

1.2 Research Ethics & Publication Integrity Policy

The journal adheres to the highest standards of research ethics and expects all stakeholders - authors, reviewers, and editors - to uphold principles of transparency, fairness, and academic honesty.

For Authors:

- Submit only original work that has not been published elsewhere.
- Accurately report data and findings, without fabrication, falsification, or manipulation.

Ensure that all data, figures, and results presented in your manuscript are genuine and accurately represent the research conducted.

- Properly cite all sources and acknowledge all contributors.
- Avoid duplicate submissions or redundant publications.
- Disclose all financial or personal conflicts of interest.
- Obtain necessary ethical approval for research involving human or animal subjects.

Data Availability and Requests

- Authors are expected to retain the original datasets, materials, and records on which their manuscript is based for a reasonable period (e.g., at least 5 years) after publication.
- The journal (editors or peer reviewers) may request access to the underlying data during the review process to verify analyses, ensure reproducibility, or resolve concerns about integrity.
- After publication, readers may also request datasets to replicate or build upon the work. Authors should make reasonable efforts to share data in line with ethical, legal, and privacy restrictions.
- If data cannot be shared (e.g., due to confidentiality, intellectual property, or participant privacy), authors must clearly state the reason and, where possible, provide an anonymized or partial dataset, or explain how the data can be accessed under controlled conditions.
- Failure to provide requested data without a valid reason may be considered a breach of publication ethics and could lead to rejection, correction, or retraction of the article.

For Reviewers:

- Provide fair, objective, and timely reviews.
- Maintain confidentiality of all manuscript content.
- Report any potential ethical concerns (e.g., plagiarism, unethical methodology).
- Decline review assignments where a conflict of interest exists.

For Editors:

- Ensure a transparent, unbiased, and confidential peer review process.
- Take prompt and appropriate action when ethical concerns arise.
- Avoid any editorial decisions where a conflict of interest is present.
- Investigate and address any allegations of misconduct, following COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) guidelines.