

COPYRIGHT AWARENESS OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS IN CALICUT UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

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ABSTRACT

This paper focused on copyright awareness of doctoral students in Calicut University Campus. A structured questionnaire was distributed among 120 doctoral students in the Calicut University campus. Out of 120, 60 from science departments and 60 from non-science departments. The study revealed that majority of the doctoral students are aware about copyright law and its importance, but the study also revealed that a good number of the doctoral students are less aware about plagiarism. The study also helped the investigators to reach at the conclusion that copyright is relevant in digital environment.

KEYWORD: Copyright, Plagiarism, Digital Copyright, Doctoral students, Calicut University.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the information society, the emergence of new information occurs within microseconds and is also accessible to the wide range of users. Technology is developing day by day, and the ways of accessing information are also getting changed. In the new digital world, the importance of copyright is more because of that the misuse of information is increasing.

Copyright is the exclusive right of the author to restrict others from copying his/ her work. Copyright regulation basically protects the interests of the writer or the creator or the performer from commercial exploitation by others. The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary defines

copyright as “the exclusive right, given to the originator or his or her assignee for a fixed number of years, to reproduce or perform a literary, musical, cinematic, etc., work and to authorize others to do the same” (Thakur, 2012-13). Copyright laws simply explain the legal protection given to authors against unauthorised copying of their work.

In digital environment, management of copyright is a new issue. With the existence of several laws and acts, the violation of copyright is still going on in several fields like academic, marketing etc. in different parts of the world. Nowadays our society possesses a great problem of copyright violation. It is mainly due to that the people are still less aware about Intellectual property Right (IPR) and copyright. Standing within this state of our society, the investigator selected the present topic and decided to conduct the study on doctoral students. Doctoral students are considered as the generators of new information so it cannot be overemphasized that they should be aware about copyright.

2. LITERATURE SEARCH

Olaka & Adkins (2013) investigated how Kenyan academic librarians with varying education levels to solve and handle copyright issues when presented to them by library users. It revealed that librarians from the different education levels differed in solving and handling copyright issues. In a study, Isiakpona (2012) found that the level of awareness of copyright laws by undergraduate students were considerably high but the knowledge on the provision of the copyright laws on the use of printed or literary materials were low among the undergraduate in the university of Ibadan. Wan, Ismail & Cheat (2012) conducted a study on plagiarism to what extent it is understood. The purpose of the study was to identify the extent of students’ understanding of the concept of plagiarism through the use of computer and information technology. The results showed that the students’ understanding of the concept of plagiarism was still not satisfactory. Olaka & Adkins (2012) conducted a study on exploring copyright knowledge in experience and education level among academic librarians in Kenya. The result showed that academic librarians were only moderately knowledgeable about copyright issues.

Li & Casanave (2012) explored the students’ understanding of plagiarism, their strategies for composing, the similarity between their texts and source texts and the lecturer’s assessment of

their work. It indicated that both students were appeared to understand the university's plagiarism policy yet their texts were characterized by patch writing and inappropriate citation. Risques, O'Dwyer & Ledwith (2011) conducted a study on technology enhanced learning and plagiarism in entrepreneurship education and found that more than one online plagiarism prevention tutorial is required to change self-reported views relating to engagement in plagiarism, perception of peer participation in plagiarism and student's ethical views. Wu, Chou, Ke, & Wang (2010) conducted a study on college students' misunderstandings about copyright laws for digital library resources. It revealed that librarian-interview results indicate students problematic behaviours like distribution to unauthorized users and the student-survey showed that students had misunderstanding about copyright laws when using digital library resources. In a study, Eret & Gokmenoglu (2010) found that the prospective academicians have negative attitude towards plagiarism, they might plagiarize due to foreign language problems, time constraints, and lack of knowledge about plagiarism.

Fernandez-Molina, Karlos & Chaves (2010) conducted a study on copyright and e-learning at professors' level of knowledge about the new Spanish law. The findings show that there was a considerable lack of knowledge on the part of professors regarding copyright issues. In another study, Mahesh & Rekha Mittal (2009) examined modes of digital content creation for digital libraries and discussed the associated copyright issues with the types of digital content. It found that extant copyright laws, particularly in India, allow scope for forming opinions with regard to digital content thereby giving room for insecurity for digital content creation.

