# Cadernos BAD

# Use of Turnitin and Urkund anti-plagiarism software tools for plagiarism detection/similarity checks to the Doctoral theses: Indian experience

## Surendra Tryambakrao Kale

**Librarian, J.D. Patiil sangludkar Mahavidyalaya Daryapur District Amravati (Maharashtra, India)**

kalesurendra@rediffmail.com

## Abstract

India is one of the massive higher education systems in the world. The doctoral research output of plays a significant role as it is a primitive source and blueprint of research also growing fast pace it has a 24% increase in doctoral degree compare to the previous year. Anti-plagiarism software screening to theses text is boon to Indian universities and first instances it is preserving from copy verbatim the doctoral theses particularly in English against 234592 online theses in Shodhgang repository. But scanning of doctoral theses detecting plagiarism in Indian regional languages not completing effectively the cause is oblivious Indian languages scripts not covered in software. Software tools adopted for the plagiarism/ similarity check it showed the diverse results of the similarity index for the same text of doctoral theses. Moreover, the court has observed that human judgment is needed to determine the copying rather than considering the software-generated report are the major issues in the present scenario.

**Keywords**: Anti-Plagiarism Software, Turnitin, Urkund, Plagiarism Detection, Doctoral Theses, India

## Introduction

India has the third-largest higher education system in the world after the US and China presently 851 universities different size and types and 41012 colleges. In 2018 the recent submission to the all Indian universities are 34400 doctoral theses and 29059 Master of Philosophy dissertations for the award of the doctoral degree and Master of Philosophy in the

different subjects is a contribution to the country's research output.  (University Grants Commission, 2018). The doctoral research output growing fast it has 24.32 % net growth comparing previous year data of 2017 to all universities in India.  394 universities (46%) have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) an inter-university center of University Grants Commission in India (hereafter UGC) for the doctoral theses online in the Shodhganga Repository (a reservoir of Indian theses). Presently 234592 doctoral theses hosted in the Shodhganga repository (as on 17th July 2019) becoming one of the fast-growing repositories in the World and all the doctoral theses made online are full test accessible for the researchers across the world. The UGC has been issuing various regulations for the improvement of the quality of doctoral research. The regulation 2009 amended time to time mandated that the universities once accepted the doctoral thesis it has to be hosted in the INFLIBNET's Shodhganga Repository within the 30 days from the date of approval accessible worldwide to the researchers. Subsequently issued another regulation in 2016 that the doctoral theses before submitting for evaluation it is mandated check through software tool recommended by INFLIBNET center are the important decisions towards plagiarism detection/ similarity check to the forthcoming of doctoral theses. Plagiarism or textual similarity detection to the doctoral theses submitted is the most prevalent issue since long  and University Grants Commission by regulation mandated check by the anti-plagiarism software tool because in past "various reports presented dismal picture of doctoral research of various universities in India and majority of  doctoral theses work practically have nothing to add to contemporary to knowledge pool" (Das, 2015,p.3) and it fact that most of the research work suffer from mere repetition and over exploration of given area and unethical practices such as plagiarism. Anti-plagiarism software tools enable scanning of the suspicious textual documents against billions of records online such as webpages, publishers' databases of scholarly literature and the local database of student's assignments, etc.  Plagiarism and textual similarities are generated using a string of eight to ten words according to software methodologies. Nowadays, software tool detecting the copy verbatim is boon to academic institutions since it is eliminating students cheating. India presently has an anti-plagiarism software check system is mandatory to the doctoral theses and other academic documents submitted to the universities and just Government of India issued a regulation titled "University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018" to prevent literary theft in academic and research writings in the form of doctoral theses and like other documents at Masters and research level. India since 2014  was adopted two different globally standardized software tools in the first instance TURNITIN& I-THENTICATE as for trial access and then URKUND another anti-plagiarism tool as regular for  plagiarism detection purpose to the eligible Indian universities under India University Grants Commission  purview as rights given to the UGC as apex body of higher education by Government of India intended that doctoral theses submitted to the universities across the country  do not have copied verbatim to other published literature .

Most prevalent unknown issues in the present scenario of anti-plagiarism screening are evolved and that need to explain and justify.

### Objectives

1.      To find out the current status of anti-plagiarism software practice to the doctoral theses submitting to the Indian Universities and institutions under the University Grants Commission.

2.      To study the performance analysis of anti-plagiarism software tools adopted present time and earlier period for the screening of doctoral theses of Indian Universities and institution under the University Grants Commission.

3.      Most Indian universities have provision to submit doctoral theses in Indian regional languages. Is the software which can check doctoral theses written in Indian regional languages?  As the case studies of software tool don't identify these languages other than English and some others by default in its settings for copy verbatim.

4.      To study the anti-plagiarism practice adopted for screening doctoral theses of Indian universities and institution against the judiciary and court verdicts.

### Methodology

The method of review of most current literature that is found authentic and valuable rather than published elsewhere on the internet is accepted for the study and at the same time few personal opinions of scientists and research scholars and analyze their similarity reports generated by software tool are also considered for the study.

### Anticipated Results

The URKUND anti-plagiarism software tool is presently freely available to all eligible universities in India through Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) (an Inter-University Centre of University Grants Commission a higher education monitoring organization of Government of India) to scan the doctoral theses with the intention of plagiarism detection/ similarity check before submission of thesis to the particular universities in India. In the early stage of adoption of the software tool for plagiarism detection, it was Turnitin and i-Thenticate software was used on trial access for the short duration to compute similarity index in doctoral theses. The applicability of both tools for plagiarism detection purpose the experiences are differing in calculating similarity index to the doctoral theses by this software.   These create a disparity in computing similarity index while scanning the doctoral thesis text of UGC recommended URKUND anti-plagiarism tool if comparing with another software tool TURNITIN. The meticulous example quoted here that the same doctoral thesis text on Nanotechnology application by a scholar  at Gadge Baba Amravati University Amravati (Maharashtra) checked for similarity index to other published sources  by the university authority,   generated report of  URKUND anti-plagiarism tool shown 6% similarity index while

the same text, when scanned by TURNITIN, revealed 0% similarity (Kale, 2019 ). In another case, Tejani (2018) a Research-Gate based scholar argued that he had scanned a paper both Urkund and Turnitin software the similarity percentage reports generated, URKUND software shown 5% similarity index while Turnitin revealed 90% similarity for the same paper. These discrepancies of similarity index in checking doctoral text may produce misperception in scholar's minds.

The regulation titled "University Grant Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and prevention of plagiarism in Higher Education Institutions) Regulation 2018". (UGC, 2018) This came into existence from the date of a gazette notification on 23rd July 2018 by the Government of India. This regulation mandate to check plagiarism through software and the forthcoming doctoral thesis has not to copy verbatim to a source published earlier.  It is a fact that the majority of universities in India since long period have a provision to submit doctoral research thesis in Indian regional languages other than English. It is also a fact that that internationally standardize anti-plagiarism tools both URKUND and TURNITIN have adopted earlier not been able to scan these of Indian languages scripts for similarity check effectively. Moreover, any distinguished citation style like American Psychological Association (APA), Modern Language Association (MLA) plays an important role for describing the source for creating any new research documents but anti-plagiarism software tools don't care the rules of citations and referencing, it can only recognize the double-quoted text for exclusion while in the screening process. The rule of citation as structure reference entry by major the citation styles has to take care by the inclusion of said standard in the software because citation and references are a major part of research writings. High Court observed that human judgment is needed to determine the copying rather than considering the software-generated report.

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