



Intellectual Trafficking among Students of National Water Resources Institute, Mando Kaduna State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Intellectual trafficking has become the order of the day among undergraduate students and even academic staff today. Many in higher education have encountered the phenomenon of intellectual trafficking which is known to be plagiarism, piracy and copyright infringement. This study was conducted to ascertain the level of intellectual trafficking, awareness of what constitutes intellectual trafficking and its consequences amongst student of National Water Resources Institute Mando Kaduna State. The study adopted survey research method. The population of the study is 52 students drawn from selected students from ND1, ND2, HND 1 and HND 2 of the Institute and the entire population was studied for this research. Questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. The finding revealed that students are not aware on what constitute intellectual trafficking and its effects. Students were not aware of how to avoid all forms of intellectual trafficking and they are not also aware of the consequent penalties attached to all forms of intellectual trafficking. The study identifies the effects of intellectual trafficking to include Destruction of student reputation, demeaning of professional reputation, degradation of academic reputation, attraction of legal repercussions and monetary repercussions from these findings, the paper recommends the use of plagiarism checker software to curb intellectual trafficking and educate students on the effect of intellectual trafficking, as many students get involved in intellectual trafficking due to ignorance of the associated consequences.

Keywords: *plagiarism, copyright infringement, piracy, intellectual trafficking*

1.1 Introduction

Intellectual trafficking is the act of taking/presenting someone's/another idea/ work as your own or without proper acknowledgement through citation or referencing. It is also the act of duplicating copies of someone's publications, books, or

write ups without authorization from the publisher and presenting it as one's own. Intellectual trafficking is also the unauthorized use of copyrighted materials in a manner that violates the rights of a publisher. The term intellectual trafficking constitutes these practices; copyright, piracy,

infringement and plagiarism. In the course of this research, the researchers were able to see intellectual trafficking as the illegal adoption of someone's research, ideas, content, findings and logics for one's self. The institute under study is National Water Resources Institute Mando Road, Kaduna State, Nigeria. A study on intellectual trafficking is required to discourage copy and paste activities/attitude of students to assignments, projects and seminars given to students of the institution. To also encourage student of the institute embrace originality.

Intellectual trafficking has become the order of the day among undergraduate students and even academic lecturers today. Many in higher education have encountered the phenomenon of intellectual trafficking which is known to be plagiarism, piracy and copyright infringement (WIPO, 2014). An understanding of intellectual trafficking (copyright infringement, plagiarism and piracy) is particularly important in an academic, scholarly and artistic environment where creators are continuously using the works of others to build and shape their own thoughts, opinions, and indeed produce their own works.

Plagiarism is repeating the exact sentence or paragraphs word to word from secondary sources without acknowledging the original author. Arnold and Levin (2021) stated that Plagiarism is when a party attempts to pass someone else's work or ideas off as their own, without properly giving credit to the original source. According to Concordia University Library, "Plagiarism is an ethical concept based on community standards. In academic contexts it is perceived as a serious violation of academic honesty. Plagiarism can be intentional and unintentional. It is intentional when a writer seeks to deceive the audience by claiming work as one's own production that was not created but stolen or "borrowed" from another, with little or no attribution of that fact, or "created" citations

that are unrelated to the quotations.

On the other hand, unintentional plagiarism can result from failing to cite or cite adequately a source or from a miss-use of the summary or paraphrase of a cited source (Sengupta, 2015). Plagiarism as a form of intellectual trafficking is a serious breach of academic integrity in that it detracts from the value of original and honest scholarly work. Plagiarism is one of the most vehemently derided breaches of academic integrity because it undermines the premise that scholarly work will make original and honest contribution to an existing body of knowledge (Nworie et al, 2019). Plagiarism happen when someone uses words, ideas, or work products attributable to another identifiable person or source without attributing the work to the source from which it was obtained (Sengupta, 2015). Intellectual trafficking can take many forms. Examples of copyright infringement may include borrowing significant portions of another's work in the creation of a new work, making and distributing unauthorized copies of a sound recording or video, or publicly performing another's work without permission from the copyright holder, even if the original work is cited (Sengupta, 2015). Intellectual trafficking is referred to as piracy. Trafficking in this context includes, piracy, plagiarism of text, reproduction, copying with the use of photocopying machines an duplication (Sodipo, 1990). Intellectual trafficking is "the unauthorized or unlicensed copying of a work subject to copyright." According to Arnold and Levin (2021) intellectual trafficking occurs when a party takes an action that implicates one or more of the rights of a copyright owner without authorization from the intellectual property owner or an applicable exception or limitation in the copyright.