Fernandez-Molina, Karlos & Chaves Guimaraes (2009) made an attempt to study the WIPO development agenda and the contribution of the international library community. The findings showed that the initiative for a development agenda for WIPO has proven much more successful than many had imagined, even its promoters. Smith, Ghazali & Noor Minhad (2007) conducted a study on attitudes towards plagiarism among undergraduate accounting students. The purpose of this study was to examine undergraduate student's perceptions of factors contributing to plagiarism activities. The results suggested that factors contributing to plagiarism include lack of awareness, lack of understanding, lack of competence, and personal attitudes.

In a study, Okiy (2005) found that the major reasons for photocopying are the cheapness of photocopies compared with the cost of purchasing books and journals as well as the scarcity of books and also found that more than fifty per cent of the respondents photocopied whole books and journals, while over sixty five per cent of them are aware of the copyright law. George (2005) explored the issues related to acquiring copyright permission with the goal of determining effectiveness and efficiency using the least complex process. Gadd & Gaston (2001) investigated the copyright questions faced by libraries by analyzing the Lis-copyseek archives. It revealed that the majority of concerns relate to copyright in the print environment, in particular the regulation concerning short loan collections and course packs.

It is revealed that a number of studies have been conducted on the topic “wareness of copyright rules and regulation” all over the world in the recent years. Findings highlighted the need for the copyright awareness of doctoral students in the current society and in the light of this situation the investigator selected the present topic for conducting the study.

3.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The major objectives of the study are as follows

1. To analyse the level of awareness of copyright and plagiarism among doctoral students in Calicut University campus.
2. To analyse the attitude of doctoral students towards copyright rules and regulations.
3. To find out how far the non-availability of printed materials is responsible for the copyright violation by doctoral students.
4. To examine the relevance of copyright in digital environment.

4.METHODOLOGY

The present study aims to examine the copyright awareness of doctoral students in Calicut University campus. The population of the present study is the full time the doctoral students in Calicut University campus. The investigator selected a representative sample of the whole population and 120 doctoral students are selected from the population in which 60 from science departments and 60 from non-science departments. Stratified random sampling method was used for the purpose of selecting sample. A structured questionnaire was used for data

collection. Statistical technique used for analysis of collected data was percentage method. Microsoft Excel method was used for the consolidation of data.

5.ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

This section deals with the analysis and interpretation of the data collected by means of the questionnaires.

5.1.Copyright Awareness of Doctoral Students

In the new information era, doctoral students should be aware about the rules and regulations in the use of information for their research work. Here the investigator analysed the level of copyright awareness of doctoral students through questionnaire and the data were analysed and given in the table 5.1.

Table 5.1
Copyright Awareness of Doctoral Students

Awareness	Doctoral Students		
	Science	Non-science	Total
Aware	40(70.2)	30(54.5)	70(62.5)
Less Aware	12(21.1)	20(36.4)	32(28.6)
Not Aware	5(8.8)	5(9.1)	10(8.9)
Total	57(100)	55(100)	112(100)

(The figure given in brackets shows the corresponding percentage)

The data in table 5.1 indicates that majority (70.2 per cent) of science respondents are aware about the importance of copyright. A few (21.1 per cent) of them are less aware and a very few (8.8 per cent) are not aware. Majority of (54.5 per cent) non-science respondents are also aware about the importance of copyright. A good number (36.4 per cent) of them are less aware and a very few (9.1 per cent) are not aware. From the table it is inferred that science respondents are more aware about copyright than non-science respondents.

5.2. Knowledge about Indian Copyright Act

Figure 1 shows the knowledge level of doctoral students about Indian Copyright Act which was enacted in 1957. This figure shows that majority (73.7 per cent) of science respondents has knowledge about Indian Copyright Act and a few (26.3 per cent) are unknown about the Act. Majority (67.3 per cent) of non-science respondents have knowledge about Indian Copyright Act. A good number (32.7 per cent) of non-science respondents are unknown about the Act. Overall, science respondents are more knowledgeable about the Indian Copyright Act than non-science respondents.

