

Plagiarism Awareness Among the Academicians in Urban and Rural area: Comparative Study

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Abstract: In this article, academicians working in the engineering colleges affiliated to the University of Mumbai are considered. The focus has been given on the awareness of the academicians in urban and rural area. Online survey has been conducted through Google forms. The opinions of the academicians regarding the plagiarism in general have been studied. Their views regarding plagiarism have been asked. The collected data have been analyzed and tested with T-test. It is found that, there is no significant difference of opinion among these two groups except few questions. 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 diagrams.

Keywords: Academicians, Plagiarism, Engineering colleges, 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

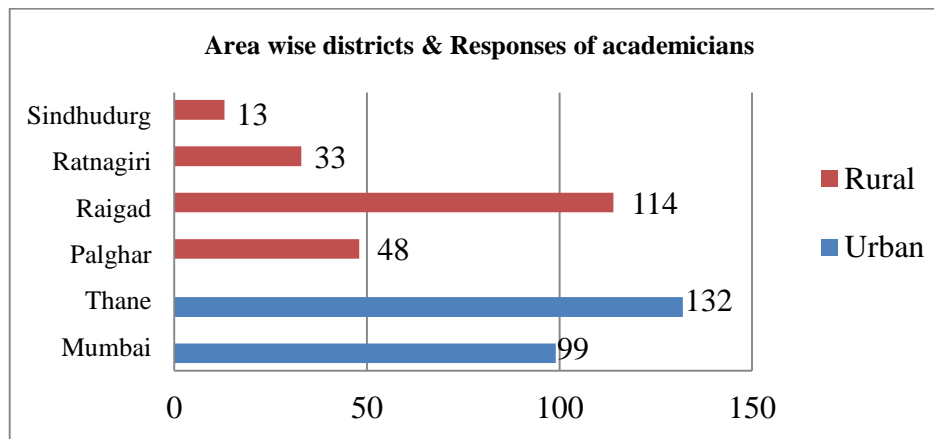


Figure1: Area wise districts and responses of the academicians received

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. Copying exact words from sources without quotation marks
2. Not giving reference even after taking consent of original author
3. Paraphrasing words of someone else without citing original source
4. Copying words from several sources and changing sentences
5. Copying from Internet but not citing source
6. Word to word translation from other language and presenting work as own
7. Some part of own article used in another article of your own self-plagiarism
8. Using a table figure or illustration without acknowledgement
9. Plagiarism is same as Copyright Act.

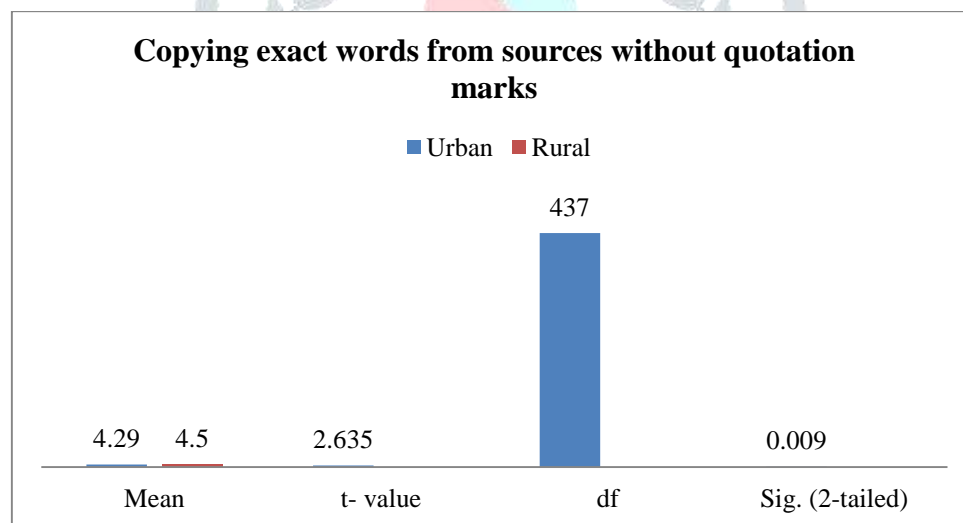
The questionnaire received from the Google form have been exported in excel sheet and analysis has been done with SPSS statistical software. The data has been tested with the 't' test to find out the 'p' values of the collected data. The analyzed data has been examined with 't' test is as below –

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.

