



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

(Peer-reviewed, Refereed, Indexed & Open Access Journal)

DOI : 03.2021-11278686

ISSN : 2582-8568

IMPACT FACTOR : 8.031 (SJIF 2025)

Role of Library Professionals In Using Anti-Plagiarism Tools By The Research Scholars Of Higher Education Institutes In Maharashtra

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DOI No. **03.2021-11278686**

DOI Link :: <https://doi-ds.org/doi/10.2025-39762282/IRJHIS2503010>

Abstract:

Plagiarism is an alarming academic menace adversely affecting the academic community. This study aimed to assess the prevailing scenario in selected universities regarding awareness and perception of plagiarism, focusing on Library and librarian-related plagiarism among stakeholders, including research scholars and library professionals. The study included 45 state academic universities in Maharashtra. Two detailed questionnaires were circulated among respondents, comprising research scholars and library professionals, from whom data was collected. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. A questionnaire method was employed to assess respondents' awareness and perception of plagiarism. The study also highlighted the attitudes of research scholars and library professionals towards the emerging challenge of plagiarism. The study concluded that research scholars and library professionals from the 45 selected universities differed significantly in their awareness and perception of plagiarism's main components, the role of library professionals in curbing plagiarism, and impressions of plagiarism detection tools/software. However, no significant difference was found in the attitude of research scholars towards plagiarism itself.

Keywords: Plagiarism Awareness, Plagiarism Detection Tools, Anti-Plagiarism Software Research Police, Research ethics.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Plagiarism is the unethical practice of using the concepts, words, language, or data of another without giving proper credit. Obviously, it is dishonest and the attitude of the individual or individuals towards the originality of the invention, concept, and substance, and it is also a danger to the original identity of the creator of the work when someone else copies without crediting the original inventor. Those that insist and invest in the dissemination of original research findings, such as research supervisors, university administrators, publishers, and funding organisations, are

increasingly concerned about this. Plagiarism, which reflects the mentality of individuals or groups who steal the ideas, words, or entire works of others, whether intentionally or not, is increasingly common in the digital age of scholarly communication and information dissemination because of the "copy paste" opportunities that new technologies present. Plagiarism has been around for a long time, but now more than ever, scholars are tempted to use dishonest practises to further their careers by submitting plagiarised work for publication or by obtaining fraudulent credentials. Information professionals are currently adapting their practice due to the incorporation of new information and communication technologies into library and information science (LIS). Web-based information services are receiving a disproportionate amount of focus in libraries due to their widespread use and high levels of customer satisfaction. Internet connectivity is essential to the operation of any contemporary library system. In bygone eras, librarians were seen as providers of information and expertise to those who sought it. The modern librarian, however, is the one responsible for building the digital library within their own organisation, for the benefit of both their own staff and the public. They created their own digital library and add to it digital versions of other resources they've gathered. These days, this is one of a librarian's most crucial responsibilities. Librarians nowadays have adapted to the changing times by acquiring the requisite computer and programming skills.

The importance of librarians in the combat against plagiarism is undeniable. Librarians play a vital role in preventing plagiarism through raising public consciousness, instructing students in proper reference and citing techniques, and promoting information literacy initiatives. It is essential that students get a fundamental understanding of copyright as part of their professional training. Understanding the notion of open access and the participation of stakeholders is crucial for enhancing the likelihood of detecting plagiarism and discouraging such immoral activities in higher education. It was determined that a programme for subject librarians should be developed for practical elements of incorporating information literacy into an academic curriculum, and it was hypothesised that this would be a suitable way to educate students about plagiarism. It recommended including librarian collaboration and the teaching of correct citation and reference techniques within the curriculum. Librarians are in a unique position to teach incoming students how to avoid plagiarism by outlining the issues and consequences of copying the work of others. Plagiarism amongst overseas students in higher education has been highlighted as a severe issue, and this kind of behaviour has been highlighted as a contributing factor.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Kavulya (2022) Plagiarism is a major issue for ensuring the quality of academic work across the world. Anti-plagiarism software is one method that has been used to combat this threat. However, several concerns have been expressed concerning whether or not the present generation of technologies is enough for identifying and preventing plagiarism and ensuring the quality of

education. In this study, we take a look at the shortcomings of plagiarism detection software and suggest ways to fix them. The study claims that antiplagiarism software, while useful, is not a silver bullet for combating the widespread problem of plagiarism in academia, particularly in the wake of the release of tools like Turnitin and the spread of the COVID-19 virus. It suggests that higher education institutions should prioritise the development of a culture of academic integrity by prioritising the training of students in information literacy skills, addressing the root causes of plagiarism, and reforming assessment practises (HEIs).