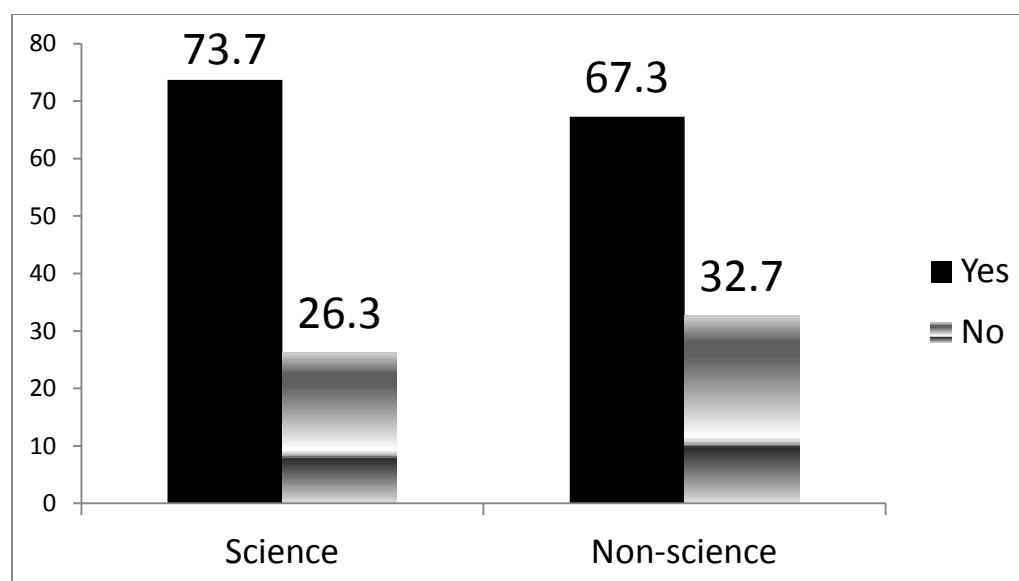


Figure 1. Knowledge about Indian Copyright Act

5.3. Familiarity with Plagiarism

Plagiarism which is called as literary theft is another problem related to copyright violation. Recently there was an incident of cancelation of PhD at international level due to plagiarism. Like copyright, the doctoral students must aware about plagiarism. The data in table 5.2 shows the details about the familiarity of doctoral students with plagiarism.

Table 5.2
Familiarity with Plagiarism

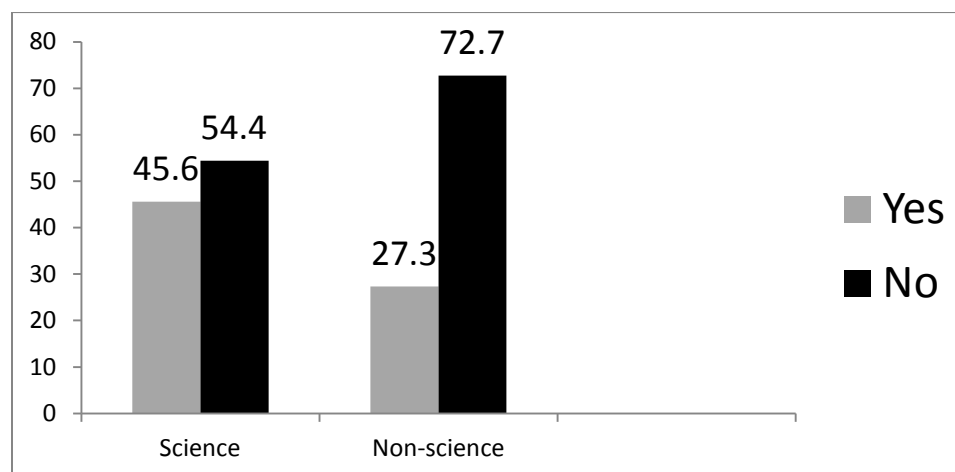
Familiarity	Doctoral Students		Total
	Science	Non-science	
Familiar	33(57.8)	17(30.9)	50(44.6)
Less Familiar	13(22.8)	23(41.8)	36(32.1)
Not Familiar	11(19.3)	15(27.3)	26(23.2)
Total	57(100)	55(100)	112(100)

(The figure given in brackets shows the corresponding percentage)

Table 5.2 reveals that majority (57.8 per cent) of science respondents are familiar with plagiarism. A few (22.8 per cent) of them are less familiar and a few (19.3 per cent) respondents are not familiar. A good number (30.9 per cent) of non-science respondents are also familiar with plagiarism. A good number (41.8 per cent) of them are less familiar and a few (27.3 per cent) of them are not familiar. Compared to the percentage of respondents (table 5.2) who are familiar with copyright, less percentage of respondents are familiar with plagiarism.

5.4. Checking of Plagiarism

The respondents those who are familiar about plagiarism are analysed and founded that if they are checking plagiarism while using information during research work. The results are shown in figure 2.



