

# Assessment of Dental faculty members by only number of publications Leading cause of plagiarism in research.

The word plagiarism is derived from a Latin word Plagiare meaning to kidnap. Plagiarism is copying of texts, ideas, concepts from someone else's work and claiming it be one's own.<sup>1</sup> Since last couple of years there is publish or perish situation among teaching staff of dental colleges in India owing to the criteria set by the governing bodies for promotion. This has lead to increase in the incidence of scientific misconducts in research publications.<sup>2</sup> Dental council of India( DCI) the main governing body of all dental colleges in India has made it mandatory for faculty to have certain minimum number of publications and credit points for promotion or in present scenario in simple words it can said for survival in college. <sup>3</sup>

To achieve this and for career enhancement every faculty member wants his or her name in the author list in spite of their non involvement in the original research. All this has lead to race among teaching faculty to have more or more number of publications and according to most of the studies this has lead plagiarism, scientific misconducts and authorship conflicts in research work.<sup>4</sup>

Based on the data and review of many articles on this issue it is proved fact that this has lead to deterioration in the quality of research publications. publishing research work without anything new and just mere editing of previous studies on same research is no longer justified and it is considered unethical. but this has become a trend due to availability of flood of online journals .For success and running of journals articles are getting published without checking the plagiarism content by paying the so called publication charges as they cannot effort the cost of software checking the plagiarism which is making conditions from bad to worse.<sup>5</sup>

so lets wake up and if we want quality in the research work in future let us follow the protocol set by ICMJE ( International committee of medical journal editors) which acts as a guide not only in

deciding the type of research but also the sequence of authors based their contribution in that particular research.<sup>6</sup> Almost all of us have been witnessing these unpleasent issues. it is really sad and unfortunate that it is the number of publications not the quality of research which is getting importance in assessing the credibility of teaching faculty in dental colleges.

It is high time that the faculty evaluation system should change and include other parameters like quality of publication, ethical issues, and impact on social and patient care. The DCI and concerned State universities should include student feedback in a confidential way to evaluate the performance of a teachers started by MCI in some universities, otherwise with the present trend the priority will shift from teaching and clinical towards only publications only.<sup>7,8</sup>

As is said "**Authorship should not be bestowed up on it has to be deserved and earned**".

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