Madhusudhan (2022) Several literature reviews on plagiarism in Indian literature throughout the COVID 19 period (2019-2021) were included in this paper. Challenges to the academic community in avoiding the theft of ideas and other forms of intellectual property due to plagiarism are unavoidable. With the advent of new technologies, innovations, and a plethora of online information, academic and research papers are more susceptible to plagiarism than ever before. This paper attempts to express the views of Indian authors writing during the COVID period on the importance of developing one's writing and referencing skills, on plagiarism tools and UGC regulations, and on the role libraries play in reducing plagiarism.

Sawant (2022) Plagiarism is on the rise all throughout the world, even in India. There has been an increase in instances of plagiarism and research misconduct in Indian educational institutions due to a lack of knowledge and sufficient training for scientists, researchers, academics, and the student community. Unlike the US Office of Research Integrity and comparable mechanisms in a small number of other nations, there is no official organisation to deal with wrongdoing in academia. As a result, approaches to dealing with plagiarism instances tend to be case-specific. Following the lead of governing authorities such as the UGC and the AICTE, some schools have implemented their own rules and mechanisms to combat academic dishonesty and ensure the quality of research. Plagiarism and other forms of research misconduct are therefore subject to a range of responses from academic institutions. Plagiarism has resulted in more severe consequences than only warnings or reprimands in the past, including suspensions, dismissals, demotions, and even legal action in certain cases. However, no standard procedure or technique for keeping tabs on dishonest researchers has been established. As a result, a centralised system, like those in several other nations, is urgently needed. It's also important to practice self-control by adhering to clear guidelines for moral behaviour. A case study of the evolution of a school's policy on dealing with plagiarism is the primary focus of this investigation. The policy's essence is also generated by this process.

3. OBJECTIVES:

The present study aimed at achieving the following objectives:-

1. To find out the problems faced by research scholars while Reducing Similarity Index.
2. To understand the reasons behind the misconduct of plagiarism

3. To assess the impact of institutional guidelines (Plagiarism Policy) on research scholars' plagiarism levels.
4. To check the role of library and library professionals in the Reducing Similarity Index and improve research paper writing skills.
5. To Check the impact of Education and Training of Research Ethics given by the library to research scholars.
6. To check the awareness of New Technology and its use for the Reducing Similarity Index.
7. To compare a few anti-plagiarism tools used by research scholars while ongoing research

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

01. Research Design: A descriptive method used as the survey approach in the study.

02. Sampling Method: A Random Sampling Method used in the study.

03. Sampling Frame: Research scholars in different subjects in state universities of Maharashtra. And University Librarian for university plagiarism guidelines and policy.

04. Sampling Size: In this study, sufficient data (i.e., 250) collected from research scholars across state universities of Maharashtra. And all 45 University Librarian. In this study I received only 36 Librarian response.

05. Tools for Data Collection: Mixed approach (primary data and secondary data) followed to collect the data. In this study, the primary data collected using the standard questionnaire consisting of many items in a definite order. The questionnaire distributed among the research scholars and Librarians for data collection. In this study, the secondary data collected from existing literature and scholarly database.

06. Data Analysis and Interpretation: The collected be tabulated, codified, analyzed, and then interpreted. Data analysis to be made by appropriate methods i.e. mean, mode median, T test, standard deviation, etc., and if required additionally use graph pad software for analyzing, graphing, and organizing data. Data interpretation made and the conclusion drawn accordingly.

Collected data analyzed in tables and figures with the percentage method. SPSS software used for analyzing the collected data.

5. RESULT / FINDINGS:

In-depth analysis of the interpretation of the survey data. The Figure aids in a thorough examination of the data found in the table of frequencies and percentages. Analyses statistically were performed using Pearson correlation and regression. The interpretation of survey data through statistical analyses like Pearson correlation and regression offers valuable insights into the relationships between variables. The figure accompanying the table of frequencies and percentages enhances the depth of analysis by providing visual representations of trends and patterns.