The figure 2 shows that about half (45.6 per cent) of the science respondents and a few (27.3 per cent) non-science respondents are answered 'yes'. The percentage of non-science respondents (27.3 per cent) those checking plagiarism is very less compared to science respondents (45.6 per cent). Majority (72.7 per cent) of non-science doctoral students is not checking plagiarism regularly. It reveals that majority of the respondents (63.4 per cent) did not checking plagiarism regularly while using information.

5.5. Methods Used for Checking Plagiarism

There are several methods available for checking plagiarism. The investigator gave different methods to respondents to find out which one is preferred by them. The data is shown in the table 5.3.

Table 5.3
Methods Used for Checking Plagiarism

Method Used for Checking Plagiarism	Doctoral Students		Total (N=41)
	Science (N=23)	Non-science (N=18)	
On-line	12(52.2)	9(50)	21(51.2)
With the help of colleagues	10(43.5)	8(44.4)	18(43.9)
Other	1(0.43)	1(0.55)	2(0.48)

(The figure given in brackets shows the corresponding percentage)

Table 5.3 shows that about half of the science respondents (52.2 per cent) and half of the non-science respondents (50 per cent) selected on-line method for checking plagiarism. A good number (43.5 per cent) of them selected the second option 'with the help of colleagues'. Similarly a good number (44.4 per cent) of the non-science respondents selected second option and a very few (0.55 per cent) of them are suggested other methods. Overall, on-line method is selected by more respondents.

5.6. Extent of Violation of Copyright due to Non-availability of Printed Materials

The investigator attempted to find out how much the non-availability of printed materials makes the respondents to violate copyright regulations through photocopying and other ways. The data were shown in the table 5.4.

Table 5.4
Extent of Violation of Copyright due to Non-availability of Printed Materials

Opinion	Doctoral Students		Total
	Science	Non-science	
Great Extent	3(5.3)	6(10.9)	9(8.04)
Some Extent	19(33.3)	18(32.7)	37(33.04)
Little Extent	12(21.1)	15(27.3)	27(24.1)
No Extent	8(14.04)	6(10.9)	14(12.5)
Don't Know	15(26.3)	10(18.2)	25(22.3)
Total	57(100)	55(100)	112(100)

(The figure given in brackets shows the corresponding percentage)

The data in the table 5.4 indicates that a very few (8.04 per cent) of the respondents are sure that they violate copyright due to non-availability of printed materials to great extent. A good number (33.04 per cent) of them violate copyright to some extent and 24.1 per cent violate copyright to little extent. A very few (12.5 per cent) of the respondents violate no extent and a few (22.3 per cent) answered don't know. Overall, a good number of the respondents are violating copyright to some extent due to the non-availability of printed materials.

5.7.Awareness of Digital Copyright

Like the copyright for printed resources there is copyright restriction for digital materials also. The doctoral students are needed to be aware about digital copyright also. Table 5.5 shows the data related to awareness of doctoral students about digital copyright.

Table 5.5
Awareness of Digital Copyright

Awareness	Doctoral Students		Total
	Science	Non-science	
Aware	28(49.1)	16(29.1)	44(39.3)
Less Aware	22(38.6)	21(38.2)	43(38.4)
Not Aware	7(12.3)	18(32.7)	25(22.3)
Total	57(100)	55(100)	112(100)

(The figure given in brackets shows the corresponding percentage)

The data in the table 5.5 indicates that a good number (39.3 per cent) of the respondents are aware about digital copyright. Similarly a good number (38.4 per cent) of them are less aware and a few (22.3 per cent) are not aware about digital copyright. Overall, a good number of the respondents are aware about digital copyright. Science respondents are more aware about digital copyright than non-science respondents.

5.8. Agreement with Copyright Regulations

The investigator tried to find out the attitudes of doctoral students towards copyright regulations. Someone may agree with the rules and regulation of copy right and some may not. The data collected through the questionnaire were shown in the table 5.6.

Table 5.6

Agreement with Copyright Regulations

Opinion	Doctoral Students		Total
	Science	Non-science	
Strongly Agree	6(10.5)	4(7.3)	10(8.9)
Agree	43(75.4)	38(69.1)	81(72.3)
Don't Know	4(7.02)	11(20)	15(13.4)
Disagree	4(7.02)	2(3.6)	6(5.4)
Strongly Disagree	–	–	–
Total	57(100)	55(100)	112(100)

(The figure given in brackets shows the corresponding percentage)

Table 5.6 shows the doctoral students' agreement with the regulations of copyright. It indicates that majority (72.3 per cent) of the respondents agree with copyright regulations and a very few (8.9 per cent) of them strongly agree. A very few (13.4 per cent) of the respondents answered don't know and a very few (5.4 per cent) of them disagree.

