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## Editorial

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### Introspect yourself who you are Authors?

An author is a person who is originator of a new idea, concept or plan of a research work. Authorship of scientific manuscript publications is by and large affiliated to someone who has made substantive intellectual contribution into it. The author is attributed for opening a new horizon in knowledge, providing novel insight and unraveling the unknown. Having credited for big cause, it naturally and practically opens the Pandora box for the author in terms of rewards, appraisal, recognition among peers and experts in the field, financial gain and promotions. In academic settings, decisions regarding promotion and salary are heavily influenced by the number of publications in peer reviewed journals.

The worth of authorship incite everybody and anybody in their respective domain to prepare and accomplish research projects and get it published in reputed scientific journal. However, on the other hand it also allures the 'undeserved' and may be 'incompetent' to indulge in unethical behaviour, which has lead to a situation today of "authorship" issue for which the solution seems ungetable.

The scientific and technological progress that took place after 1960s has witnessed an ever-growing volume of scientific research, and inflation in co-authorship. The very concept of authorship has been soiled and vaguely defined other forms of authorship came into existence. "Gift" authorship or "honorary" authorship is defined as co-authorship awarded to a person who has not contributed significantly to the study. "Guest" authorship is one that is bestowed upon individuals, who have not worked for it, with the perception that their association with the paper will enhance its prestige and augment chances of acceptance by the Journal. "Ghost" authorship is a phenomenon wherein individuals who write the articles are not named as authors and are not even acknowledged to be associated with the manuscript.

This practice is out rightly unethical and considered as misconduct in publication. Apart from this, the authors who have not contributed substantially to be eligible for authorship do harm in various ways. It falsely represents the individual's expertise and the person is perceived as being more skilled; and a false level of competence is expected from him to accomplish tasks that may be outside the range of his expertise.

ICMJE and other associations like WAME (World Association of Medical Editors) and COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) have framed directions for promotion of ethical and scientific principles. It also formed specific rules for editors and authors to check misconduct. Despite all the existing rules, there have been no long-lasting changes in conduct regarding the authorship of scientific publications.

A strong need is felt to prioritize instituting control and redressal mechanisms in every setting to address the problem of authorship. These reforms will help enhance honorable scientific conduct and quality of the publications in journals.

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