

# Plagiarism Policy

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### 1. Purpose

The Plagiarism Policy aims to preserve the integrity and originality of all research published in the journal. The journal maintains a zero-tolerance approach toward plagiarism in any form. All submitted manuscripts must be the original work of the authors and must not have been published or submitted elsewhere. This policy outlines the definition of plagiarism, its types, detection procedures, and consequences to ensure ethical and responsible scholarly publishing.

### 2. Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's work, ideas, words, or results as one's own without proper acknowledgment. It includes copying text, figures, data, or concepts from any source published or unpublished without appropriate citation or permission.

Plagiarism may occur intentionally or unintentionally; however, both are considered unethical and unacceptable.

### 3. Types of Plagiarism

The journal recognizes several forms of plagiarism, including but not limited to:

1. **Direct Plagiarism**

Copying text or ideas word-for-word from another source without quotation marks or citation.

2. **Self-Plagiarism (Duplicate Publication)**

Republishing one's own previously published work, in whole or in part, without acknowledgment or proper citation.

3. **Mosaic or Patchwork Plagiarism**

Copying phrases, sentences, or data from multiple sources and combining them without proper citation or paraphrasing.

4. **Paraphrasing Plagiarism**

Rephrasing another person's ideas or data too closely without proper citation or substantial original contribution.

5. **Source-Based Plagiarism**

Citing incorrect, incomplete, or non-existent references to mislead readers about the originality or validity of the work.

6. **Image/Data Plagiarism**

Using tables, figures, graphs, or datasets from another source without proper credit or authorization.

#### 4. Plagiarism Detection Process

To ensure originality and academic honesty, the journal follows a strict screening and verification process:

- All submitted manuscripts are checked for plagiarism using reliable plagiarism detection software (Turnitin)
- The similarity index (percentage of overlap) is reviewed by the editorial team before sending the paper for peer review.
- Editors assess whether overlapping text is appropriately cited and whether the similarity is within acceptable limits.
- Manuscripts with a high similarity rate or improper citations will be returned to authors for revision or rejected outright.

#### 5. Acceptable Similarity Threshold

- The journal generally accepts a similarity index less than 20% as acceptable, depending on the type of manuscript and the nature of overlapping content.
- Minor overlaps in methods, standard terminologies, or references are usually acceptable.
- A similarity score above the accepted threshold requires revision and resubmission with proper citation and paraphrasing.

#### 6. Handling Detected Plagiarism

If plagiarism is detected at any stage before, during, or after publication, the journal will follow these steps:

## **1. Before Publication**

- The manuscript will be returned to the author for correction and resubmission.
- If plagiarism is more than 40%, the paper will be rejected immediately.

## **2. In Case of Repeated Offenses:**

- Authors found guilty of repeated or intentional plagiarism may be periodically/permanently banned from submitting to the journal.

## **7. Author Responsibilities**

Authors are fully responsible for ensuring the originality and ethical integrity of their manuscripts.

They should:

- Verify that all sources are properly cited and referenced.
- Paraphrase correctly and avoid excessive use of direct quotations.
- Obtain written permission for using copyrighted materials (e.g., tables, figures, or illustrations).
- Submit original work that has not been previously published in any form or language.
- Review the final manuscript with plagiarism-checking tools before submission.

## **8. Reviewer and Editor Responsibilities**

- Reviewers who detect potential plagiarism during peer review must immediately inform the editorial office.
- Editors are responsible for investigating all plagiarism claims thoroughly and confidentially.
- The journal will ensure that accused authors are given an opportunity to respond to any allegations before a final decision is made.
- The Editor-in-Chief has the authority to make the final decision regarding the handling of plagiarism cases.

## **9. Transparency and Fairness**

- All allegations of plagiarism will be handled in accordance with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines.
- Authors will be informed about the findings and given an opportunity to explain or provide evidence.
- The journal will ensure confidentiality and fairness throughout the investigation process.

## **10. Educational Commitment**

The journal is committed not only to detecting plagiarism but also to promoting ethical writing practices.

It encourages researchers, particularly early-career authors, to:

- Learn about citation ethics and academic integrity.
- Use plagiarism detection tools before submission.
- Attend workshops or training on research ethics and responsible publication.

## **11. Consequences of Violation**

Depending on the severity of the case, one or more of the following actions may be taken:

- Immediate rejection of the manuscript.
- Retraction of the published paper.
- Notification to the author's institution or funding body.
- Temporary or permanent ban from future submissions.
- Publication of a formal notice of misconduct.

## **12. Policy Review and Updates**

The Plagiarism Policy will be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary to align with national and international ethical standards and new technological tools for plagiarism detection.