Table2: Plagiarism in General

What is Plagiarism in General	Location	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t- value	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Copying exact words from sources without quotation marks	Urban	231	4.29	.898	2.635	437	.009
	Rural	208	4.50	.755			
Not giving reference even after taking consent of original author	Urban	231	4.19	1.134	3.848	437	.000
	Rural	208	4.55	.753			
Paraphrasing words of someone else without citing original source	Urban	231	4.24	.918	3.096	437	.002
	Rural	208	4.50	.811			
Copying words from several sources and changing sentences	Urban	231	3.71	1.133	6.652	437	.000
	Rural	208	4.36	.850			
Copying from Internet but not citing source	Urban	231	4.09	1.117	2.475	437	.014
	Rural	208	4.33	.845			
Word to word translation from other language and presenting work as own	Urban	231	4.29	.958	.767	437	.444
	Rural	208	4.21	1.069			
Some part of own article used in another article of your own self-plagiarism	Urban	231	3.29	1.255	2.630	437	.009
	Rural	208	3.60	1.179			
Using a table figure or illustration without acknowledgement	Urban	231	4.20	.954	1.836	437	.067
	Rural	208	4.36	.760			
Plagiarism is same as Copyright Act	Urban	231	3.16	1.299	3.993	437	.000
	Rural	208	3.60	.997			
Total score	Urban	231	35.46	5.614	5.041	437	.000
	Rural	208	38.00	4.823			

**Figure no. 2: Copying exact words from sources without quotation marks**

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 4.29 & 4.50 respectively. The ‘t’ value is observed as 2.635 with degree of freedom 437 and ‘p’ value is .009. Hence, it is inferred that, there is significant difference of opinion among urban and rural academicians when asked about the plagiarism in general with the statement ‘copying exact words from sources without quotation marks is plagiarism’.

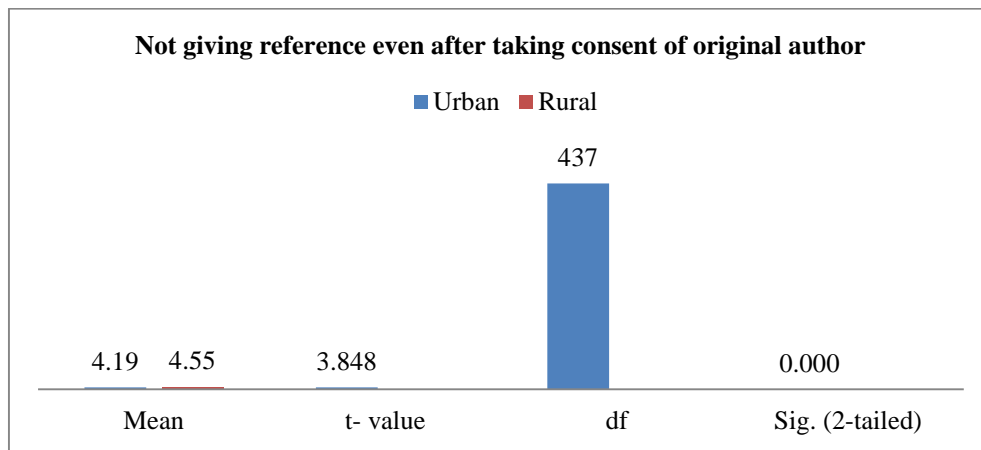


Figure no. 3: Not giving reference even after taking consent of original author

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 4.19 and 4.55 respectively. The t-value is 3.848 with 437 degree of freedom and the 'p' value is .000 which is 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 general knowledge about plagiarism.

