FIGHTING PLAGIARISM AMONG STUDENTS THROUGH COPYRIGHT AWARENESS AND POLICY: A FOCUS ON KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Plagiarism and Intellectual dishonesty have become endemic among the academia with its resultant dwindling of academic integrity and hounour. Facilitating this academic 'fraud' is the advent of flexible technologies of cut, copy and paste tools which are easily accessible to students, lecturers and the research community who are tempted to turn to the world-wide-web for prepared literature and scholarly solutions instead of originating independent works. The case study employed the mixed method approach to generate both quantitative and qualitative data to make empirical enquiries to explore, describe, and explain the role of universities in fighting academic plagiarism in Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, focusing on the Students, Lecturers, the Deputy Registrar (Academics and Students' Affairs), and the University Librarian as the main participants. The study revealed that, despite the fact that KNUST has no documented Copyright Policy Document (CPD), it regards plagiarism as an act of academic dishonesty. Lecturers ensure that students cite references to all the materials they use in their works and finally the university administration has included the subject of plagiarism in the Students' Guide book which is made available to all students on admission. Even though KNUST has put in place measure to fight and prevent plagiarism among the students, the findings revealed that there is low level of awareness about plagiarism amongst KNUST students. The paper suggested possible ways to 'combat' these plagiarism menace at KNUST.

Keywords: Plagiarism, Intellectual dishonesty, Research community, Academia.