

EDITORIAL

Scientific publications are the gateway of scientific research and exploration of non-ventured knowledge area. When two or more manuscripts with matter copied and pasted are reported without giving credit to author, publication ethics is breached and is also consider as scientific misconduct. Such breach what is known as “Plagiarism” is noticed when extensive literature search is undertaken by researchers or some reader may notice and report the matter to editorial team.

Plagiarism is defined as “when somebody presents the published or unpublished work of others, including ideas, scholarly text, images, research design and data as new and original rather than crediting the existing source of it. The common types of plagiarism including direct, mosaic, paraphrasing, intentional or unintentional and self-plagiarism.^[1]

Higher retraction in published manuscripts due to plagiarism is seen with countries like Iran, China, India, Japan, Korea, Italy, Romania, Turkey and France. While paper published from India had 41% retractions post 2009 due to text, figures and tables duplication without appropriate referencing.^[2] In this digital era more cases of plagiarism pass unnoticed at checks by anti-plagiarism software.

Plagiarism detected in earlier stages of manuscript review can lead to rewriting, rejection while after the manuscript is published it may lead to retraction, authorship disputes and copyright infringement with legal implications.^[3]

Peer review is the front-line defense against Plagiarism. Many publishers are adopting CrossCheck software powered by iThenticate that compares submitted manuscript against already published contents. Authors may follow the global editorial recommendations such as those by the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE) and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).^[4] We should be vigilant and welcome alerts from readers when suspicion arises so that Plagiarism can be minimized.

Reference

1. Roig M. Encouraging editorial flexibility in cases of textual reuse. J Korean Med Sci 2017;32(4):557-60.
2. Misra DP, Ravindran V, Wakhlu A, Sharma A, Agarwal V, Negi VS. Plagiarism: a viewpoint from India. J Korean Med Sci 2017;32(11):1734-5.
3. Wittmaack K. Penalties plus high-quality review to fight plagiarism, Nature 2005;436:24.
4. Pierson CA. Avoiding ethics pitfalls in publishing: a perspective from COPE. Oral Dis 2017;23:416. Our council and government and stay safe and healthy.

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