Pearson correlation assesses the strength and direction of linear relationships between

variables, indicating whether they are positively, negatively, or not correlated. Regression analysis further explores these relationships by predicting one variable based on the values of others. By scrutinizing the correlation coefficients and regression outputs, researchers can identify significant associations and make predictions about dependent variables based on independent ones. These analyses allow for a nuanced understanding of the data, uncovering underlying dynamics and potential causal relationships.

Moreover, the graphical representation aids in identifying outliers, trends, and anomalies, complementing the statistical analysis. It enhances the interpretability of the data by presenting it in a visually intuitive format, making complex patterns easier to discern.

Overall, the combination of statistical analyses like Pearson correlation and regression with graphical representations facilitates a comprehensive examination of survey data. It empowers researchers to draw robust conclusions, inform decision-making, and generate actionable insights based on empirical evidence.

Descriptive Statistics Frequency and Percentage of Data:

In descriptive statistics, the mean, standard deviation, and standard error of the mean are displayed. The following significant findings were discovered regarding the respondent's demographics. Questions about basic personal information like gender, age and occupation come first. The success of a study depends on the researcher's ability to accurately portray the respondent's profile and other variables.

Table 01: Frequency And Percentage Of Should The University Regularly Organized Training Programs Of Anti-Plagiarism Tools For Research Scholar

Should The University Regularly Organized Training Programs Of Anti-Plagiarism Tools For Research Scholar		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	30	83.3
No	6	16.7
Total	36	100.0

Source: Sample survey, Compiled By the Researcher.

The Table No 01 provides a comprehensive overview of respondents' attitudes towards the organization of regular training programs on anti-plagiarism tools for research scholars by the university. It reveals that a substantial majority, comprising 83.3% of the sample, support the implementation of such initiatives, with 30 individuals expressing a positive inclination towards them. This strong endorsement underscores the perceived importance of combating plagiarism within academic settings and the recognition of training programs as effective measures for addressing this issue. Conversely, a minority of respondents, accounting for 16.7% of the sample, indicated a

negative stance, with 6 individuals opposing the regular organization of these training programs. While this dissenting perspective represents a smaller segment of the sample, it still warrants attention and further exploration to understand the underlying reasons and potential barriers to acceptance. Analyzing the distribution of responses enables institutions to gauge the level of demand for anti-plagiarism training initiatives among research scholars and tailor their educational offerings accordingly. Additionally, examining demographic or contextual factors that may influence respondents' views can provide valuable insights for designing targeted interventions to promote academic integrity and research ethics effectively.

Figure 01: Graphical Representation Of Should The University Regularly Organised Training Programs Of Anti-Plagiarism Tools For Research Scholar

