



The Importance of Research Ethics and the Countermeasures for Journals: Case Study of KJFHC

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to remind the importance of research ethics in research and publication, and to suggest the direction of research ethics by taking examples of research ethics recently implemented by KJFHC. **Research design, data and methodology:** With reference to the research of existing researchers, why research ethics is important, what are the violations of research ethics, and the efforts of the editorial committee of KJFHC to strengthen research ethics are presented as an example. **Results:** It is a reality that the concept of research ethics is becoming more complex and important with the introduction of various new academic fields. At this point in time, researchers need to pay more attention to the easily overlooked concept of research ethics. In research ethics, the most important thing is not punishment through monitoring and supervision, but prevention activities of research ethics that can prevent research misconduct before it occurs. As a preventive activity for research ethics, it can be said that the most important is the establishment of a systematic education system and active educational activities of universities and related institutions. **Conclusions:** This study avoids the general status and solutions for research ethics, and explains the case of the actual academic journal KJFHC and suggests alternatives.

Keywords : Ethical Issue, Research Ethics, Improvement Direction, Research Ethics Education

JEL Classification Code: I29, O30, O39.

1. Introduction

Providing reliable research data and information is especially important in times of health crisis such as COVID-19. Research data can help address and address these health crises (Smith, Upshur, & Ezekiel, 2020). Although numerous academic societies have been

continuously discussing the issue of research and publication fraud for many years, the number of cases of research misconduct is not decreasing (Sathyamurthy, 2019). Among recent journals, it is not easy to find a journal focusing on research ethics (Kim & Youn, 2020). The KJFHC is to monitor common misconduct in research ethics, demonstrate how journals manage such misconduct, and share the results with future contributors. As many journals are newly created, the number of research papers published by researchers is also increasing. Therefore, there are numerous researchers in various fields of study all over the world. Various researchers and many studies have been conducted, and research problems are becoming more important due to the unprecedented research methods and new contents (Graf, Wager, Bowman, Flack, Scott-Lichter, & Robinson, 2007). Since one of the most important factors in research publication is reliability, research ethics

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is a very important part of all research. From a research proposal to data collection, data purification and analysis, and statistical procedures for data, all processes are ethically important and ethical considerations (Poff, 2009). It includes thorough verification of the publication of research papers, formation of a group of reviewers with a wealth of relevant knowledge, and fair review by the journal editorial board on understanding and conflict prevention, and the scope of research ethics review is more comprehensive (Shin, 2020).

Mutual Respect	Scientists must respect their colleagues.
Efficiency	Scientists must use resources efficiently. For example, when writing a paper, you should not deliberately divide the research into several studies and publish it, or use the same result in several different studies with only minor modifications.
Respect for Subjects	Scientists must not infringe on human rights or dignity when using humans as test subjects. This means that even when animals are used in experiments, they must be done with care and proper respect.

2. Data manipulation and tampering in research

Acts that undermine research ethics are not only illegal but also serious harm. This is because it does not give credibility not only to researchers, but also to funding agencies and readers. This is a risky practice that makes scientific value unreliable (Sengupta & Honavar, 2017). Companies that supported rigged research could lead to bankruptcy. In addition to these direct financial costs, research misconduct leads to widespread additional costs, not only for individuals but also for reputation and society (Stacey, 2016). Forged research is especially in the field of social health, and if it is directly applied to people, it can be judged to be very dangerous because it can cause casualties. Therefore, research ethics can directly harm not only the credibility of researchers or the financial crisis of sponsors, but also human lives (Kang, & Hwang, 2020).

In order not to cause serious situations due to the violation of research ethics as above, the following research ethics principles are necessary.

Table 1: Resnik's Principles of Scientific Ethics

Honesty	Scientists must not manipulate, falsify, or distort data or research results.
Carefulness	Scientists must avoid errors in their research. Particular attention should be paid to the presentation of results.
Openness	Scientists need to share data, results, methods, ideas, techniques, tools, etc.
Freedom	Scientists should be free to conduct research on any problem or hypothesis.
Credit	Merit should be given to those to whom it is due.
Education	Scientists should educate prospective scientists and help ensure they learn how to do better science. Furthermore, we have an obligation to educate the public.
Social Responsibility	Scientists should try to avoid harm to society and create social benefits.
Legality	In the course of research, scientists are obliged to comply with the laws applicable to their work.
Opportunity	No scientist shall be unreasonably denied an opportunity to use scientific resources or to advance in a scientific profession.

3. Ethical Efforts for KJFHC

3.1. Case details

KJFHC (Korea Journal of Food Health Convergence) is leading remarkable growth with a new editor-in-chief system starting in 2021. The journal's editorial board is making every effort to make this journal a credible and academically sound journal. For example, in 2021, it was discovered that a research paper published a long time ago in this journal was a serious plagiarism paper. Therefore, the editorial committee not only removed the paper from the journal system through an emergency meeting, but also informed the author and the university, and promised not to let this happen again. With this incident as an opportunity, KJFHC thoroughly investigated the possibility of plagiarism in all previously published papers. In addition, plagiarism of some papers published before KJFHC became a candidate registered journal was discovered. Although the plagiarism of the papers was not serious, all the papers were deleted and the authors were notified. After that, all papers submitted to KJFHC required a plagiarism check, and very strict similarity guidelines were implemented.

