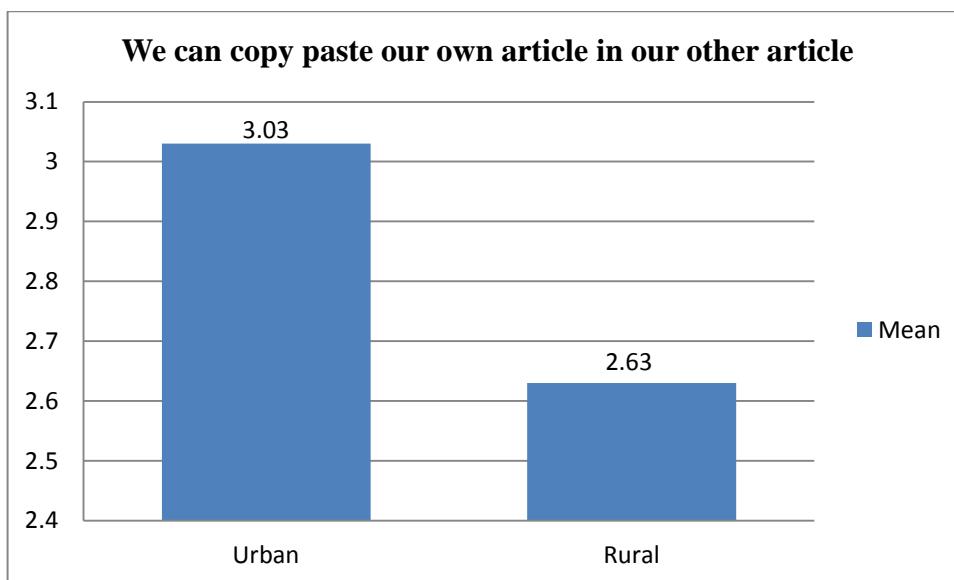


Figure no. 7: We can copy paste our own article in our other article

As per the responses received from the academicians for the statement above, it is observed that the mean values of the urban and rural academician's responses are 3.03 and 2.63 respectively. The t-value is 3.151 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is .002 which is significant.

Hence, we can say that, there is a significant difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the attitude towards plagiarism.

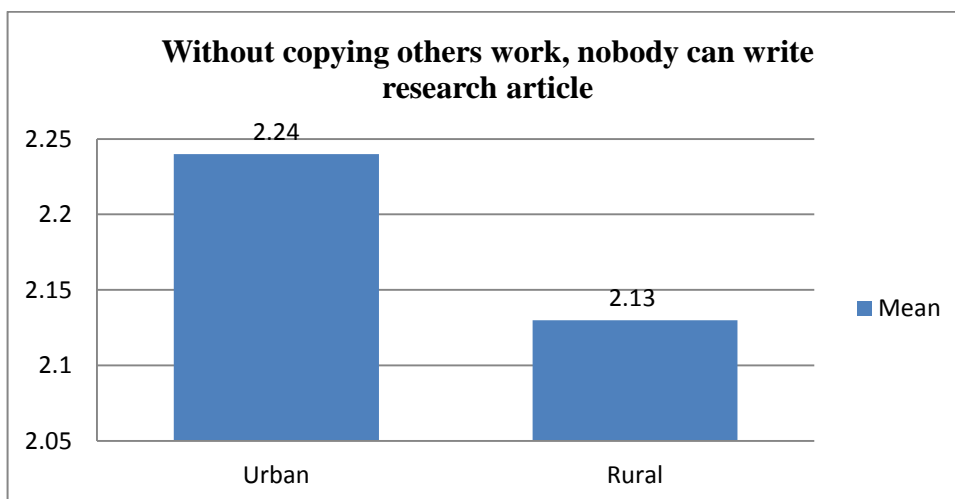


Figure no. 8: Without copying others work, nobody can write research article

As per the responses received from the academicians for the statement above, it is observed that the mean values of the urban and rural academicians' responses are 2.24 and 2.13 respectively. The t-value is .999 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is .318 which is not significant. Hence, we can say that, there is no significant difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the attitude towards plagiarism.

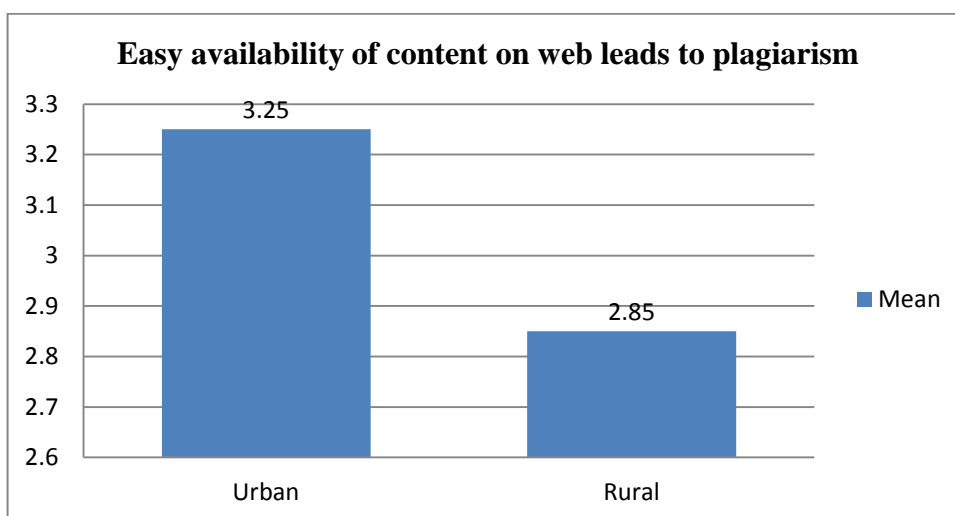


Figure no. 9: Easy availability of content on web leads to plagiarism

As per the responses received from the academicians for the statement above, it is observed that the mean values of the urban and rural academicians' responses are 3.25 and 2.85 respectively. The t-value is 3.272 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is .001 which is highly significant. Hence, we can say that, there is a highly significant difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the attitude towards plagiarism.

