



Policy Title:	Plagiarism Prevention Policy of RK University
Policy No.:	RKUN/17/07/01
Last updated on:	5 th July, 2017
Approved By:	Board of Management & Provost (VC), RK University
Applicability of Policy:	All students, faculties and research scholars enrolled or employed by RK University
Policy Purpose:	To prevent the undesirable practice of plagiarism among academic community of RK University and thereby, maintain high standards in ethics and research.

Definitions:

- a. "University" means the RK University formed as per Gujarat Act no. 25 of 2011 by the Government of Gujarat.
- b. "School" means the Constituent institutes of RK University
- c. "Plagiarism" is the "wrongful appropriation" and publication of another author's "language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions" and the representation of them as one's own original work.
- d. "Policy" means a set of basic principles and associated guidelines, formulated and enforced by the governing body of university, to direct and limit its actions in pursuit of long term goals.

1. Abstract:

Plagiarism is an academic offence and scientific misconduct which shall be strictly dealt with by RK University. Plagiarism prevention policy of RK University shall be applicable to all students, faculty members and research scholars enrolled or employed by RK University. Every research publication (including but not limited to conference abstracts, review articles, research papers, pre-thesis synopsis, dissertations, and the final Ph.D. thesis) shall be submitted to RK University along with a self-declaration statement about its plagiarism-free content. The submitted research publication will be thoroughly checked by a designated authority of RK University. If found guilty of plagiarism, the concerned research worker will be liable for penalty as may be decided by the Plagiarism Prevention Committee of RK University.

2. Preamble:

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work, words, images, ideas, opinions, discoveries or computer-generated work, whether published or not, as one's own work, or alternatively appropriating the same without properly acknowledging the source, with or without the source's permission. In line with the general availability of research resources, particularly electronic resources, a considerable increase in the number of plagiarism cases is being experienced in the higher education system. It is therefore important for an academic institute like RK University to have in place the following policy on plagiarism to avoid such acts. In order to avoid plagiarism, all students, faculty members and research scholars intending to publish their research work, are advised to undertake a self-study that includes all the aspects of plagiarism, in an attempt to detect and avoid plagiarism. For this purpose, ample literature and open access software programs are available on the Internet (e.g., the plagiarism prevention policy guidelines published by the University of Pretoria are available here for reference: http://www.ais.up.ac.za/plagiarism/docs/policy_2010.pdf).

3. Resources for self-assessment of plagiarized contents:

To ensure academic integrity and to maintain high research standards, RK University has obtained access to "Urkund," as per the directives of UGC'S INFLIBNET Centre Gandhinagar. This web-based software is freely accessible to all the students, faculty members, and research workers associated with RK University. However, it is the responsibility of the concerned student, faculty member or research scholar (publishing any kind of research work) to ensure that his/her publication(s) is/are free of any kind of plagiarism, before the same is submitted to RK University. This can be easily achieved by requesting RKU Central library to grant login access to www.arkund.com/use services.

4. Submission of a research publication to the university:

Research publications (including but not limited to conference abstracts, review articles, research papers, pre-thesis synopsis, and the final Ph.D. thesis) must be submitted to RK University along with a self-declaration statement signed by the research worker attesting to the fact that the publication is free of plagiarism and that he/she is fully aware of the plagiarism prevention policy of RK University. At present, RKU suggests "Urkund Analysis Result" of $\leq 10\%$ for Research Articles and Review Articles. However, please note that these numbers only serve as indicative guidelines and every potential case of plagiarism will be investigated on an individual basis. For Research and Review Articles that have been published prior to RKU's approval of its new set of anti-plagiarism guidelines, we will provide an appropriate resolution on a case-by-case basis after carefully reviewing the publication(s), and after assessing the opinion(s) of the respective Faculty's Dean/Director/Dy. Director/Subject Expert(s), and/or FDSR. Please note that RKU will be extremely particular about the originality of the Synopsis and the Ph.D. thesis that get submitted to our permanent library archives and no further consideration will be given

either to the Synopsis or to the Ph.D. thesis failing to satisfy the required eligibility criteria (significance $\leq 10\%$; no other signs of plagiarism).

5. Procedure for detection of plagiarism:

To register a case of plagiarism, it is not a requirement to ascertain the intention of the person to deceive or plagiarize. At the University, it is simply assumed that where certain plagiarized elements are found in a text, the author intended them to be there, and that where paraphrasing is the issue, the author intended this as a disguise for the more obvious plagiarism such as unattributed verbatim copying. The absence of intent may be given due consideration when a suitable penalty for plagiarism has to be agreed upon in a given situation. When deciding the penalty, several elements including the quantum of the plagiarized content, the lay or the critical content, the history of the offender (whether he/she is a repeat offender), etc. may be considered by the committee.

A research publication submitted to RK University will be checked for plagiarized content by a designated authority for this purpose. After checking the research publication for plagiarized content, the designated authority will send a plagiarism report to the Plagiarism Prevention Committee constituted by RK University. The Plagiarism Prevention Committee, after verifying the type/extent/intent of the plagiarized content in the publication and after hearing the explanation from the concerned research worker (if needed), shall decide the penalty, subject to the final approval of the Academic Council of RK University.

6. Actions/Penalties in case of a guilty plagiarized research publication:

Penalty may include any or all of the following:

1. Re-submission of the publication with proper modifications, at a later date.

2. Rejection of the research publication.
3. Termination of the entire research project.
4. Rustication from the academic program of RK University.
5. Other monetary penalties or disciplinary actions related to the job
(For RKU Employees).

7. Reference:

Plagiarism Prevention Policy of University of Pretoria, Document number:
S 4726/09 (recommended by RK University for self-study)

8. Disclaimer:

This policy may get revised from time to time and on approval by the Provost (VC), shall come in to force and shall be binding on the students, faculty, staff, all authorities of the School and others concerned.