3.2. Processing result

The image of the official document below is an official document that the KJFHC Editorial Board immediately responded to when the incident occurred. At the same time as the official document was sent, the paper was deleted from all researches loading systems, and the authors were restricted from submitting to the journal (KJFHC) in the future according to the research ethics regulations of the journal.

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수 신 한국연구재단 KCI 논문등록 담당자
제 목 한국식품보건융합학회 기 게재논문 철회 요청의 건

- 1. 귀 재단의 무궁한 발전을 기원합니다.
- 2. 본 한국식품보건융합학회에서는 기계재된 논문의 표절 사실을 발견하게 되어 시스템상에서 철회를 요청드립니다.

- 다 음 -

- 1. 해당논문의 서지정보
가. 제목: 축산물 이력추적 시스템의 문제점 및 개선방안
나. 저자: Jin-Hee Ko (고진희), Chul-Ju Park (박철주)
다. 수록저널: Korean Journal of Food & Health Convergence
라. 권호 페이지: 2016년 2권 1호 34-52페이지
- 2. 논문 철회 사유: 표절논문 사후 발견
- 3. 논문 철회 방법: 서지정보(메타) 및 원문 모두 삭제

별 점 : 해당 논문 사본 1부. 끝.

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Figure 1: Official document sent to the National Research Foundation of Korea

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- 2. 본 한국식품보건융합학회에서는 기계재된 논문의 표절 사실을 발견하게 되어 게재 철회를 요청드립니다.

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Figure 2: Official document sent to Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information

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제 목 한국식품보건융합학회 기계재논문 철회 통보의 건

본 한국식품보건융합학회에서는 기계재된 귀하의 논문을 본 학술지 윤리규정 제 12조에 따라서 다음과 같이 조치하였으므로 참고하시기 바랍니다.

- 다 음 -

- 1. 한국식품보건융합학회 윤리규정 제12조(연구 부정직 행위에 대한 처리)
가. 게재 확정된 논문이더라도 본 위원회 확정 판결이 있기 전에는 게재를 보류한다.
나. 기 게재된 논문은 학회에서 발행하는 해당 학술지에서 삭제하고, 해당 연구자 소속기관에 통보하고, 등재지 선정 이후에는 한국연구재단에도 통보한다. 또한 학회 홈페이지에 공지한다.
다. 연구 부정직 혐의로 최종 판정을 받는 자는 3년간 학회에서 강제 탈퇴되며, 학회에서 발행하는 모든 학술지 게재를 못하며, 이를 학회 홈페이지에 공고한다.
라. 연구 부정직 행위가 최종판정을 받은 논문은 처리가 종료된 시점을 기준으로 5년간 학회에 보관하여야 한다.
마. 조사 결과 연구 부정직 행위가 확정될 경우, 본 위원회 의결과 동시에 연구 당사자에게 사전 통지 없이 조속히 논문게재를 취소한다. 또한, 상기 사항 이외의 사항에 대하여도 위원회의 의결에 따라 진행한다.
바. 조사 결과 연구 부정직 행위가 없었던 것으로 확정될 경우, 위원회는 피고발자 혹은 혐의자의 명예를 회복하기 위한 적절한 후속조치를 취할 수 있다.

2. 조치사항: 한국식품보건융합학회 윤리규정 제12조 나, 다, 라, 마 항에 따라 즉시 게재 철회 및 조치사항 홈페이지 공지

- 3. 해당논문의 서지정보
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Figure 3: Official document sent to the author

4. Research Ethics Improvement Direction

However, it will not be difficult to form a consensus and consensus among researchers by preparing separate standards for plagiarism for each academic field and providing reasonable guidelines for preventing plagiarism. Researchers bring ideas or expressions within an appropriate and reasonable amount, but in principle, the author's name and publication year are revealed at the end of the cited section, and the bibliography is revealed in the references at the end of the researches. Responsibility for plagiarism can be exempted or greatly reduced depending on the degree to which it is recognized that the researcher has no intention of disguising his research results in an unfair way. It is true that research misconduct, including plagiarism, is an ambiguous concept that can be interpreted and applied in a wide variety of ways. It is not easy for a researcher to describe or explain in a word how to prevent plagiarism and correct citation in writing a study. As a researcher, the key to avoiding plagiarism is that when citing someone else's or one's own research, the source must be identified and only the necessary amount is used appropriately. A large number of researchers may be doing plagiarism because of insufficient knowledge of research ethics, even if they do not intentionally commit plagiarism. Therefore, it is necessary for universities or research institutes to regularly educate on research ethics through a systematic education system (Cha, 2021). This means that education to prevent incidents in advance is much more important than monitoring, control, and punishment.

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