



Redundant Publication: Duplicate and Overlapping Publication, Salami Slicing

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Abstract: In the recent academic context, it is seen that “publish or perish”; in this situation, research integrity has become more important. A redundant publication, which takes the form of duplicate publication, overlapping publication, and salami slicing, raises serious ethical and methodological problems. Redundant publication is the practice of publishing the same research findings in multiple publications fragmented data gathered from a single study without a proper justification and citation. “Duplicate publication is a form of redundant publication where the same article is published more than once, without acknowledging the first publication” (The Embassy of Good Science, 2021). “Overlapping publication refers to the practice of publishing a paper overlaps substantially with one already published” (Indian Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biological Research, 2020). Overlapping publication involves repeating portions of the same data or results across multiple publications. “Salami publication refers to the practice of slicing data from a large study, could have been reported in a single paper, into different pieces and publishing them in two or more articles, all of which cover the same population, methods, and question” (Indian Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biological Research, 2020). This article discusses the Redundant publication, its definition, causes, consequences, and prevention, and mentions the organization names that play a significant role in preventing redundant publication, also mentioning the status of Redundant Publication. This research was conducted through a qualitative content analysis method by analysing various research paper articles and COPE, ICMJE, and WAME guidelines. This paper will help academics and researchers understand the concept, the consequences of redundant publication, and how to prevent it.

Key Words - Redundant Publication; Duplicate Publication; Overlapping Publication; Salami Slicing.

I. INTRODUCTION

Research is continually being conducted to enhance the quality of people's lives. It is through research that the progress and prosperity of society are achieved. Research should be conducted for the welfare of society, and if society faces harm while doing so, then that research has no meaning. Therefore, when conducting research, the researcher should always strive to do so in a manner that benefits society without causing harm. For this, the researcher should follow some code of conduct, i.e., research ethics. Research ethics are the set of ethical guidelines that guide us on how scientific research should be conducted and disseminated (Arafat, 2023). Ethical considerations in research are a set of principles that guide your research designs and practices. Scientists and researchers must always adhere to a certain code of conduct when collecting data from people (Bhandari, 2021). Research ethics ensure that research is conducted without deception or intention to harm the participants of the study or members of society as a whole, whether knowingly or unknowingly (Fonseca, 2023). Publication ethics refers to the rules and guidelines that maintain the integrity, quality, and validity of published research, assuring correctness, transparency, and accountability among researchers, editors, and publishers. Some researcher adopted some unethical practices while publishing their research. Publication misconduct generally tends to occur due to a lack of awareness among authors, pressure for publication with respect to professional advancements, financial gain and lack of monitoring and control mechanisms in place (Mondal, 2022). To increase the number of research papers, some researchers publish the same paper multiple times, resulting in duplicate publication. Sometimes a researcher changes some of the same data in a published paper and publishes a new paper, which is an overlapping publication. Sometimes the researcher divides his/her published research work into parts and publishes multiple papers, which is called salami slicing.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To discuss the concept and types of redundant Publication.
2. To analyse the reason, consequence, and prevention of redundant Publication.
3. To analyse the status of Redundant Publication.
4. To discuss the problem of identifying Redundant Publication.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted through a qualitative content analysis method. The researcher uses non-human samples and analyses various research papers, articles published in various journals and the COPE, ICMJE and WAME guidelines for fulfilling all objectives.

IV. ANALYSIS

4.1. To discuss the concept and types of redundant Publication.**4.1.1. Redundant publication:**

Redundant publication is the unethical practice of presenting identical or similar research results in many papers without adequate disclosure. When researchers have extra pressure to publish large numbers of papers, desire career progression, and have pressure from supervisors, then redundant publication will occur. It is the publication of a paper that is similar to a published paper by the same author (Mondal, 2022).

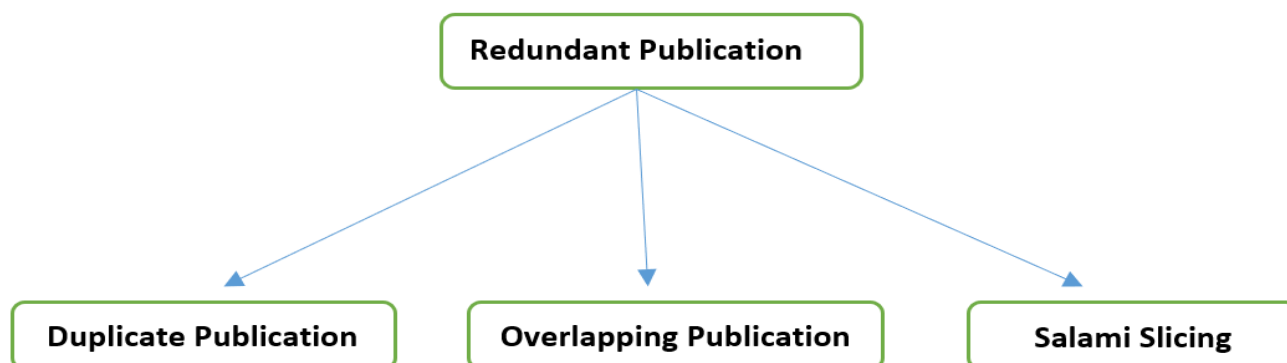


Figure -1: Types of redundant publication

4.1.1.1 Duplicate Publication:

The term “Duplicate Publication” refers to publishing an article with the same data or substantial parts of a published manuscript more than once without providing the appropriate references (Kojuri et al., 2023).