Overall, majority of the respondents agree with the regulations of copyright. The percentage of science respondents who agree with the regulations of copyright is more compared to percentage of non-science respondents.

5.9. Agreement with Digital Copyright

The investigator tried to find out the approach of doctoral students towards digital copyright regulations. The data collected through the questionnaire were shown in the table 5.7.

Table 5.7
Agreement with Digital Copyright

Opinion	Doctoral Students		Total
	Science	Non-science	
Strongly Agree	8(14.03)	6(10.9)	14(12.5)
Agree	29(50.9)	25(45.5)	54(48.2)
Don't Know	12(21.1)	17(30.9)	29(25.9)
Disagree	8(14.03)	7(12.7)	15(13.4)
Strongly Disagree	–	–	–
Total	57(100)	55(100)	112(100)

(The figure given in brackets shows the corresponding percentage)

The data in the table 5.7 revealed that about half (48.2 per cent) of the respondents agree with digital copyright regulations and a very few (12.5 per cent) of them strongly agree. A few (25.9 per cent) of the respondents answered don't know and a very few (13.4 per cent) of them disagree with digital copyright.

Overall, about half of the respondents agree with the regulations of digital copyright. The percentage of science respondents who agree with the regulations of digital copyright is more compared to percentage of non-science respondents.

5.10. Feeling of Self Violation of Copyright

Sometimes we will compel to violate copyright due to the non-availability of printed materials and its high material price. Exception is included in copyright that for academic purpose photocopies can be taken and it comes under fair use. At the same time there are rules for taking

photocopy according to the number of pages and so on. Here the investigator made an attempt to evaluate the feeling of self violation of copyright by doctoral students. The data were shown in the following table 5.8.

Table 5.8
Feeling of Self Violation of Copyright

Frequency	Doctoral Students		Total
	Science	Non-science	
Frequently	—	—	—
Sometimes	10(17.5)	18(32.7)	28(25)
Rarely	19(33.3)	13(23.6)	32(28.6)
Never	17(29.8)	14(25.5)	31(27.8)
Don't Know	11(19.3)	10(18.2)	21(18.8)
Total	57(100)	55(100)	112(100)

(The figure given in brackets shows the corresponding percentage)

Table 5.8 shows the frequency of the feeling of self violation of copyright by doctoral students. It indicates that a few (28.6 per cent) of the respondents rarely felt that they are violating the copyright Act while using information. A few (25 per cent) of the respondents sometimes felt that they are violating the copyright Act while using information. While a few (27.8 per cent) of respondents never felt that they are violating the copyright Act while using information. A few (18.1 per cent) are answered don't know.

Overall, a few (25 per cent) of the respondents sometimes felt that they are violating the copyright Act while using information. A few (18.8 per cent) of the respondents answered 'don't know'.

5.11. Extent of Copyright Violation Due to Digitalization

The digitalization simplifies the ways of getting information and it will lead to copying and downloading of materials for commercial purposes rather than academic needs. The investigator attempted to find out how much the digital environment makes the respondents to violate copyright regulations.

Table 5.9
Extent of Copyright Violation Due to Digitalization

Opinion	Doctoral students		Total
	Science	Non-science	
Great Extent	3(5.3)	2(3.6)	5(4.5)
Some Extent	26(45.6)	18(32.7)	44(39.3)
Little Extent	8(14.03)	16(29.1)	24(21.4)
No Extent	7(12.3)	4(7.3)	11(9.8)
Don't Know	13(22.8)	15(27.3)	28(25)
Total	57(100)	55(100)	112(100)

(The figure given in brackets shows the corresponding percentage)

Table 5.9 shows the extent of violation of copyright due to digitalization. The data in the table shows that a very few (4.5 per cent) of the respondents are sure that they violate copyright to great extent due to digitization. A good number (39.3 per cent) of them violate copyright to some extent and 21.4 per cent violate copyright to little extent. A very few (9.8 per cent) of the respondents violate no extent and a few (25 per cent) answered don't know.

Overall, a good number of the respondents are violating copyright to some extent due to digitization.