Piracy is the unauthorized use or duplication of another's work. Merriam Webster online dictionary defines piracy as 'the unauthorized use of another's production,

invention, or conception especially in infringement of a copyright'. One can say that piracy is the act of copying others findings, ideas, work and reselling or redistributing them without permission for the purpose of making money in common. In addition to the dictionaries, regulatory bodies like UNESCO (2007) has defined Piracy as 'the reproduction and distribution of copies of copyright protected material or the communication to the public and making available of such on online communication networks without the authorization of the right owner(s), where such authorization is required by law' (Begum and Sharma 2019).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

With the advent of computer technology and its growth, intellectual trafficking has become very easy through copying, viewing through various means, altering the information or by printing it. Copy protection, copy prevention as well as copy control is the real target of intellectual trafficking (copyright infringement) control. West (2014) Awareness on intellectual trafficking, what constitute intellectual trafficking and the penalty/consequences on intellectual trafficking among undergraduate students will go a long way in curbing intellectual trafficking in higher institution of learning.

The researcher has observed that the incidence of intellectual trafficking on daily basis for academic activities among students in tertiary institutions has been on the increase. Intellectual trafficking has become obvious in meting student's information needs today.

It is a service that all undergraduate students of tertiary institution should benefit from, thus, enabling them to read materials at their convenient. Majority of intellectual traffickers / infringers of copyright engage in random intellectual trafficking of published works unchallenged, and many still feign

ignorance of the Nigerian copyright statute and the existence of the Nigerian Copyright Commission.

Aboyade (2015) posits that Students indulge in intellectual trafficking by photocopying the whole text of a book or they photocopy substantial part of a text, which attributes to low level of awareness on copyright infringement and the copyright Act. It is as a result of this, that this study is set to examine Intellectual Trafficking among student of National Water Resources Institute Mando Kaduna Sate Nigeria.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The essence of the study is:

- a. To determine the extent/level of intellectual trafficking among Student of National Water Resources Institute Mando Kaduna State.
- b. To ascertain the level of awareness among students of National Water Resources Institute on what constitute intellectual trafficking.
- c. To enlighten and educate students on the consequences of intellectual trafficking.

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions are formulated to guide the study:

- a. What is the level of intellectual trafficking among students of National Water Resources Institute Mando Kaduna State?
- b. What is the level of awareness among students of National Water Resources Institute on what constitutes intellectual trafficking?
- c. What are the consequences of intellectual trafficking among students of National Water Resources?

2.1 Literature Review

The institute under study is National Water Resources Institute Mando Road Kaduna State Nigeria. A study on intellectual

trafficking is required in the institute to encourage originality, value, honesty, integrity, standard, efficiency and effectiveness among the students of the Institute. The institute might suffer professional reputation destruction, academic reputation destruction and destruction of visibility because researches carried out by students of the institute will not meet up with the standard.

Streefkerk (2022) discovered that students in higher education of learning participate in intellectual trafficking knowingly and unknowingly, through plagiarism, copyright infringement and piracy were have various forms of plagiarism which are, verbatim plagiarism which is also a form of intellectual trafficking. This type of plagiarism is also called direct plagiarism, a means of copying and pasting someone else's words into your own work without acknowledgement. In academic writing, Paraphrasing plagiarism which is another form of intellectual trafficking is an act of rephrasing ideas, putting a piece of text into your own words. Paraphrasing without citation is the most common type of intellectual trafficking.

To avoid this form of intellectual trafficking, translated text should always be cited; if you're still using someone else's ideas. Patchwork plagiarism is also a form of intellectual trafficking, called mosaic plagiarism which is stitching together sources means copying phrases, passages, and ideas from different sources and putting them together to create a new text and finally we have self-plagiarism a form of intellectual trafficking where by a researcher reuses his/her work previously submitted or published as brand new when he/she has already gotten credit on it. The most serious form of self-plagiarism is to turn in a paper you already submitted for a grade to another class. Self-plagiarism can also occur when you reuse ideas, phrases or data from your

previous assignments.

Intellectual Trafficking hinders learning process, obscure the sources of ideas result in bad writing and also harms the original writer or author of a publication or book. According to George (2021) the effects of intellectual trafficking vary based on the severity of the offense. We have the mild, moderate, and severe intellectual trafficking level. Examples of mild intellectual trafficking are Source cited in text but left out of reference list, quotation marks omitted around a quote. The effect is grade penalty or automatic zero. We also have moderate intellectual trafficking which is text copied from a source with a few words changed, Source paraphrased without citation. The effect is failing grade on course. Finally we have the severe which is the patchwork of different texts passed off as original paper written by someone else. The effect is academic probation or expulsion. According to Ithenticate (2022), opined that the effect of intellectual trafficking can be personal, professional, ethical, and legal. With plagiarism detection software so readily available and in use, plagiarists are being caught at an alarming rate.

Once accused of plagiarism, a person will most likely always be regarded with suspicion. Ignorance is not an excuse. Plagiarists include academics, professionals, students, journalists, authors and others. Ithenticate indicated some effects of intellectual trafficking among students which includes destruction of student reputation: Their academic record can also reflect the ethics offense, possibly causing the student to be barred. Higher education of learning takes intellectual trafficking very seriously. Most educational institutions have academic integrity committees who police students. Many schools suspend students for their first violation and students are usually expelled for further offences. Demeaning of professional reputational professional may find damages from intellectual trafficking for their entire

career. Not only will they likely be fired or asked to step down from their present position, but they will surely find it difficult to obtain another respectable job. Depending on the offense and the plagiarist's public stature, his or her name may become ruined, making any kind of meaningful career impossible.