Duplicate publication is the publishing of the same study in more than one journal. Publishing the same work more than once is considered unethical in research (Lokesh, 2009). “Duplicate publication is publication of a paper that overlaps substantially with one already published, without clear, visible reference to the previous publication” (ICMJE, 2026).

It violates the publication ethics. It is a copy and paste of your own published paper. “Duplicate publications must be retracted, and duplicate submissions, if discovered by journal editors, are usually rejected. COPE provides guidance on how to handle duplicate publications” (The Embassy of Good Science, 2021). When you published research on “Techno-Pedagogical Competency of Secondary Level Teachers” in one journal and then publish same research without proper citation and references, the second publication will be called Duplicate Publication.

4.1.1.2. Overlapping Publication:

An overlapping publication refers to repeating part of the same data or results in more than one paper. In the overlapping publication, the researcher made some changes in data, text, content, etc, but the main content is still the same.

When the content, data, or text of a single study is published more than once without giving due credit to the first publication or submission, it is considered unethical research misconduct and is frequently done to extend a researcher's publication history artificially.

4.1.1.3. Salami Slicing:

Salami slicing refers to breaking up or segmenting a single, large study into two or more publications. It occurs when researchers want to increase their publication numbers.

Breaking up or segmenting data from a single study and creating different manuscripts for publication (The Office of Research Integrity, 2015).

Therefore, in Duplicate publication, the content is identical or nearly identical; in overlapping publication, there is significant overlap in data, content or text, and in salami slicing, a large data set is split into smaller units. In short, duplicate means the Same, overlapping means similar, and salami means split.

4.2. To analyze the reason, consequence, and prevention of redundant Publication.**4.2.1. Reasons for Redundant Publication:**

- When researchers have extra pressure. “Pressure to publish represents the most common reason why authors produce redundant publications...” (Quaia, 2025).
- When a researcher is willing to get funding for a research project.
- When Ph.D., Post. Doc. Scholar, faculty member, have Willing to pursue career advancement and recognition on the basis of the quantity of publications.
- When an unethical Competitive research culture exist with in institution.
- When researchers have a lack of Awareness towards Publication Ethics.

4.2.2. Consequences of Redundant Publication:

- It violates the publication Ethics.
- It breaches copyright.
- It's Misleading the Scientific Record, original research.
- It damaged the author's reputation, and legal action will be taken against the researcher/Author.

- It is a waste of time, money, and resources
- It creates confusion in the readers and policymakers.

4.2.3. Prevention of Redundant Publication:

- Asking authors to verify that their manuscript is original and has not been published elsewhere could help future investigations(COPE, 2025).
- Need to develop the awareness of the researcher/author towards research publication and ethics.
- Need to develop knowledge towards redundant Publication, fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism.
- Carefully follow the guidelines of various standard organisations such as the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE), ICMJE, WAME, UGC, etc.
- Researchers must use proper citations and references.
- Avoid fabrication, falsification, and self-plagiarism.
- Need to check the plagiarism before publishing the research.

4.2.4. Ethical Guidelines:

- The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) provides a framework and guidelines on reducing suspected redundant publication.
- The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) clearly defines duplicate publication and established standard for acceptable secondary publication.
- World Association of Medical Editors (WAME)
- In the field of Psychology and social science, the American Psychological Association (APA).
- In the Indian Context, the University Grants Commission (UGC) plays an important role in establishing norms and standard conducting and publishing research. Etc.

