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Pune Vidyarthi Griha's
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<u>Code of Ethics for Research</u>

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Research, education and extension are integral parts of any institute. The reputation of any institute depends on quality of research and education. Any compromise in ethics, integrity and academic misconduct even by a single individual can have serious reparations and can lead to collateral damage causing risk to reputation of the entire institution.

To improve quality of research and promote culture of ethical publishing, the institute therefore recommends the following as a policy to encourage responsible research and ethical publishing:

1. Teachers should publish their research in journal that complies with ethics in publishing, which is indexed in at least three of the reputed indexing / metrics agencies and databases like Scopus, Web of Science, Science Direct, PubMed, SSRN etc.

2. Journals which are regularly published at least for consecutive five years, do not guarantee publication in short time at cost consideration, publish true and correct information on websites, have reputed academicians on editorial boards and are members of reputed bodies like COPE can be considered as good journals and research publications in such journals can be considered for academic purposes.

3. Papers published in private in-house journals, proceedings of workshops, seminars, refresher/orientation courses should not be considered as research publications.

4. For evaluation of quality of research tools and metrics developed by reputed agencies like Thomson Reuters (Science Citation Index, Impact Factor), Scopus, Scimago (h index, SJR) are few reliable indicators.

5. To qualify individual publications in peer reviewed / reputed / refereed journals mere ISSN number is not sufficient. The publisher / journal should be indexed in globally.

6. Classification of Journals like national or international and ranking merely based on impact factors is not relevant especially because large number of predatory journals with names starting with 'international' 'global', 'world' etc are in plenty as also several counterfeit impact factor agencies are in existence. Because many counterfeits and spurious agencies have cropped up giving fake h index and impact factors, utmost care needs to be taken before selecting the journal for research publication.

7. Many fake indexing agencies, societies, academies have created false identity to sound / appear similar to reputed agencies. Beall's list provide primary guidance and information on predatory publishers, predatory standalone journals, misleading metrics companies and hijacked journals. Beall's list also contain over twenty six misleading metrics companies fabricating spurious variants of Impact Factors. Journal for publication should not be selected based on such misleading metrics.

8. It is important to note that like predatory journals, many book publishers and bogus conference organizers have mushroomed which are being used to increase API scores, which can be best controlled through careful scrutiny by the departmental research committee at the time of granting leave.

9. An easy way to avoid predatory journal is to do careful due diligence of the journal / publisher and ensure that it is indexed at least in two of following: Web of Science, Scopus, Scholar, PubMed, Social Science Research Network (SSRN) and most importantly the reputed publishers do not necessarily compel to pay fees (page charges, processing fee, reviewing fee and open-access charge) as a prerequisite of publication.

10. Bogus authorship is another serious issue. There is increasing practice to include every member of the laboratory as an author in all papers. This also can result in the spurious increase of API score of everyone in the group. This can be curbed by asking individuals to specify their contribution at least in their major papers.

11. Research work of other researcher should be properly cited.