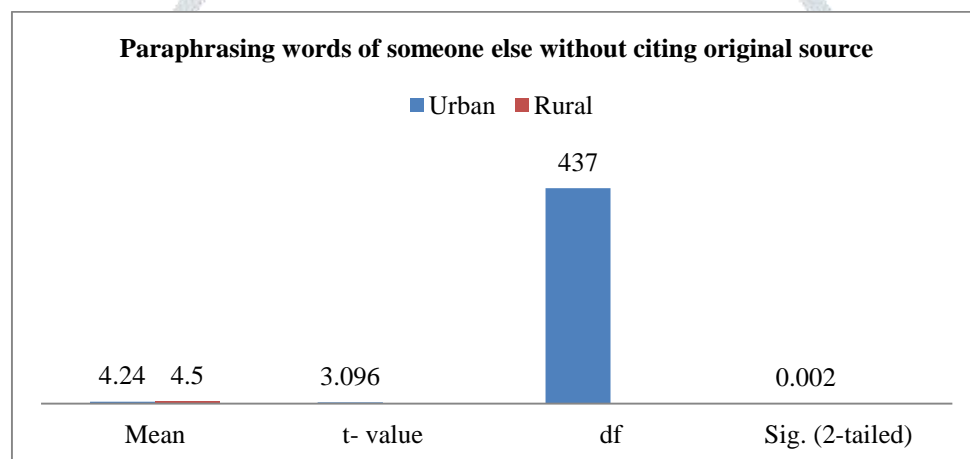


Figure no. 4: Paraphrasing words of someone else without citing original source

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 4.24 and 4.50 respectively. The t-value is 3.096 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 general knowledge about plagiarism.

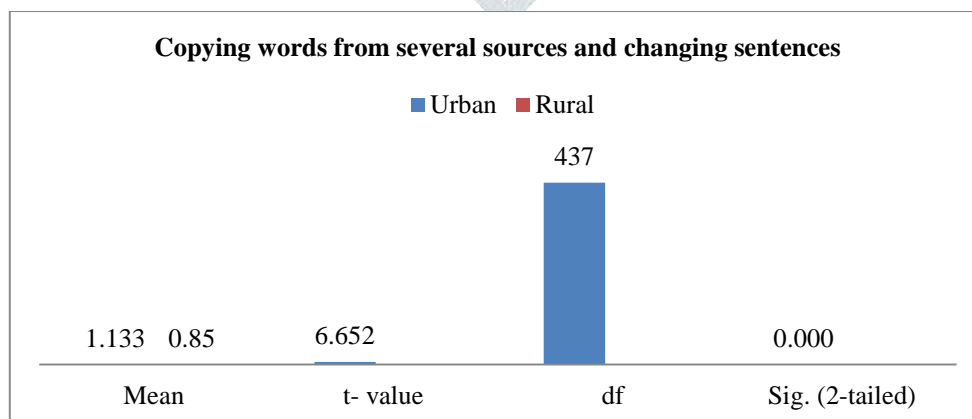


Figure no. 5: Copying words from several sources and changing sentences

It is inferred from the above graph that, the mean value for the statement 'Copying words from several sources and changing sentences' received for urban and rural area is 1.133 & .850 respectively. The t-value is 6.652 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is .000 which is again highly significant. Hence, we can state that, there is a highly significant difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the general knowledge about plagiarism.