5.12. Methods to Become Aware about Copyright

There are different methods available by which one can access information on copyright and become aware. The investigator provided different methods to analyze the respondents and the data were shown in the table 5.10.

Table 5.10
Methods to Become Aware about Copyright

Methods	Doctoral Students		Total
	Science (N=78)	Non-science (N=82)	
Attending instruction classes	10(17.5)	22(40)	32(28.6)
Using Guides	9(15.8)	3(5.5)	12(10.7)

Depending on Library Professionals	7(12.3)	11(20)	18(16.1)
Reading Books on Copyright	11(19.3)	15(27.3)	26(23.2)
Through Internet	37(64.9)	26(47.3)	63(56.3)
Other	4(7.01)	5(9.1)	9(8.03)

(The figure given in brackets shows the corresponding percentage)

Table 5.10 shows the methods selected by doctoral students to become aware about copyright. Majority (64.9 per cent) of the science respondents depend upon internet to become aware about copyright. A few (19.3 per cent) of them preferred reading books on copyright and a few (17.5 per cent) of them go for instruction classes to get awareness about copyright and a few (15.8 per cent) use guides. A very few (12.3 per cent) depends on library professionals. In the case of non-science respondents about half (47.3 per cent) of them use internet to get awareness about copyright. A good number (40 per cent) of them go for instruction classes to get awareness about copyright. A few (27.3 per cent) of them preferred reading books on copyright and a very few (5.5 per cent) use guides. A few (20 per cent) depends on library professionals. A very few (8.03 per cent) of the respondents suggested other methods.

Overall, the data in the table indicates that majority (56.3 per cent) of the science and non-science respondents depend upon internet to become aware about copyright. A few (28.6 per cent) of the respondents go for instruction classes. A few (23.2 per cent) of them preferred reading books on copyright and a very few (10.7 per cent) use guides. A few (16.1 per cent) depends on library professionals.

5.13.Relevance of Copyright in Digital Environment

The development in information and communication technology influenced the availability and accessibility of information. In the digital environment copyright has more importance and also the chance for violation of copyright is more. So the investigator made an attempt to find out the attitude of doctoral students towards the relevance of copyright in digital environment. The data were given in the table 5.11.

Table 5.11
Relevance of Copyright in Digital Environment

Opinion	Doctoral Students		Total
	Science	Non-science	
Yes	45(78.9)	40(72.7)	85(75.9)
No	12(21.1)	15(27.3)	27(24.1)
Total	57(100)	55(100)	112(100)

(The figure given in brackets shows the corresponding percentage)

Table 5.11 indicates that according to majority of science respondents (78.9 per cent) copyright is relevant in digital environment. Whereas a few (21.1 per cent) of them think that copyright is not relevant in digital environment. When it comes to non-science respondents, majority (72.7 per cent) of them think that copyright is relevant in digital environment. A few (27.3 per cent) of them think that copyright is not relevant in digital environment.

Overall, majority of the science (78.9 per cent) and non-science (72.7 per cent) respondents think that copyright is relevant in digital environment. Only a few (24.1 per cent) of them think that copyright is not relevant in digital environment.

6. CONCLUSION

Copyright is the exclusive right of an author to restrict others from copying his work. Copyright awareness is essential in academic and scholarly environment where the people use others work to create their own works. The development in technology facilitates the easiest way of accessing information resources and reproducing them. It will lead to the great problem of copyright infringement or copyright violation.

The present study is an attempt made by the investigator to study the level of copyright awareness among doctoral students in Calicut University campus. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the doctoral students are aware about copyright law and its importance. It is very clear from the result that, doctoral students from science discipline are more aware compared to non-science. But the study also revealed that a good number of the doctoral

students are less aware about plagiarism. The study also helped the investigator to reach at the conclusion that copyright is relevant in digital environment.

The copyright infringement or violation should make a negative effect on the educational system of our nation and all over the world. It may negatively influence the authors of literary works to produce less number of materials and this will leads to low academic performance of students.

The investigator suggested some methods like attending instruction classes, workshops, seminar etc. to the doctoral students in order to improve their level of copyright awareness. The teachers and libraries can provide orientation programmes for doctoral students as well as for other graduate and post graduate students in order to increase their copyright awareness. Also to reduce the rate of illegal photocopying, commercial photocopying operators should be asked to pay royalty for excessive photocopy. It is hoped that the present study will make a positive change among doctoral students in their attitude towards copyright and let us hope for a literary world without copyright violation.

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