

## **Plagiarism - unprofessionalism amongst professionals**

By

Rupanjana De  
*FCS, LL.M, M.A. (Eco), EMLE*  
*Practising Company Secretary, Kolkata*  
*rupanjana.de@gmail.com*

### **Introduction**

The question is not of money, not fame, not anything more or less lucrative, it is about having and maintaining self respect, being able to look at the mirror and smile, of ethics, of professionalism.

Plagiarism is defined as an act of attempting to pass off the work of another person as one's own work. It is a type of theft of intellectual property that is quite prevalent in educational institutions. However, such offences are also rampant in workplaces and tendency to pass of another's work as one's own work. It is an offense with wide implications and long lasting effects. By committing plagiarism, an individual brings himself under personal risk. He might be subjected to penalties in case a lawsuit is brought against him. Apart from this, it is also a loss of goodwill and reputation and trust.

Plagiarism may take place in different ways. The most detestable way of plagiarizing is to directly take parts or lines of already published work of somebody else without giving the reference to the original writing. This is passing of another's work as someone's own and is a serious wrong. Giving an acknowledgement to the original writer is the minimum that the writer can do without demeaning himself and without hurting anybody else's sentiments while at the same time being legally correct.