

# Review of: "The Punishment Intensity for Research Misconduct and Its Related Factors: An Exploratory Study on Hospitals in Mainland China"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The author has covered a very important topic in relation to researchers' conduct while implementing their research. This topic is crucial and has also received attention in other low- and middle-income countries (Adesanya, 2020; Bain et al., 2022; Were, et al., 2023). There are very few minor areas that I suggest the author improve in the Background, Methods, and Results, as follows:

## Background

- First paragraph – the second line (*For example, in the NIH's "A Guide to the Handling of Research Misconduct Allegations," it is stated that once research*), write NIH in its long form followed by the abbreviation in brackets, with the apostrophe being out of the bracket as follows: *For example, in the National Institutes of Health (NIH)'s "A Guide to the Handling of Research Misconduct Allegations," it is stated that once research*.
- First paragraph – the last line (*initiation of steps leading to possible rank reduction or termination of employment.* (National Institutes of Health 2019)), write the reference using its abbreviation only so that the sentence will be as follows: *initiation of steps leading to possible rank reduction or termination of employment.* (NIH 2019).

## Methods

### Data and sample collection

- First paragraph – the second line (*Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST) under the "Building Research Integrity" ( ) program in 2021;*); it seems the authors wanted to put an abbreviation for "Building Research Integrity" in the empty brackets ( ). I suggest the author check on this.

### Variable measurement

- The sentence below the formula (*where:  $W_i$  is the weight for the  $i$ -th primary dimension.  $S_i$  is the sum of scores of the secondary dimensions under the  $i$ -th*), I suggest the author put a SPACE between "the" and "i-th".

### Data management and analysis

- First paragraph – the third line (*RStudio (Version 2023.09.1+494, Integrated Development Environment for R. RStudio, PBC, Boston, MA;*); I suggest writing the long forms of PBC and MA and the abbreviations in brackets. For example,

the long form of MA is - Massachusetts (MA).

- Second paragraph – the fifth line (*test statistic W's significance level is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected, indicating a deviation from normal*); I suggest to the author to edit the test statistic and make W to be in brackets and the apostrophe to be out of brackets so that the sentence will be as follows: *test statistic (W)'s significance level is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected, indicating a deviation from normal*.

## Result

### **Results of Tweedie GLMs**

- Write the long form of GLMs and the abbreviation in brackets.
- *Figure 3. The results ofmultivariate regression (N=815):*I suggest putting a space in "ofmultivariate" to make two words: "of multivariate"

### **Results of the interaction effect analysis**

- The paragraph below Figure 4 - the first line (*Note: CMRM: Combinations of multiple misbehaviors. To enhance clarity, the figure does not report other variables such*), I suggest to the author to insert "research" between "multiple" and "misbehaviors" in order to make it a complete long form of the CMRM.

## References

Adesanya A. A. (2020). A proposed research misconduct policy for universities and postgraduate colleges in developing countries. *The Nigerian postgraduate medical journal*, 27(3), 250–258. [https://doi.org/10.4103/npmj.npmj\\_51\\_20](https://doi.org/10.4103/npmj.npmj_51_20)

Bain, L. E., Tchuisseu-Kwangoua, L. A., Adeagbo, O., Nkfusai, N. C., Amu, H., Saah, F. I., & Kombe, F. (2022). Fostering research integrity in sub-Saharan Africa: challenges, opportunities, and recommendations. *The Pan African medical journal*, 43, 182. <https://doi.org/10.11604/pamj.2022.43.182.37804>

Were, E., Kiplagat, J., Kaguiri, E., Ayikukwei, R., & Naanyu, V. (2023). Institutional capacity to prevent and manage research misconduct: perspectives from Kenyan research regulators. *Research integrity and peer review*, 8(1), 8. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41073-023-00132-6>