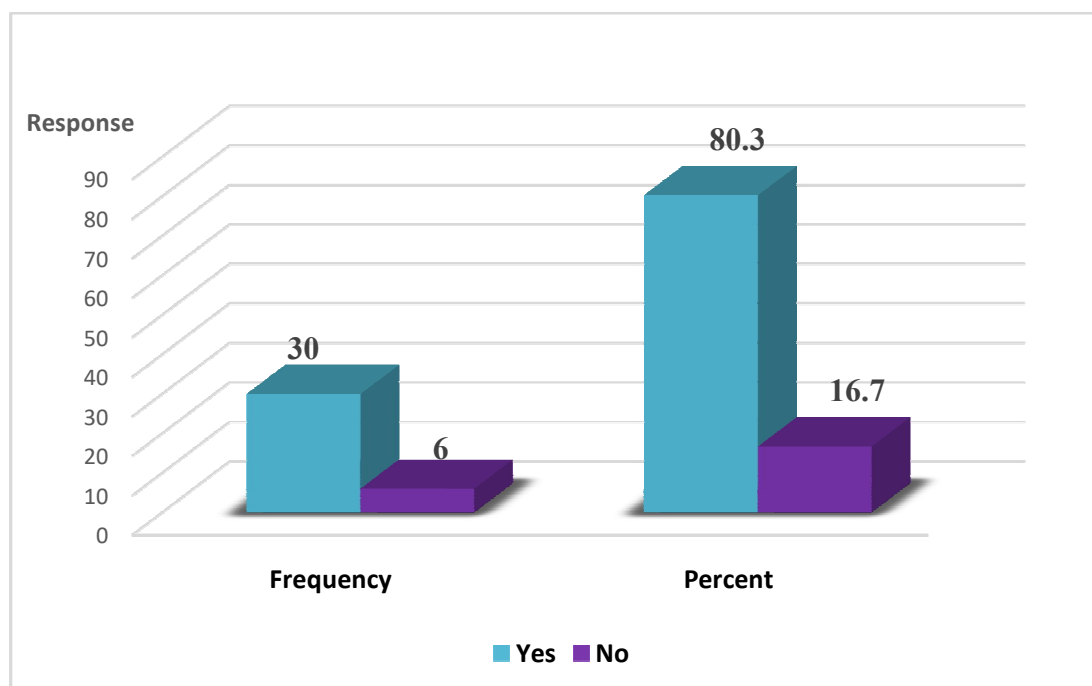


Table 02: Frequency And Percentage Of Plagiarism Policy Is Available At University Website

Plagiarism Policy Is Available At University Website		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	17	47.2
No	19	52.8
Total	36	100.0

Source: Sample survey, Compiled By the Researcher.

The Table No 02 offers insights into the availability of the plagiarism policy on the university website, with 47.2% of respondents, totaling 17 individuals, affirming its presence. Conversely, 52.8% of respondents, comprising 19 individuals, indicated that the policy was not available on the website. This data highlights a relatively balanced distribution of responses, suggesting a mixed level of accessibility to the plagiarism policy among the university community. The availability of such

policies online is essential for promoting transparency and providing guidance on ethical standards for academic work. Institutions should consider strategies to improve the accessibility and visibility of their plagiarism policies, ensuring that they are readily accessible to all stakeholders. Additionally, further investigation into the reasons behind the lack of availability or awareness of the policy can inform targeted efforts to enhance compliance and adherence to academic integrity standards. Overall, addressing the accessibility of plagiarism policies can contribute to fostering a culture of integrity and accountability within the academic community.

Figure 02: Graphical Representation Of Plagiarism Policy Is Available At University Website

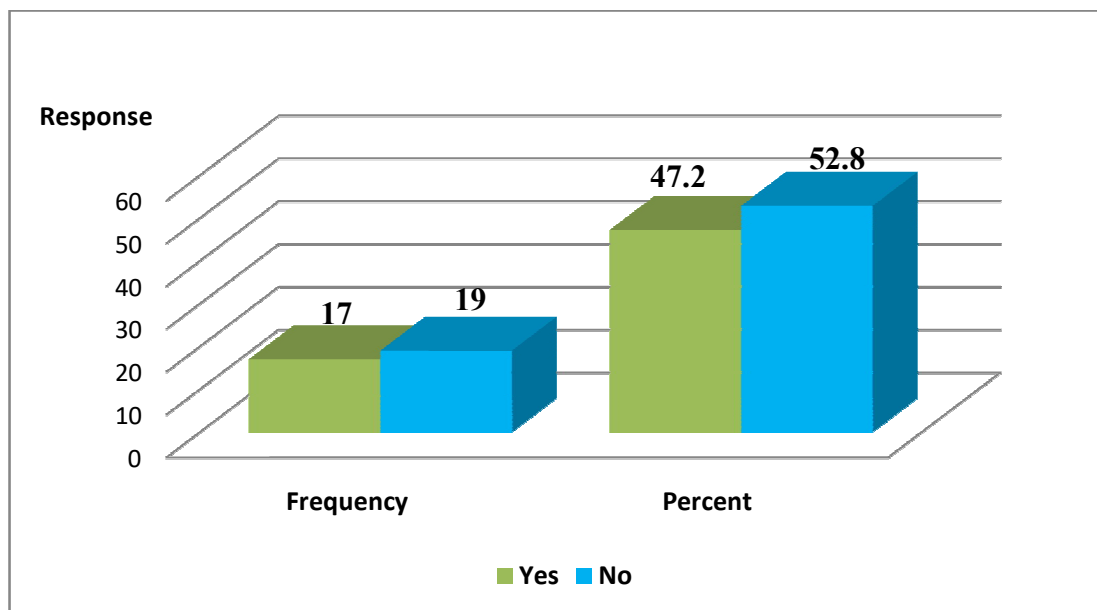


Table 03: Frequency And Percentage Of The Higher Education System Should Introduce The Plagiarism And Its Consequences In The Curriculum

The Higher Education System Should Introduce The Plagiarism And Its Consequences In The Curriculum		
	Frequency	Percent
Neutral	1	2.8
Agree	14	38.9
Strongly agree	21	58.3
Total	36	100.0

Source: Sample survey, Compiled By the Researcher.

