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Publication Ethics

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HEALTH RESEARCH FUNDAMENTALS

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Learning objectives

At the end of the session, the participants will be able to-

1. Recognize various ethical issues related to publication
2. Make use of the guidelines available from various national and international organizations for publication ethics

HEALTH RESEARCH FUNDAMENTALS

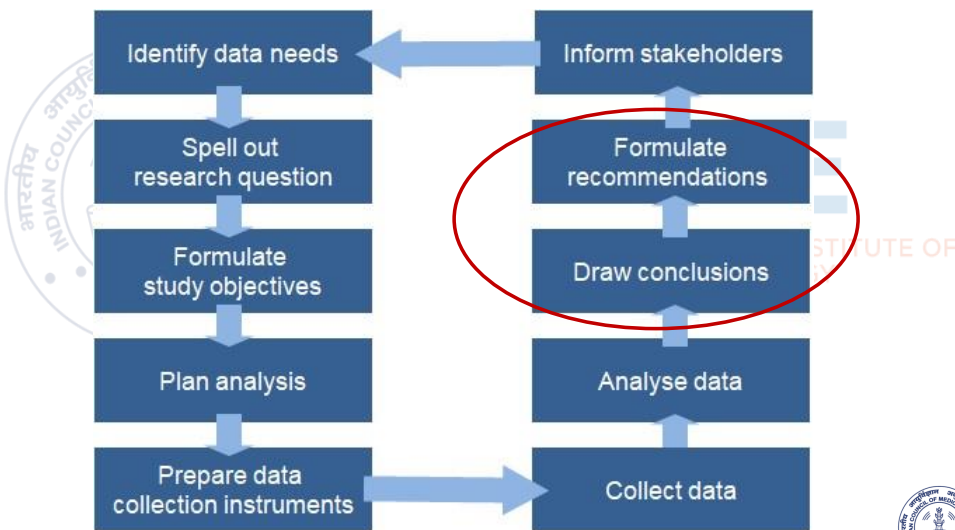
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Recap: Life cycle of a research



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Why to publish a research finding?

Promotes academic/ career progression

(Medical Council of India, 2017)

Allows us to communicate research findings

Identifies research gaps, potential areas of future research

Increases responsibility to influence practice



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Postgraduate biomedical research in India

- Lack of relevance of research question
- Not addressing the local needs
- Inappropriate design and methods
- Inaccessibility of the full report

IndiaCLEN 2013 Annual Conference Group (ACG) *et al.* IndiaCLEN recommendations for improving postgraduate medical research and publication. Clinical epidemiology and global health 2013:53-84

Postgraduate research contributes to clinical practice

Contribution of medical colleges to tuberculosis control in India under the Revised National Tuberculosis control Programme (RNTCP): Lessons learnt & challenges ahead. Indian J Med Res 137, February 2013, pp 283-294



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Components of Publication Ethics

1. Ethics review/ Breach of confidentiality
2. Fabrication and Falsification
3. Authorship
4. Plagiarism
5. Ethics related to submission
6. Conflict of interest



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1. Ethics review/ Breach of confidentiality

Human / animal ethics committee approval as per National guidelines

Informed consent / assent - A must when you are conducting research with human participants

Trials- Registration with 'Clinical Trial Registry of India' (CTRI)

Data confidentiality - Without institutional permission, you can not share your data with someone for analysis who is working in a different institution

National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research involving human participants, ICMR, 2017



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2. Fabrication/ Falsification

- If the research results not generated from the study (falsification) or generated by manipulating data (fabrication)
- Extremely serious misconduct
- All the case report forms and the data should be preserved



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Example of falsification and fabrication (1/2)

A final year postgraduate student came to me requesting to analyse his thesis data. He also asked if I could make some significant results, though they weren't initially so!

Falsification

Curiously I asked how he has collected the data. To my surprise, he revealed that the data was taken from his senior's thesis.

Fabrication



Example of fabrication and falsification (2/2)

Kyoto University Finds Stem Cell Researcher Guilty of Data Fabrication

The scientist was a member of a stem cell research team led by Nobel laureate Shinya Yamanaka.

The scientist, Jan 25, 2018

Breach of trust of the common people/ loss of time and the resources



3. Authorship

- Authorship confers credit, implies responsibility and accountability of the published work
- Each author should be clear about their responsibility
- It is mandatory to declare the contribution of each author
- Decide on authorship while writing protocol
- The ICMJE (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors) recommends that authorship be based on 4 criteria

www.icmje.org



Criteria for authorship

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
3. Final approval of the version to be published; AND
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved

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4. Ethics related to submission

- **Simultaneous submission**- submitting the same manuscript simultaneously at the different journals
- **Duplicate publication**- Submitting a new manuscript with same hypothesis, methods, data, discussion and conclusion
- **Self-citation**- citing own publication out of context
- **Predatory journals**- Hardly peer reviews any manuscript

List of predatory journals- University Grants Commission- Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (UGC-CARE)



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5. Plagiarism

- Use of previously published manuscript by someone for his/ her manuscript or unreferenced use of other's published and unpublished ideas without consent, credit, or acknowledgement
- Most common form of plagiarism is copying text word-for-word
- Considered as serious publication misconduct



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Types of Plagiarism

- Direct Plagiarism
 - ☐ Complete or partial copying without acknowledging the original author
- Self-Plagiarism
 - ☐ Duplicates of previous works or sentences
- Redundant publications ('salami' publications)
 - ☐ Publishing similar manuscripts/reports based on the same experiments



How to avoid plagiarism?

