



## Publication Ethics and Responsibilities Policy Statement

This journal is committed to upholding the highest ethical standards in publishing. All stakeholders, including authors, reviewers, and editors, are expected to adhere to the following ethical guidelines:

### 1. Conflict of Interest Policies

*For Authors:* Authors must disclose any financial, personal, or professional conflicts of interest that could influence the research or its interpretation. This includes funding sources, affiliations, or other relationships that may bias the work.

*For Reviewers:* Reviewers are required to recuse themselves from reviewing submissions where they have conflicts of interest, including personal relationships with authors or competing research interests. Reviewers must maintain confidentiality and impartiality throughout the review process.

### 2. Authorship Criteria and Guidelines for Retractions and Corrections

*Authorship Criteria:* Authorship should reflect significant contributions to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the research. All listed authors must approve the final version of the manuscript and agree to its submission. Contributions that do not meet authorship criteria should be acknowledged in the manuscript.

*Retractions and Corrections:* If errors, omissions, or ethical concerns are identified post-publication, the journal will take appropriate action to rectify the record. Depending on the nature of the issue, this may include issuing corrections, retractions, or expressing concerns.

The journal follows the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines in all ethical concerns cases. Corrections or retractions will be published with clear explanations and linked to the original article when needed. Authors may be asked to provide raw data or supplementary materials to ensure research transparency.

### 3. Ethical Considerations for Studies Involving Human or Animal Subjects

*Human Subjects:* Research involving human participants must comply with ethical standards, including obtaining informed consent, protecting privacy, and ensuring no harm to participants. Ethical approval from a recognized review board must be secured and documented.

*Animal Subjects:* Studies involving animals must follow humane treatment guidelines and ethical standards, including minimizing distress and pain. Ethical approval for the use of animals in research must also be provided.

### 4. Policies for Vulnerable Populations

Researchers conducting studies involving vulnerable populations, including children, must take extra precautions to ensure safety, dignity, and informed consent. In the case of minors, permission must be obtained from a parent or legal guardian and assent from the minor, where applicable. Institutional review boards must explicitly evaluate and approve protocols for these populations.

This publication ethics statement serves as a guide to promote transparency, accountability, and integrity in academic publishing, fostering trust within the scholarly community and beyond.

### 5. Plagiarism and Data Transparency:

Before peer review, all submissions are screened using plagiarism detection software (e.g., iThenticate). The journal enforces a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism and duplicate submissions. Authors are encouraged to submit datasets, survey instruments, or code in a supplemental format or through external repositories to support reproducibility and transparency.