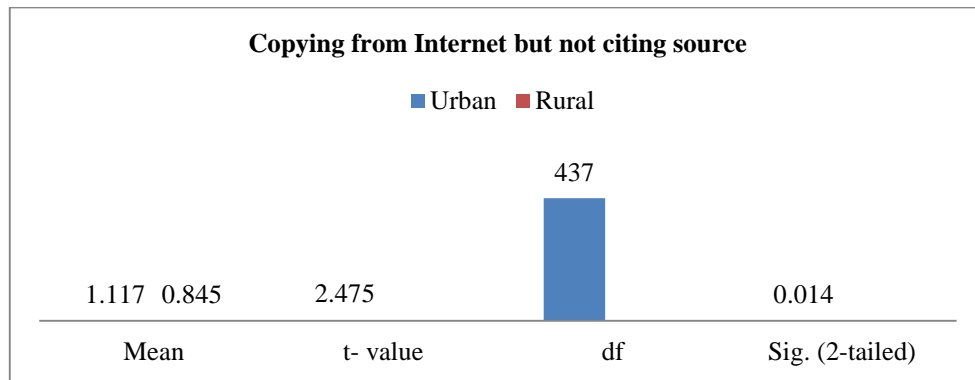


Figure no. 6: Copying from Internet but not citing source

The mean value received for the statement 'Copying from internet but not citing source' for urban and rural area is 1.117 and .845 respectively. The t-value is 2.475 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is .014 which is significant. Hence, we can state that, there is a significant difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the general knowledge about plagiarism.

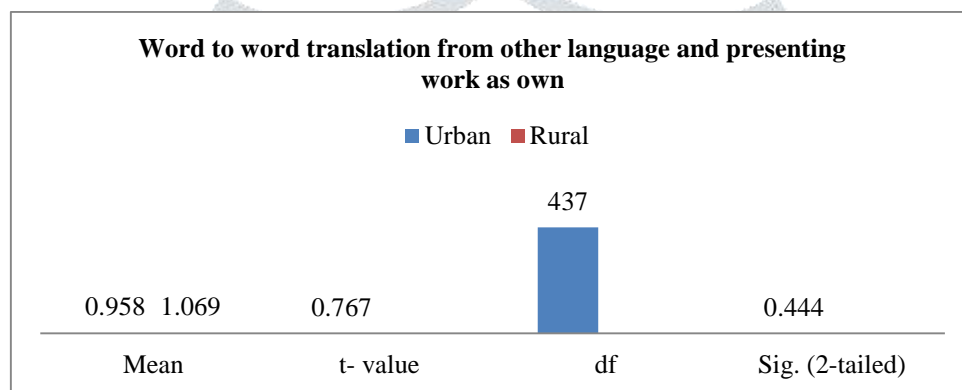


Figure no. 7: Word to word translation from other language and presenting work as own

It is observed from the above graph that, the mean value received for the statement 'Word to word translation from other language and presenting work as own' for urban and rural area is .958 and 1.069 respectively. The t-value is 0.767 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is 0.444 which is again highly significant. Hence, we can state that, there is no significant difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the general knowledge about plagiarism.

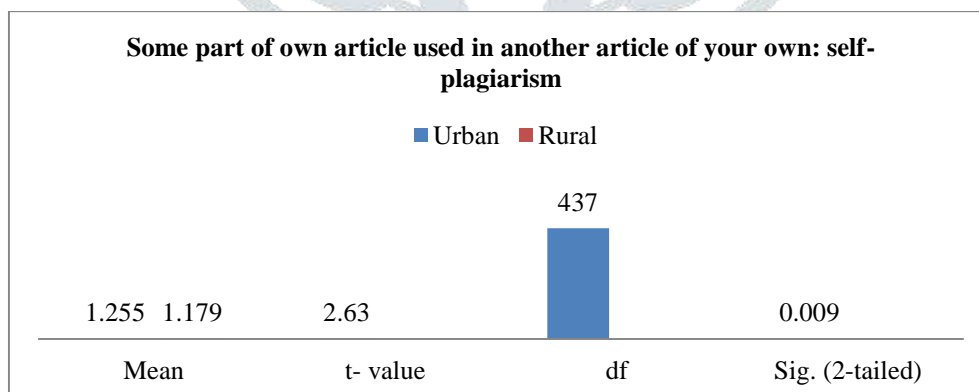


Figure no. 8: Some part of own article used in another article of your own – Self-Plagiarism

It is observed from the above graph that, the mean value received for the statement 'Some part of own article used in another article of your own self-plagiarism' for urban and rural area is 1.255 and 1.179 respectively. The t-value is 2.63 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is 0.009 which is again significant. Hence, we can state that, there is significant difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the general knowledge about plagiarism.

