

**Awareness of and efforts to eliminate plagiarism at the university of Dar es Salaam,  
Tanzania**

**Debora Mbilinyi**

**MA (Information Studies)**

**University of Dar es Salaam, College of Social Sciences, 2017**

This study aimed at assessing awareness of plagiarism among students and academic staff and identifying efforts for eliminating it at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM). The specific objectives of the study were to assess the knowledge students and academic staff had on forms of plagiarism; identifying the forms of plagiarism most encountered in students' assignments; identifying the measures taken by academic staff when they encounter plagiarism in students' assignments; identifying challenges facing the implementation of strategies for eliminating plagiarism; and determining measures to be taken to eliminate plagiarism at the University. A mixed methods approach using a convergent parallel design was employed in this study where by questionnaires and interviews were used to collect data. The findings of the study indicate that students' level of awareness of plagiarism is low when compared to that of academic staff. It was also revealed from the study that lack of awareness of plagiarism is one of the major factors contributing to plagiarism prevalence at UDSM. Besides that, the study also revealed the strategies used to fight plagiarism at the University. However, it was also found out that some of the measures in place were ineffective. Based on the findings, the study recommended that: there is a need for UDSM to recognize and support the University Library Information Literacy program; and the need to review the contents of the University's Communication Skills course to ensure that it bears contents on plagiarism.