4.3. To analyse the status of Redundant Publication.

4.3.1. Redundant Publication status:

“A total of 660 articles were screened. There were 92 index articles (14%) that led to 147 suspected papers in other journals, suggesting potential redundant publication. Twenty (13.6%) of the suspected papers met the criteria for dual publications, 50 (34%) for potentially dual publications, and 77 (52.4%) were considered products of salami-slicing.” (Schein & Paladugu, 2001) “MEDLINE was searched between January 1999 and December 2003 by using the surname and initial(s) of the first author. Potentially redundant articles were identified after similarities in titles and abstracts were analyze”(Arrivé et al., 2008). Analyses journal 2008 to 2012 searched through authors’ names and found “45 articles were identified as salami-sliced, which corresponded to the 39 index articles. Fifteen salami-sliced articles did not reference the corresponding index article, 2 vaguely referenced the index article, and 28 had clear references to the respective index article”(Haworth et al., 2014). Ding et al. (2020) analyzed 209 journals through content analysis; they found “36% included policies on duplicate publication and only 13% included policies on both duplicate and salami publication.” Menon et al. (2022) conducted systematic review in Indian Journal of Psychiatry and the “Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine between 2015 and 2017”, “From 324 index articles screened, a total of 27 articles (8.4%) were identified to have 32 associated redundant publications of the following types: dual ($n = 3$), suspected dual ($n = 2$), salami slicing ($n = 22$), meat extender ($n = 3$), and extended sample publication ($n = 2$).” In Web of Science Index “out of over 18 million articles indexed in the WoS over the 1980-2007 period, they found 4,918 occurrences of duplicate papers published in two different journals”(D’Angelo, 2024). “A query on Scopus reveals an annual average that goes from less than 900 articles in the period 2000-2004, to almost 7,600 in 2018-2022, a growth over five times greater than the increase in the total number of records in Scopus between the two periods”(D’Angelo, 2024). Maupin et al. (2026) conducted a systematic review from 2021 to 2025 and identified 411 redundant publications. Etc.

4.4. To discuss the problem of identifying Redundant Publication.

4.4.1. Problem in Identifying Redundant Publication

Various problems can be identified in detecting redundant publications, such as: (a) Researchers divide a single research work into several smaller parts. Each research paper appears different but is actually derived from the same dataset. This incident makes it difficult to detect Redundant Publication. (b) When a researcher may slightly change the title of a previously published research work, change many words or change the order of the researcher’s name. (c) When researcher Publish same content in journals of different languages and different disciplines. It makes identifying difficult. (d) Researchers do not inform editors of previous submissions or related publications. The usual reason for not doing this is to avoid being perceived as redundant. (e) When researchers reanalyse the same dataset and present it as new research without a proper citation. (f) Several plagiarism detection Tools such as Turnitin and iThenticate, detect text similarity only, but are unable to detect duplication of ideas, data, and methodology. (g) Through AI, some researchers are changing some words, data, methodology, and language easily, which makes it difficult to identify Redundant Publication.

V. DISCUSSION

The redundant publications, such as duplicate publications, overlapping publications, and salami slicing, point out a critical challenge in the field of research, in mentioning the research integrity. Although research is important for the extension of knowledge, the pressure and demand to publish papers continuously have created a condition in which ethical boundaries can be violated. One of the major challenges raised is the fixed requirement to publish minimal research papers. promotion, financial support, and credibility based on the number of publications rather than on authentic, genuine, and quality research publications. This approach may indirectly increase habits such as duplicate publication, salami slicing and overlapping publications. While not always intentionally incorrect, such approaches harm the ethics of invention and intellectual honesty and integrity, which reflect communication in science.

The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors emphasize on transparency, honesty and integrity as necessary to minimize redundant publications. The ICMJE mentions the guidelines under which a second publication could be permitted. Similarly, the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) provides researchers and publishers with logical guidelines on how to find out redundant publications. However, it indicates that the ethical duty does not fall on publishers. Researchers, their supervisors, institutions, and regulatory bodies are all responsible for maintaining research integrity and avoiding redundancy. In India, the University Grants Commission (UGC) maintain research ethics. The rules and regulations tie with academic and professional development, on the basis of research publication, need to be carefully investigated. Therefore, the assessment criteria need to be modified to prioritize quality, impact, and innovation over quantity.

Another main reason for redundant publications is the synthesis of data. In this situation, the need to depend on meta-analyses and systematic reviews. Many cases of redundant publication arise from misunderstandings, compared to intentional redundancy. Well-defined guidelines for publication ethics, including knowledge of self-plagiarism and data fragmentation, can help to prevent redundant publication. A redundant publication is not only an individual ethical failure but also a broad systemic failure happening from the institutions' expectations and academic rule regulation for professional development.

VI. COCLUSION

This article discussed several aspects of redundant publications, such as duplicate Publication, overlapping Publication, and salami slicing. It indicates that while such acts can occur from the expectation of Professional Development, they can weaken the transparency, originality, and integrity in Research Publication. Redundant publications damage the scientific research record, confuse readers, fraudulently boost academic qualifications, and compromise the trustworthiness of findings. Data duplication or fragmentation may bias systematic reviews and policy-making decisions. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain clarity regarding what is permissible for a second publication. The ethical frameworks of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidelines and the Committee on Publication Ethics can provide high standards for researchers and publishers. So need for interaction among researchers, institutions, publishers, and regulatory bodies to avoid redundant publications. In the Indian higher education context, with more publications helping in career promotion under the UGC's rules and regulations, there is an urgent need to prioritise the quality, originality, and ethical integrity of a research paper over Maximum publications. The main aim of research publications is to expand knowledge. To enhance and ensure a quality and responsible research culture, transparency in research needs to be maintained, and a holistic assessment procedure. By prioritising research integrity and quality over maximum numbers of publications, researchers can ensure honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, and effectiveness for expanding knowledge.

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