

Compromise: A Threat to Ethical Research and Publications

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When ethics is not involved in research and publication, it becomes a compromise. This is not healthy in academics. Ethics is a moral philosophy that deals with the concepts of right and wrong behavior. Research ethics is a growing field of study that maintains standard in conducting research. It provides guidelines for the responsible conduct of research, educates and monitors scientists conducting research to ensure a high ethical standard [1].

Indeed, editors, authors, researchers, sponsors, and publishers all have ethical responsibility as regards publication and dissemination of the results of research. Always, there is ethical standards for publication which ensure high-quality scientific publications, public trust in scientific findings, and that authors receive credit for their concepts [2].

Truly, research ethics regulate the standards of conduct for scientific researchers. It is necessary to stick to ethical values so as to protect the dignity, rights and welfare of research participants. The ethical values are hinged on beneficence, justice and autonomy. However, when research and publication are not in line with this, compromise has set in. This compromise may come from either the author or editor. For instance, research without informed consent, plagiarism, simultaneous submission and duplicate publication are seen among some authors and researchers. In some cases, the editor is compromised for publishing a withdrawn research work without the author's permission. This has led to duplicate publication. Likewise, it has been observed that some published work are full of errors due to inability of editors to send galley proof. Sometimes the names of authors in a published work appeared misspelt. This indeed reduce the integrity of so many supposedly standard journals [3].

There should be respect for human dignity which is required in the scientific research ethics. The aim is to protect the individual's interests, physical, psychological, and cultural integrity [4].

When a researcher obtain informed consent from potential research participants, reduce the risk of harm to participants to lowest minimum; protect their anonymity as well as confidentiality. Then the research integrity is assured and compromise less a threat [5].

These challenges are faced in all stages of the research from designing to reporting. This calls for no compromise in research ethics and publication. It is painful that there are no regulatory bodies and publication misconduct is now on geometric increase globally. Publication misconducts consist of research fraud, plagiarism, duplicate publications, authorship disputes and conflict of interests. The worst is many journal editors published substandard work as far as the authors can pay for the publication. In fact, some editors and publishing companies are much interested in the money they make but not in scholarly content [6].

As the world scientific research is increasing specifically in the area of health sciences. There are possibilities of more increase of compromise from research to publication. It is necessary that there should be reorientation to stop the compromise through seminars, workshop and conferences [7].

It has been observed that compromise in research and publications are associated with lack of knowledge on research ethics, personal characters, promotion or career advancement policies, pressure from research sponsors to obtain desired results, Severe competition for funds, and publish or perish pressure syndrome in our universities [8,9].

Therefore ethical guidelines should be sought to avoid compromise. Hence, maximize good and minimize ill effects. All publications must seek to answer questions that will benefit humanity but no compromise.

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