

Stipulation To Ensure Maintenance of Publication Ethics to Improve Quality Standards of Research

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The advent in science and technology had provided many new horizons to benefit humanity especially by providing evidence-based medicine. The provision of these details had simultaneously raised the ethical issues. Therefore, implementation of ethical principles in field of research encompasses a significant importance. It's the main pivot between researcher, participant and journal to ensure maintenance of every protocol for justifying ethical perspective. Starting from the rights of participants' until publication in a medical journal, ethics is required at every step.

Tracing back the history of research in human subjects and unethical proceedings are mentioned in Belmont Report and necessitates strict ethical protocols. The Tuskegee Syphilis study was carried out between 1932 and 1972, a hall mark of very unethical experiments on prisoners of World War II (by U.S. Public Health Service) by Nazi scientists and physicians. The formulation of world medical association (WMA) to justify Helsinki declaration in 1964, followed by establishment of Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) are important contributors to ensure ethical needs. Their objective is to emphasize the need of ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects, ensuring protection for the rights of research subjects. Next comes the creation of institutional review boards (IRBs) is amongst the main things to support good ethical practices. [1, 2]

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) is a forum for editors of peer-reviewed journals to provide guidance regarding integrity of scientific record. Besides this other regulatory bodies i.e international committee for medical journal editors (ICMJE), 14 roles narrated by contributors' roles taxonomy (CRediT) and open researcher and contributor ID (ORCID) are providing guidance regarding reporting, and inquiring ethical glitches in the publication procedure. The integrity of research, data fabrication along with data falsification, plagiarism issues and authorship criteria, conflicts of interests (COI), ethical review board (ERB) and institutional review board (IRB) are clarified in them. [3]

Medical writings and their publications in the field of medicine harbors great prestige and fame for doctors. Following the guidelines of COPE, ICMJE, CRediT and ORCID, a devising approach for ethical issues in various scenarios and their justification can be established. A clarity is there regarding roles, responsibilities and rights of corresponding author, co-authors, deceased author, gift authorship or polyauthoritis giftosa, data falsification, subjects or patients, publication ethics, authors, editors, publishers or owners etc. 3 This all will be for publication of good research paper, which will be perilous for contemporary science evolution, and advancement. However, it comes with many responsibilities like author should be well aware for good publication practices, refraining from scientific misconduct, and should strictly adhere to Good Publication Practices (GPP). Publications based upon manipulated or fabricated data could be deleterious to society and health care research. While the one based upon honesty and ethics will be beneficial. [4]

Modest research adds to the existing scientific knowledge. Contrary a fake data makes publication erratic, unreliable and reduces faith in science. The research delinquency comprises of three fundamental depravities i.e fabrication, falsification and plagiarism. Therefore, to ensure maintenance of publication ethics, laid guidelines by Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) are a very good roadmap for journals, editors, authors, reviewers, stakeholders and publishers. Investigators should abide by ethical norms during the conduct of the research. [3]

The World Medical Association (WMA), and Herald Scholarly Open Access (HSOA) had also conferred errands and ethical responsibilities to editors regarding the avoidance of publication bias. All these have an aim to respect privacy of almost all stakeholders in the research and publications process. [5,6]

In view of all this, the editor of any medical journal has to be aware of the ethical and legal framework within which medical research is conducted. Authors are bound to provide a data based upon principles of transparency

and integrity by protecting rights of research participants. Moreover, it's the responsibility of editors and publishers to warrant high editorial canons and effectual peer review methods based upon good ethics.

Contribution:

Humaira Zafar: Manuscript writing, finalization of entire manuscript & Corresponding author.

Irfan Ali Mirza: Topic selection, Supervising writes up for entire manuscript and its finalization prior submission.

Wajid Hussain: Reference gathering, write up and finalization of manuscript prior submission.

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