- Avoid “copy-paste”
- Write the concept in own words- spend more time
- Acknowledge original sources (Even unpublished works)
- Cite references accurately
- Avoid writing several articles of the same type
- Use anti-plagiarism software tools like ‘*URKUND*’, ‘*Ithenticate*’ or ‘*Turnitin*’ etc. (as per University norms)



6. Conflict of interest (COI)

- Financial, personal, social or other interests that directly or indirectly influence the conduct of the author with respect to the manuscript
- Example- A PG/ researcher is conducting a drug trial which is funded by a pharmaceutical company.
- Disclose any such conflicts during submission (Mandatory)
- Readers can determine the influence of such COI on conclusion of the paper



Consequences of research misconduct

COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) describes the consequences:

- Depends on the type of misconduct (Major/ Minor)
- Author can get blacklisted by member journals
- Institute can take action



Publication criteria for- “Minimum Qualifications for Teachers in Medical Institutions (Amendment) Regulations, 2019”

Publication specifics	Guidelines
Index agencies	Should be published in journals included in Medline, Pubmed Central, Citation index, Sciences Citation index, Expanded Embase, Scopus, Directory of Open access journals (DoAJ) will be considered)
Type of articles	original papers, meta-analysis, systematic reviews, and case series
Authorship	The author must be amongst first three or should be the <u>Corresponding author</u>

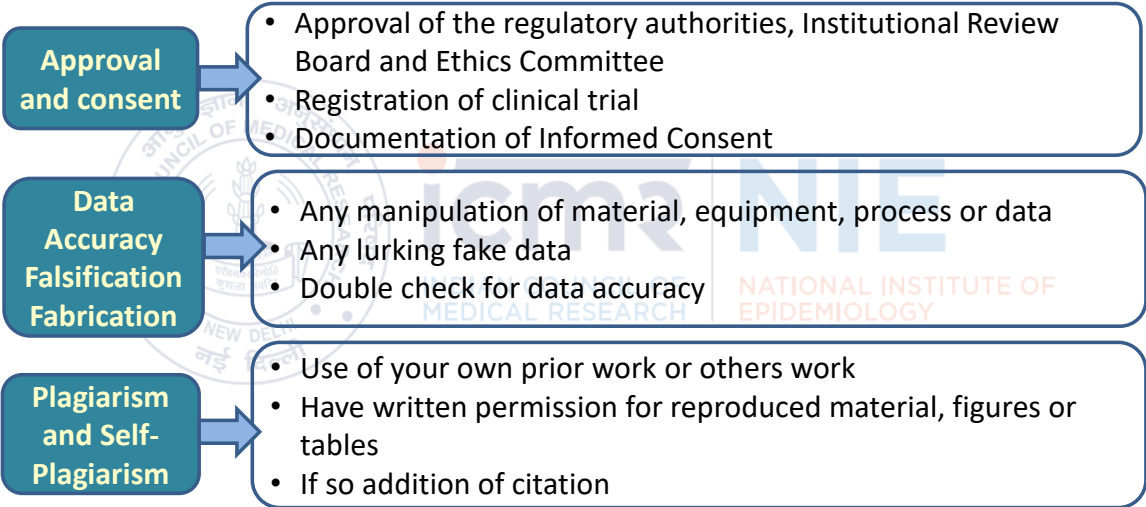
The Gazette of India
BOARD OF GOVERNORS IN SUPERSESSION OF MEDICAL COUNCIL OF INDIA, New Delhi, the 12th February, 2020



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Checklist for Publication Ethics



Sengupta S, Honavar SG. Publication ethics. Indian J Ophthalmol 2017;65:429-32.



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Checklist for Publication Ethics

Submission Fraud

- Simultaneous submission to two journals
- Previous publication of entire work or part of content(s)
- Excessive citation of own publication

Ethics of Authorship

- Inclusion of all authors in a specific pre- agreed order
- Agreement & awareness of co-authors of contents
- Inclusion of any ghost or guest author

Conflict of Interest

- Declaration of relevant interests and relationships could be seen as influencing the research findings both financial and scientific

Sengupta S, Honavar SG. Publication ethics. Indian J Ophthalmol 2017;65:429-32.



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Thank you