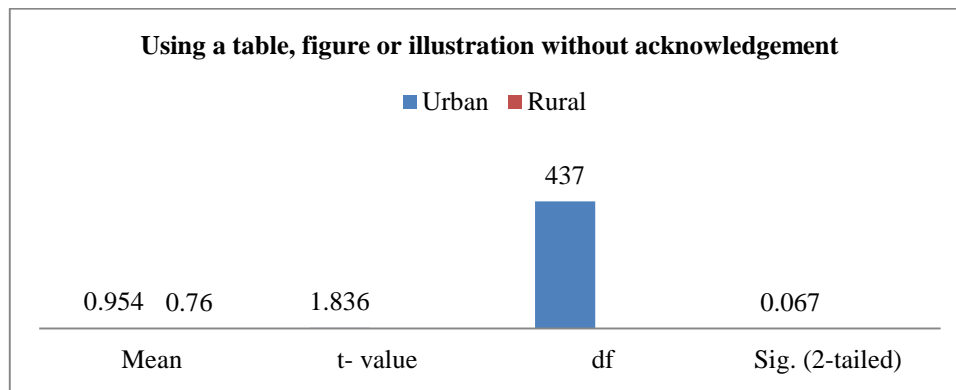


Figure no.9: Using a table, figure or illustration without acknowledgement

It is observed from the above graph that, the mean value received for the statement 'Using a table figure or illustration without acknowledgement' for urban and rural area is 0.954 and 0.760 respectively. The t-value is 1.836 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is 0.067 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 general knowledge about plagiarism.

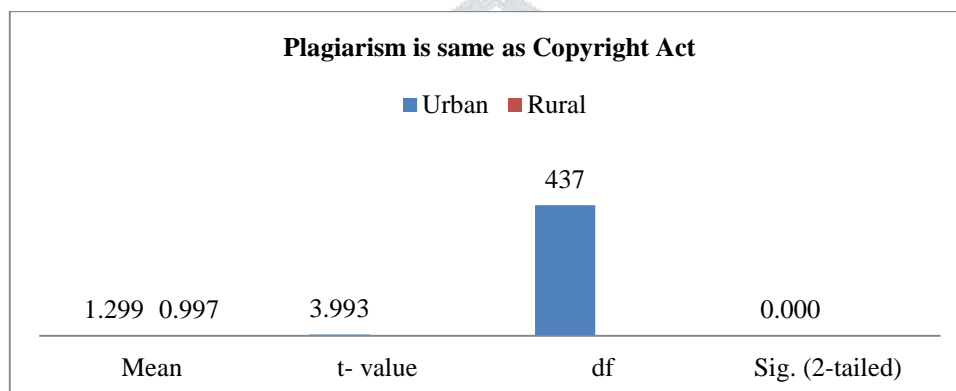


Figure no. 10: Plagiarism is same as Copyright Act

Out of 439 total academicians, 231 are from urban area and 208 are working in engineering colleges of rural area. It is witnessed from the above graph that, the mean value received for the statement 'Plagiarism is same as Copyright Act' for urban and rural area is 1.299 and 0.997 respectively. The t-value is 3.993 with 437 degree of freedom. The 'p' value received is 0.000 which is highly significant. Hence, we can say that, there is highly significant difference of opinion among the urban and rural academicians in respect of the above statement regarding the general knowledge of plagiarism.

Conclusion: to be written

- The plagiarism awareness of the academicians are clear; At least 50% at an average academician are well aware about the plagiarism in general.
- Rural and urban academicians are of the same opinion for two statements which they think that word to word translation from other language & presenting work as own is plagiarism, at the same time, using a table, figure or illustration without acknowledgement is also plagiarism.
- There is significant difference of opinion between 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 opinion among these two groups in terms of Copying from internet but not citing, self-plagiarism, paraphrasing words, not giving acknowledgement to original author etc. Very few urban academicians are considered these things are plagiarism. However, more than 60% academicians in rural area are considered these things as plagiarism.

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