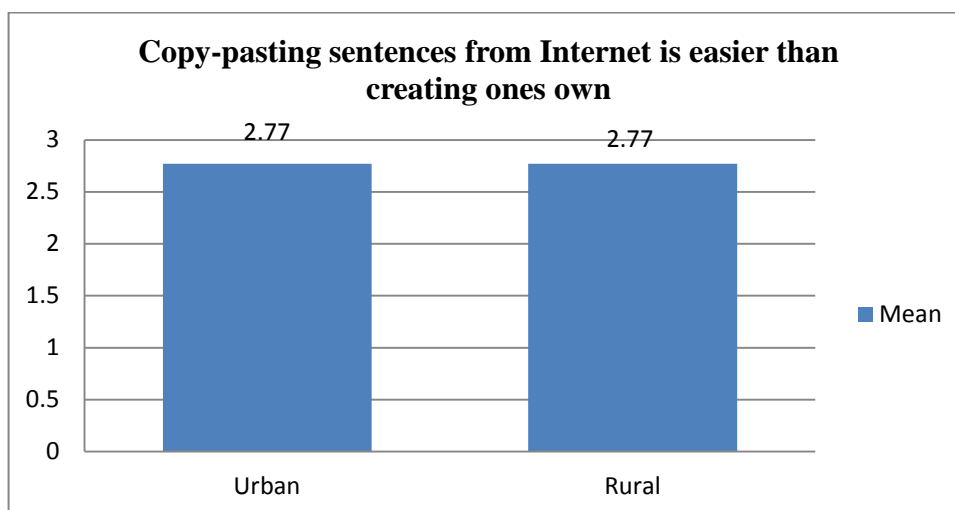


Figure no. 10: Copy-pasting sentences from internet is easier than creating ones own

As per the responses received from the academicians for the statement above, it is observed that the mean values of the urban and rural academicians's responses are 2.77 and 2.77 respectively. The t-value is 0.28 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is .977 which is not significant. Hence, we can say that, there is no difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the attitude towards plagiarism.

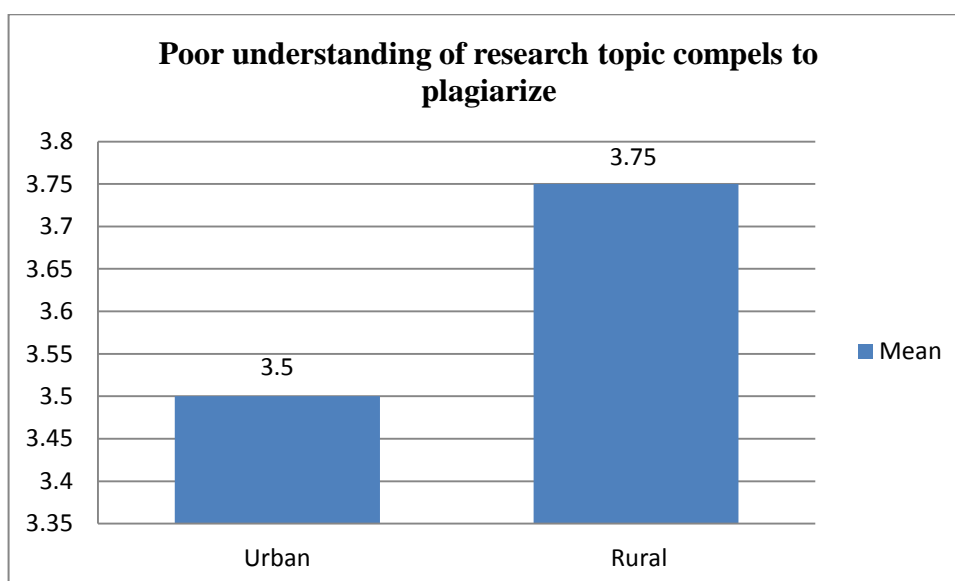


Figure no. 11: Poor understanding of research topic compels to plagiarism

As per the responses received from the academicians for the statement above, it is observed that the mean values of the urban and rural academicians's responses are 3.50 and 3.75 respectively. The t-value is 2.271 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is .024 which is significant. Hence, we can say that, there is a significant difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the attitude towards plagiarism.

Conclusion

- The plagiarism awareness of the academicians are clear; At least 50% at an average academicians are well aware about the plagiarism in general.
- The attitude of the Rural and urban academicians have found same in respect of the one statement “Copy-pasting sentences from internet is easier than creating ones own”.
- There is significant difference in attitude of urban and rural academicians.
- Maximum academicians from rural as well as in urban areas are taking initiatives to promote the virtual education.
- Academicians in rural area are more alert about the issues of plagiarism than urban academicians.
- Maximum academicians in urban area are taking plagiarism issues very lightly.
- There is highly significant difference of attitude among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the statements - No one will check and detect copied material, Many research scholars copy others work hence me too, No other option but to plagiarized because of deadlines and work pressures, We can copy paste our own article in our other article, Easy availability of content on web leads to plagiarism.
- Attitude of the rural academicians towards plagiarism is very soft, maximum rural academicians supports the academics ethics and values.

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