

Review of: "How Do Academicians Publish More Research Papers for Their Promotion and Positions? A Scrutiny of CV"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The subject of the study is very topical, especially for countries where scientific ethics are less respected, but quantitative indicators are set for publications to obtain titles or positions (which leads to a rush for publications). The article mainly deals with two violations of professional ethics and deontology:

- The inclusion in the list of authors of a scientific publication of one or more co-authors who have not contributed significantly to the publication;
- abuse of authority: imposing authorship or co-authorship of publications prepared by subordinates.

Even if this phenomenon and the way it occurs, described in the article, is probably true, to be scientific research, it should be based either on a synthesis of the literature or on empirical data. To this end, we suggest the analysis of a sufficient number of academicians, including the period (number of years) in which they published scientific papers, the number and status of co-authors (including how many of them were subordinates), the diversity of topics covered, the types of editions in which they published, and other characteristics that would indirectly make it possible to determine whether there might be a violation of scientific ethics. It is very important to see whether the scientific journals in which the author has published are reviewing the articles properly or whether they are predatory journals or conferences. Perhaps not all of the journals they have published in have a 6 month publication period. I suggest in this case to analyse these journals, based on e.g. the Predatory Reports portal (<https://predatoryreports.org/>).

Until data accumulation starts, it is necessary to establish more clearly the methodological aspects of the study, e.g. which persons fall into the category of academicians (what positions/titles do they hold?), what are the spatial boundaries of the study (India, a state, a university?).

Recommendations should result from analysis of empirical data or literature synthesis. I think they should mainly be about codes of ethics and how we make sure they are respected, but also about the quality of the publications we accept: perhaps setting up databases of publications from which publications are acknowledged and not acknowledging publications in predatory editions? Less do we agree that publications should be seen and accepted at the university level ("they should seek approval from the head of the institution, such as the principal for colleges and registrar for universities, by submitting an abstract before submission") or that someone should evaluate CVs - who are the evaluators in such a case and is abuse not possible here in a community where academic integrity does not seem an important value?

In general, I think further consultation of the literature in the field, but also of the COPE documents

(<https://publicationethics.org/>) on publication standards is necessary.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the author for addressing this topic and encourage him to continue the study, as its importance goes beyond strictly scientific interest and academic integrity is vital to the quality of the academic community.