

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: PLAGIARISM, INNOVATION OR ACADEMIC FREEDOM?

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Abstract

On the 21-st century, teachers' profession do face will a lot of opportunities, but at the same time they also face challenges. Thanks to the increased interest and investments of the society for education, today teachers are having high level of professional standards. The theoretical and practical part of the studding period, is very important for teachers' success as specialist or future directives, in a professional way through qualitative training time at school, democratic development of the society and the environment they belong to. What schools should do, is to prepare successful candidates for future teachers and professionals. The aim of this paper is to present some data as a result of observation made about the work done with diploma thesis by students, mostly focusing on the phenomena of plagiarism. This phenomena has been seen in two different points of view: first, plagiarism as an innovation that lately has been part of our higher education; second as a freedom that educational policy ensure to our students on the development of diploma thesis. Albanian Government has undertaken numerous reforms on higher education and most of them after the signing of Bologna Charter in 2003. Such reforms in some cases, can disparage the values and beliefs of our education system. In our days, students, for emergent need of having a diploma, try out to find alternative solution for having one as fast as possible. The phenomena of plagiarism, has increased the level of academic dishonesty, which mostly has been treated as an innovation that has invade our education and also as a freedom that our educational system gave to students of our Universities. Actually, are exactly these educational policies of Albanian Universities, qualitative and quantitative development which strongly influenced in the diffusion of these phenomena. The work done for a diploma thesis is a material compiled by the student, whom is guided by a professor of the same field since the moment of the determination till the end of the work. The connection between two parties involved, in the case of the plagiarism, involves not only students bur even professors in the diffusion of academic dishonesty. This paper analyses the collected data from observation made in some departments in the development on diploma thesis where the phenomena of plagiarism seems to be wide spread. The study aims to show that an effort from responsible parties can bring the change in the increscent of values of diplomas from our Universities and the decreasment of the level of plagiarism which will raise the image of departments. Subject effort will raise the integrity, level and belief in our educational system.

Keywords: *Academic dishonesty, plagiarism, innovation, academic freedom, diploma thesis*