

## **Academic integrity and quality of research in higher education: Inclination and confrontation for young scholars**

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**Section:** Misconduct and challenges in higher education

**Abstract:**

The study aimed to explore the experiences of young scholars about the quality of the research and academic integrity. The purpose of the study was to identify the scholars' perceptions and practices about research and publication in the field of social sciences and its impact on quality of work. By using qualitative research design, case studies of ten international postgraduate students and natives of different countries but enrolled in different universities in Malaysia were selected by adopting convenient sampling technique. In-depth interviews with the respondents were conducted to collect the relevant information which was described by using thematic analysis technique. The findings of the study indicate that to fulfil the escalating needs and demands of publication in higher education, research is becoming more challenging with respect to its novelty. The research scholars faced various issues relating to quality and progression. Particularly, the demands for a high quantity of research publications often endangers the quality matters in the research. Also, many fake publication sources endanger the future of young scholars to get their degrees on time as well as challenging to meet the criteria for their promotions in academia. The study concluded that even though research is the necessity in academic world, the focus on the quantity only is diminishing the excellence in research which is also a matter of the academic integrity. The study recommended to promote academic integrity in higher education institutions in producing innovative and novel research publications for academic progress.

**Keywords:** Academic integrity, higher education, quality of research.