The Table No 03 provides insights into stakeholders' views regarding the integration of plagiarism education and its consequences into the higher education curriculum. A small proportion of respondents, accounting for 2.8% of the sample, expressed a neutral stance on this matter, with only 1 individual indicating such a viewpoint. However, a significant majority of respondents, comprising 97.2% of the sample, demonstrated agreement with this proposal. Among them, 38.9% agreed, with 14 individuals supporting the integration of plagiarism education into the curriculum,

while an overwhelming 58.3% strongly agreed, with 21 individuals advocating for its inclusion. These findings underscore the widespread recognition of the importance of addressing plagiarism within the higher education system through formal education initiatives. Integrating plagiarism education into the curriculum ensures that students receive comprehensive guidance on ethical research practices and the consequences of academic misconduct. Such measures can contribute to fostering a culture of academic integrity and responsible scholarship among future generations of graduates. Understanding stakeholders' perspectives on this issue is crucial for informing curriculum development efforts and implementing effective strategies to combat plagiarism within higher education institutions.

Figure 03: Graphical Representation Of The Higher Education System Should Introduce The Plagiarism And Its Consequences In The Curriculum

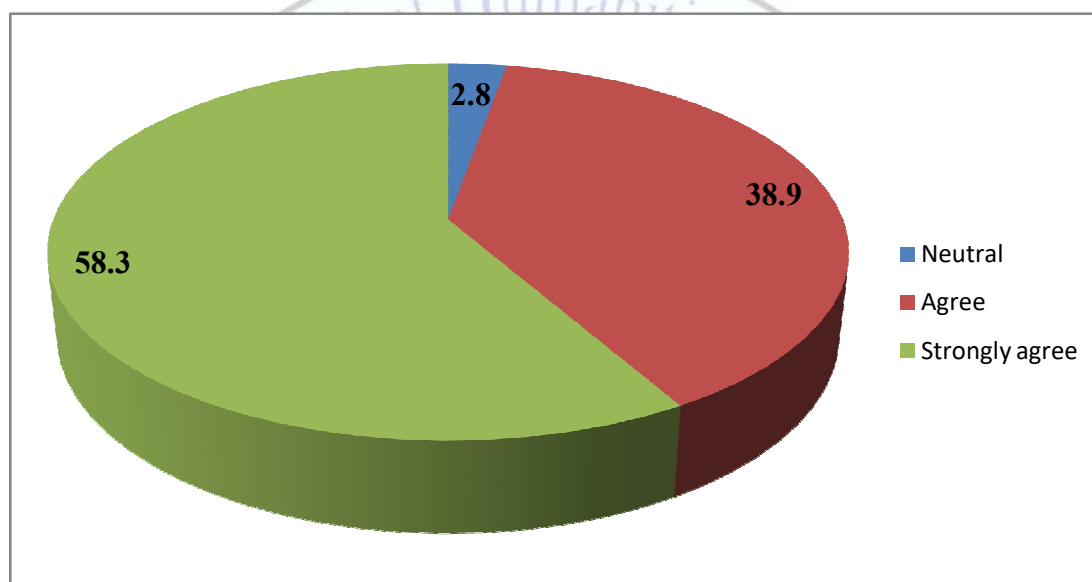


Table 04: Frequency And Percentage Of Library Is A Pillar Of Any Research Work.

The Library Is A Pillar Of Any Research Work.		
	Frequency	Percent
Neutral	2	5.6
Agree	11	30.6
Strongly agree	23	63.9
Total	36	100.0

Source: Sample survey, Compiled By the Researcher.

