PUBLICATION ETHICS & MALPRACTICE POLICY

SEQUEL Education and Research Journal follows high standards of publication ethics and is committed to maintaining academic integrity. The journal adheres to the principles and best practices recommended by the **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)**.

Authors, editors, and reviewers are expected to:

- Ensure originality of research work
- Avoid plagiarism, data fabrication, and falsification
- Acknowledge all sources properly
- Follow ethical research and citation practices

Editors are responsible for fair and unbiased decisions based solely on academic merit. Any form of unethical behaviour or malpractice will result in appropriate action, including rejection or retraction of the article.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

The journal has a **strict zero-tolerance policy** towards plagiarism.

- All submitted manuscripts are screened using plagiarism detection software such as **Turnitin / iThenticate (or equivalent tools)**.
- The acceptable similarity index is:
  - **Up to 15%** (excluding references and common phrases)
- Manuscripts exceeding this limit will be:
  - Rejected, or
  - Sent back for revision, depending on severity

Self-plagiarism and duplicate publication are strictly prohibited.

RETRACTION & CORRECTION POLICY

The journal may retract or correct a published article in cases of:

- Proven plagiarism
- Ethical violations
- Data manipulation or serious errors
- Duplicate or redundant publication

Corrections will be issued for minor errors that do not affect the core findings. **Retractions** will be clearly marked on the journal website with reasons stated transparently.

Retraction decisions are made by the **Editor-in-Chief** in consultation with the editorial board.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Authors, editors, and reviewers must disclose any **financial, academic, or personal conflicts of interest** that could influence the research or review process.

- Editors and reviewers will not handle manuscripts where a conflict exists.
- Editorial board members submitting articles will not be involved in the review or decision process of their own manuscripts.

Transparency and impartiality are strictly maintained at all stages of publication.

AI-GENERATED CONTENT POLICY

The use of **AI tools (such as ChatGPT or similar technologies)** is permitted **only for language improvement or grammar correction**.

- AI tools **must not** be used to generate original research data, analysis, or conclusions.
- Authors must ensure full responsibility for the content of their manuscript.
- Any significant use of AI tools should be **properly disclosed** by the author.

The journal reserves the right to reject manuscripts that rely excessively on AI-generated content without academic accountability.