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KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF ETHICS OF PUBLICATION AMONG STAFF MEMBERS OF ALEXANDRIA FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Abstract

Background: Ethical guidelines supposed to be followed all through the research steps until the publication process finished. The aim was to explore and assess the level of knowledge and practices of staff members of Alexandria Faculty of medicine as ethics of publication. Method: An anonymous self-administered questionnaire was developed specially for staff members. It enclosed staff member’s characteristics, knowledge and practice data of publication ethics. A scoring system was developed to assess the level of knowledge and practice separately. Each question was given a score “1” in case of answering correctly and “zero” for either not answering or answering incorrectly. Then the total is collected and the score is classified into: good if correct answers are ≥75%, fair if 50-74% of answers are correct and poor
if <50% of answers are correct. **Results:** The majority of responding staff members (87%) declared their knowledge about publication ethics, 51.7% mentioned the importance of proper citation, followed by honesty in data collection (43.3%). The staff knew the proper methods of writing as paraphrasing (52%), summarizing (86.8%) and quotation (82.6%). About three forth of the contributing staff members mentioned plagiarism as unethical practice and 94.3% refused redundant publication. They knew the outcome of plagiarism as rejection of paper (70%). Staff’s manuscript was usually corrected in grammar and language and the main cause of rejection from international journals was repeated point of research (41.4%). About the level of ethical practice during publication of the participating staff members (55.6%) of contributing male staff members and (58.8%) of participating female staff members got good practice score level. **Conclusion:** The study demonstrated the gap between the level of knowledge and practice of staff members of Alexandria Faculty of Medicine which mandates raising their knowledge level by awareness through the course on ethics of publication.