

Editorial

Say no to Cut and Paste; Outlook of JAMDSR on Plagiarism

Globalization and technology is the mainstay of today's civilization and things are changing very fast; each passing day that memory gets divested by numerous changes one comes across every day. So much so that even scholarly research could not keep itself at bay from it. Globalization has the capability of eroding or universalizing any contents. These colossal and rapid changes have obviously affected researchers, institutions and publications around the world.

The ultimate goal of any scientific or medical journal is to contribute advancement and innovations of the literature base of its target subject however, publishing fraudulent, unethical, or incorrect research is a common practice these days that damages not only the reputations of the journal and the authors but also the research field itself. Such scientific misconduct can range from multiple submissions of manuscript, dual publication, plagiarism of data and self plagiarism. Despite the efforts of the publishing society, publication related misconduct is on the rise and in fact in the past 30 years, retractions in scientific journals have increased by approximately 10 fold. The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and journal editors are accountable for everything published in their journals, such that they should attempt to maintain the integrity of the academic record and uphold ethical standards. This actually necessitates strict peer reviewing and data cross-checking measures that could recognize and regularize these delinquencies. It is therefore the sole liability of every journal and publishing houses to scrutinize all material to be published for research misconduct of all kinds; a responsibility that JAMDSR takes sincerely. JAMDSR is totally

committed to publish un-plagiarized authentic and genuine research work. As explained in a recent Nature commentary, it is "better to prevent misconduct than to deal with it after publication". Therefore, sticking to this phrase, we use to screen and scrutinize every article for plagiarism soon after its submission. In an event of acceptance after peer review, the manuscripts are only provisionally accepted so that the manuscript passes over the data cross checking to get final acceptance.

If we consider publications in dentistry alone India is ranked 10th in number of dental publications with 2296 publications but an H index (or Hirsch number is an index that attempts to measure both the productivity and impact of the published work of a scientist or scholar)¹ of "25". The 1st and 2nd in ranking being US and U.K with 22969 and 8,069 publications respectively, also they have a H-index of 137, and 92 each.² The point of concern here is that although the ranking of countries like Switzerland is lower than that of India ie 14th with 1887 publications but still the H-index is way too high standing at a proud 77. Highest in quality of research is Switzerland while US is close second. Countries like Chili, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Ghana has a better quality of average publication as compared to India.² (based on number of citations). Increase in output in number (of publications) does not indicate increase in quality of average of Indian publications. India is always among the toppers so far quantity is concerned, but the quality is going down. More and more routine research works are shifted to India and more number of university and institutes are established, but still there are Signs of Stagnation³, as it is an old saying that . "You

can put millions of farmers to cultivate but you need some real scientists to make green revolution". Similarly by merely a upsurge in number of publications do not simply indicate a increased level of scientific research in the country and the true-life scenario is quiet worrisome.

Hence, our recommendations for authors to avoid plagiarism are to make sure that all material in a submitted manuscript is new and original with no copy and paste of previously published data. Authors must assure that all sources are properly cited and quoted if necessary. Sections that contain text similar to text in another work should be

rewritten in the author's own words. Referral to the original publication without repeating the text may also be followed. Stopping misconduct such as plagiarism and self-plagiarism is the responsibility of both the publisher and the researcher. JAMDSR is continuously working in this aspect to establish new policies guidelines that can encourage best possible conversion of genuine research into knowledge by their publication. With mutual co-operation and teamwork with authors, we hope to continue to improve and to check plagiarism at the initial stages so that we can avoid ever having to print a retraction.

References

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Editorial Board

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