The Table No 04 delves into perceptions regarding the significance of libraries as fundamental pillars of research work. A small minority, representing 5.6% of respondents, expressed a neutral stance on this assertion, with 2 individuals indicating so. In contrast, a significant majority

of respondents, totaling 94.5%, demonstrated agreement with the idea. Among them, 30.6% agreed, with 11 individuals supporting the notion that libraries are integral to research endeavors. Furthermore, an overwhelming majority of 63.9% strongly agreed with this perspective, comprising 23 individuals who firmly endorse the notion that libraries serve as essential pillars of any research work. These findings underscore the widespread recognition among respondents of the indispensable role that libraries play in facilitating academic research and scholarly inquiry. Libraries serve as repositories of knowledge, providing access to a wide range of resources and support services that are indispensable for conducting thorough and rigorous research. Enhancing awareness of the critical role of libraries in the research process can contribute to fostering a culture of academic excellence and intellectual curiosity within the academic community.

Figure 04: Graphical Representation Of Library Is A Pillar Of Any Research Work.

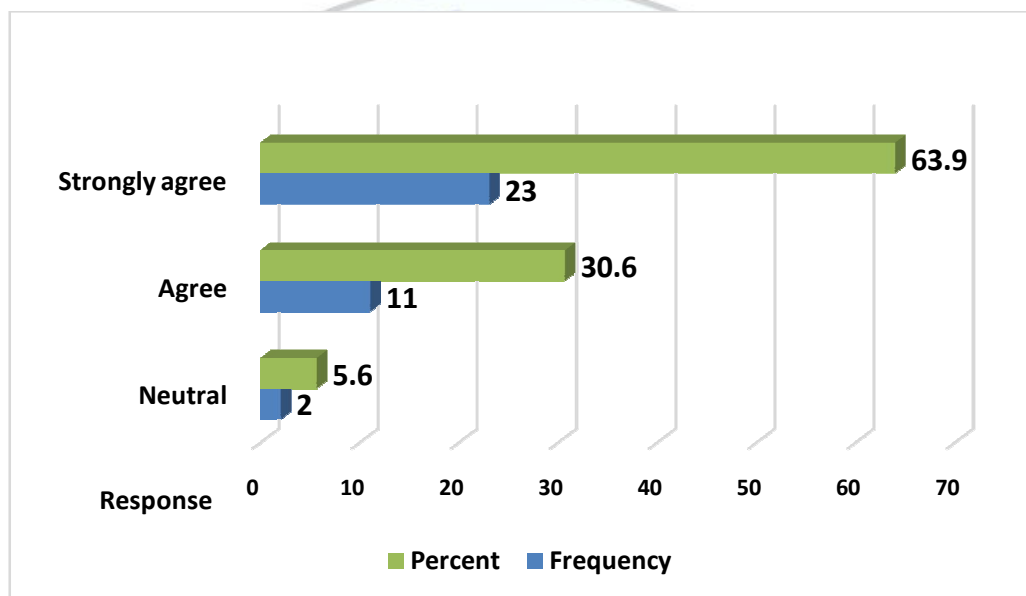


Table 05: Frequency And Percentage Of There Is A Very Important Role Of Library And Library Professionals In The Reducing Similarity Index And Improve Research Paper Writing Skills