The effect of intellectual trafficking has been widely reported in the world of academia. Students' academic career could be ruined with allegations of intellectual trafficking. The legal repercussions of intellectual trafficking are quite serious. Copyright laws are absolute; one cannot use another person's material without proper citation and reference. An author has the right to sue a plagiarist.

Intellectual trafficking is also seen as a criminal offense, possibly leading to a prison sentence. Those who write for a living, such as journalists or authors, are particularly susceptible to intellectual trafficking issues. Those who write frequently must be very vigilant not to err. Writers and academicians are well-aware of copyright laws and ways to avoid intellectual trafficking. As such there is need to educate students of higher institution on intellectual trafficking. Incurring monetary consequences many recent news reports and articles have exposed intellectual trafficking by journalists, authors, public figures, and researchers. In the case where an author sues a plagiarist, the author may be granted monetary restitution. In the case where a journalist works for a magazine, newspaper or other publisher, or even if a student is found plagiarizing in school, the offending plagiarist could have to pay monetary penalties.

Ithenticate (2022). The researchers discovered that intellectual trafficking affects visibility of student and researchers work, were by research carried out will not meet up with standard needed which hinders visibility of an institution. The researchers also discovered that intellectual trafficking affects students drive for originality and drive for

research encouraging laziness among students. Intellectual trafficking is eating deep into the school system like a cancer worm where by projects, papers, seminar papers are being recycled.

The effects of intellectual trafficking are far-reaching and no one is immune neither ignorance nor stature excuses a person from the ethical and legal ramifications of intellectual trafficking. One is required to learn about intellectual trafficking, find out what constitutes intellectual trafficking and how to avoid it. The rules are easy to understand and follow. If there is any question about missing attribution, try using online plagiarism checker or plagiarism detection software to check your writing for plagiarism before turning it in. beware, laziness or dishonesty can lead to a ruined reputation, the loss of a career, and legal problems. Students level of awareness on what constitute intellectual trafficking: (copyright infringement, piracy, plagiarism). In a study carried out by Isiakpona (2012), he found that the level of awareness on 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 which indicates that student in higher institution of learning and other academic institution lack awareness on intellectual trafficking.

3.1 Research Methodology

Descriptive survey of research was adopted for this study. The research is concerned with the collection of data for the purpose of describing and interpreting existing conditions, prevailing practices, belief, attitude, on-going processes etc. In the case of this study, the existing condition which it sought to describe, interpret and report on intellectual trafficking among students of National Water Resources Institute Mando Kaduna State Nigeria. The

population of the study was limited to 52 student of National Water Resources Institute (NWRI) Mando. The students are in the best position to give all the information required for the study. The instrument used for data collection was structured questionnaire. Data

gathered were analysed using descriptive table.

The breakdown of student in each year group and the sum total of the population of study are contained in the table below.

Table 1: List of selected student

Level of Academic Programme	Number of student
ND I	11
ND II	28
HND I	8
HND II	5
TOTAL	52

Table 1 indicates the total number of student in each season within the institute.

4.1 Results

Research Question One: What is the level of intellectual trafficking among students of National Water Resources Institute Mando Kaduna State Nigeria through photocopying, plagiarism, copyright infringement and piracy?

To identify the level of intellectual trafficking among student of higher education of learning, the researcher presented 4 options for the respondents to choose from. The results are presented in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Level of intellectual trafficking among Students through photocopying, plagiarism, copyright infringement and piracy.

S/N	Item	Frequency	Percentage
1	Never Applied	5	2.6 %
2	Rarely Applied	2	1.04%
3	Often Applied	13	6.76%
4	Very Often Applied	32	16.64 %

It is evident from table 1 that intellectual trafficking is very often applied among students and there is urgent need to find ways to curb intellectual trafficking.

Research Question Two: Are you aware of what constitutes intellectual trafficking?

To ascertain the level of awareness of students' on intellectual trafficking. The respondents were asked to choose from the options provided. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Level of awareness on what constitutes intellectual trafficking

S/NO	Item	Frequency	Percentage
1	Fully Aware	5	2.6%
2	Partially Aware	9	4.68%
3	Not Aware	38	19.76%

This finding on table 3 indicates that quite a hand full of students in National Water Resources Institute higher education of learning are not aware and enlighten on what constitute intellectual trafficking hence the need to introduce interactive educational courses within the institute will help enlighten students and also guide them on ways to avoid intellectual trafficking.

Research Question Three: Are you aware of the consequences on intellectual trafficking in National Water Resources Institute?

To ascertain the level of students' awareness on the consequences of intellectual trafficking to them as students and to the institute. The respondents were asked to choose from the options provided. The result of the analysis is presented in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Are you aware of the consequences of intellectual trafficking within the institute?

S/NO	Item	Frequency	Percentage
1	Fully Aware	4	2.08%
2	Partially Aware	6	3.12%
3	Not Aware	42	21.84%

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