CYBER-PLAGIARISM IN THE GOOGLING AGE: ROOT CAUSES AND PREVENTION IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Warren A. Ramos

Our Lady of Fatima University, Valenzuela City

Abstract

Cyber-plagiarism is the most frequent and serious form of misconduct in the Googling age among students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). It poses a growing threat on the academic integrity of the students in particular and professional ethics of future graduates in general. This study employed descriptive survey and correlation design to identify and correlate the fourth year education students' extent of awareness and the extent of committing cyber-plagiarism. The participants were 55 fourth year education students and their 10 teachers in an identified university in the Philippines. The statistical methods used to analyze the data were weighted mean, t-test of independence and Pearson's r coefficient of correlation.

The results of the study revealed that majority of the respondents use Google as their internet search engine when doing paper works. The study also revealed that the student- respondents were highly aware in the forms of cyber-plagiarism. Despite of this remarkable extent of awareness, majority of them admitted that they committed the different forms of cyber-plagiarism to a moderate extent. In the survey conducted to the teachers, they revealed that the students have also cyber-plagiarize very often. The challenging part of the study was the significant moderate correlation (r= .554) between the extent of awareness and the extent of committing cyber-plagiarism among students. These were supported by the student-respondents' perceived reasons of committing these acts. The findings of the study led to the recommendation for the teachers and future educators to apply the proposed cyber-plagiarism preventive techniques.

Keywords: cyber-plagiarism, root causes, prevention, descriptive- correlation, Higher Education Institutions