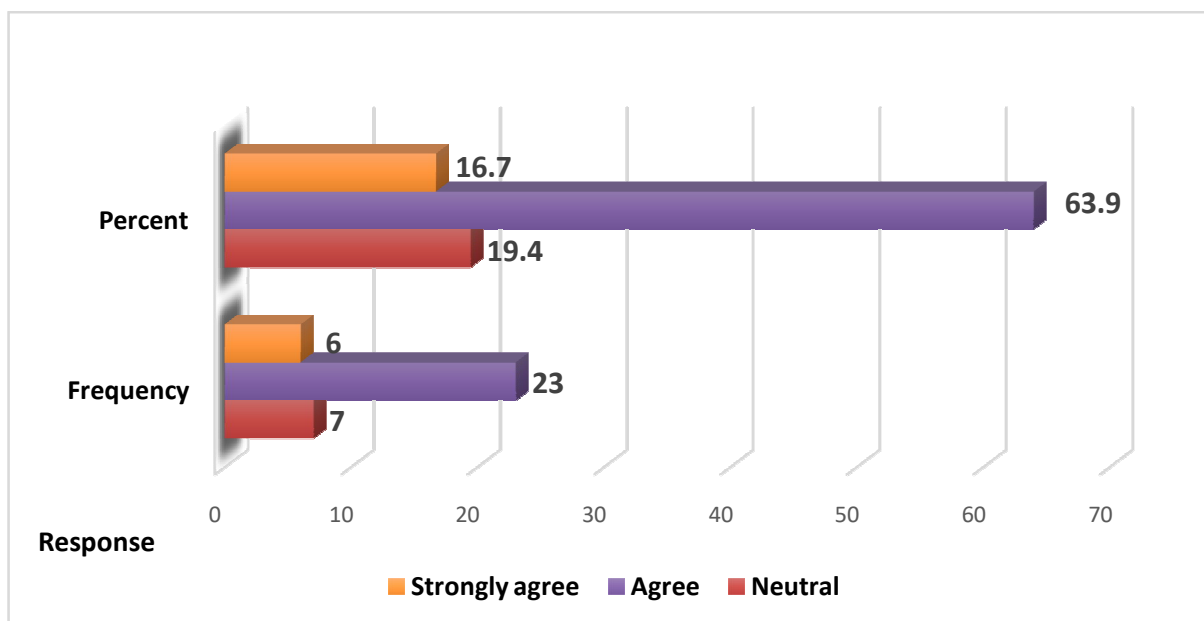
There Is A Very Important Role Of Library And Library Professionals In The Reducing Similarity Index And Improve Research Paper Writing Skills		
	Frequency	Percent
Neutral	7	19.4
Agree	23	63.9
Strongly agree	6	16.7
Total	36	100.0

Source: Sample survey, Compiled By the Researcher

The data in the Table No 05 underscores the significant role that libraries and library professionals play in reducing similarity index and enhancing research paper writing skills. It's

notable that a majority of respondents, comprising 63.9%, agreed on the importance of this role, with a frequency of 23. Additionally, 16.7% strongly agreed, indicating a substantial acknowledgment of the impact. Even in neutral responses, with a frequency of 7 and a percentage of 19.4%, there's recognition of the relevance, albeit to a lesser extent. This distribution suggests a consensus or at least recognition among respondents regarding the crucial function libraries and their staff serve in improving academic research and integrity. Such findings advocate for continued support and investment in library resources and professional development to further bolster research practices.

Figure 05: Graphical representation of there is a very important role of library and library professionals in the Reducing Similarity Index and improve research paper writing skills



6. DISCUSSION :

Awareness and Perception of Plagiarism:

A significant majority of respondents recognize plagiarism as a serious offense that can have detrimental effects on academic and professional careers.

There is a high level of awareness regarding plagiarism detection software/tools, with a majority of respondents acknowledging their importance in promoting academic integrity.

Training and Support:

Respondents express a strong desire for universities to provide training on proper citation practices and how to use plagiarism detection tools effectively.

There is a perceived need for more support and guidance from academic institutions in helping research scholars navigate issues related to plagiarism and originality in their work.

Challenges Faced:

Many respondents report facing challenges in reducing the similarity index in their research papers, highlighting the complexity of ensuring originality in academic writing.

Some respondents also express concerns about the effectiveness of plagiarism detection

software in languages other than English.

Perceived Benefits of Plagiarism Detection Tools:

Despite challenges, there is a general consensus among respondents that plagiarism detection software such as Turnitin and Urkund can help enhance writing skills and promote originality in research papers.

Recommendations for Improvement:

Respondents suggest the need for more comprehensive training programs on academic integrity and proper citation practices.

There is also a call for further research and development in plagiarism detection software to address issues related to multilingual support and accuracy.

Overall, the findings highlight the importance of promoting a culture of academic integrity and providing adequate support and resources to research scholars in navigating the complexities of plagiarism and originality in their academic work. Addressing these challenges requires collaborative efforts from academic institutions, researchers, and plagiarism detection software providers to ensure the integrity and quality of scholarly research.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Develop comprehensive training programs for research scholars on using anti-plagiarism tools.
2. Establish dedicated anti-plagiarism support services within the library.
3. Promote awareness campaigns on academic integrity and anti-plagiarism tool importance.
4. Encourage collaborative efforts between scholars, librarians, and faculty.

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