

The Damage of Publishing Manipulated Articles to the Scientific Honor of the Country

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Unfortunately, a large number (27 cases) of articles from a medical university, mainly related to three specific individuals, have been retracted in the past month. Most of these articles were systematic reviews and meta-analyses and became published in the last two years, causing the H-index of these individuals to rise from 2 to over 10. It is worth noting that the Scientometric findings show that these individuals had very few articles before holding managerial positions and then published a large number of articles in the last three years, and the natural or unnatural path used in publishing these articles needs to be examined by the Ministry's Research Ethics Working Group.

The discrediting statements for these articles generally mention the following:

- Numerous cases of repeated references to the authors' own articles
- Defects in the peer review process

Significant text overlap with their own other articles (overlap and scientific fraud)

An important point in the withdrawal or retraction of articles by journals is to filter out fake content, lies, and intentional errors. It seems

that in the articles that have been discredited, attention should be paid to the possibility of forged documentation to promote scientific status and planning and banding for fake and false citations.

Discrediting a university's scientific articles will have many scientific and reputational consequences:

First: Damage to the university's reputation

Decrease in scientific reputation: Retraction of articles can damage the scientific reputation of the university and cause other researchers and universities to distrust the research results of that university.

Impact on rankings: Universities are usually ranked based on the number The amount and quality of published articles. Retraction of articles can lead to a decrease in the university's ranking.

Second: damage to the scientific reputation of the country's articles in international scientific forums

Retraction of a large number of articles from a country can also have profound and widespread



consequences that affect not only the scientific community, but also the economy, politics, and culture of that country. These consequences are discussed in detail below:

1. Damage to national reputation

Reduced scientific reputation: Retraction of articles can damage the scientific reputation of a country and make other countries and researchers less trust in that country's research results. This can lead to a decrease in international cooperation and the exchange of scientific information.

Impact on global rankings: Countries are usually ranked in global rankings based on the number and quality of published articles. Retractions can lead to a country's ranking being lowered in this area, which can have a negative impact on attracting international students and foreign researchers.

2. Economic consequences

Reduced investment: With the main slogan of the new lunar year being "Investment for Production", the willingness of funders and governments to invest in the country's scientific research may decrease, as they lose confidence in this endeavor. This could lead to a decrease in funding for research projects and scientific innovations.

Legal and financial costs: In cases where retractions are due to fraud or serious errors, the country may face significant legal claims and financial costs. These costs can include fines, legal advice fees, and costs related to corrections.

3. Impact on researchers and universities

Damage to researchers' careers: Researchers responsible for retracted articles may face career consequences such as loss of job positions or loss of reputation in the scientific community. This

can lead to a decrease in researchers' motivation and efficiency.

Reduction in international collaborations: Retraction of articles can hinder international scientific collaborations, as other researchers may be reluctant to collaborate with researchers from that country. This can lead to isolation and a decrease in knowledge exchange.

4. Impact on the global scientific community

Disruption of scientific progress: Retraction of articles can lead to disruption of global scientific progress, as other researchers may use or cite incorrect findings. This can lead to delays in the development of scientific technologies and innovations.

5. Social and Cultural Consequences

Impact on Public Trust: Retraction of articles can lead to a decrease in public trust in science and scientific research. This can weaken the scientific foundations of society and increase skepticism about scientific findings.

These consequences indicate the importance of maintaining quality and accuracy in scientific research and publication of articles and emphasize the need for careful monitoring and evaluation of scientific research. Finally, the scientific community and government officials must seriously pay attention to this issue and take measures to prevent such crises from occurring. And deal with those who systematically and systematically undermine the scientific reputation of the country in accordance with the Law on Prevention and Combating Scientific Fraud approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly. An important point in this case is that the head and secretary of an ethics working group in their research are among those accused of fraud and falsification in the articles that have been discredited. It is obvious that not only does

this working group not have the authority to handle this research misconduct case, but it is also necessary for the ministerial working group to prevent the continuation of this academic working group's activities until a fundamental change is made in its composition and to suspend its accreditation temporarily.

Regarding the crime committed and its punishment in current laws:

Based on the Law on Prevention and Combating Fraud in the Preparation of Scientific Works and in accordance with paragraph one of this single article, a Third Degree cash penalty and deprivation of social rights of the 6th degree, and in accordance with Note 6, if these works are used by members of the academic staff, any privileges such as academic rank and rank will be revoked and canceled.

Considering the crimes attributed to the president and the first person of the university, who is a member of all recruitment councils, the special board of reviewers, and is responsible for handling the university's supervisory processes, if the violation is proven in the ministerial working group on ethics in research, in accordance with Article one of the Law on Promoting the Health of the Administrative System and Combating Corruption, since he has received direct benefits and privileges for the rank and promotion of the academic rank to associate professor, it can also be considered an example of abuse of position and position. Obviously, until these crimes and the scope of the violation are determined and proven, the need to suspend him and determine the status of the university in order to prevent the suspension of academic and administrative affairs at the relevant university is also evident.

Also, in accordance with Article 2 of the Executive Regulations of the Law on Prevention of Fraud in the Preparation of Scientific Works, the Deputy Researcher of the Ministry of Health, as the head of the ministerial working group on ethics in research, is responsible for investigating research violations by the heads of regional working groups. Also, according to Note 4 of this regulation, if it is proven that these scientific frauds are organized, they will be subject to increased punishment. Also, finally, according to Articles 11 and 12 of this regulation, it is necessary to take action to cancel the privileges obtained by these individuals, such as material and moral privileges.

Reforming the promotion and advancement processes of faculty members, Positive and negative interactions with violators, monitoring articles by ethics committees in research, utilizing the potential of the country's medical ethics experts in universities, meritocracy, avoiding the use of rent in the employment of university officials, teaching the principles of intellectual property and ethics in publishing can prevent many such disasters.