



Decoding
AuthorshiPraxis



Sangath

Decoding Authorship Ethics

*Insights from a
Qualitative Study in India*

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<https://www.sangath.in/projects/authorshippraxis>

Disclaimer

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About me



Salik Ansari
(he/him)

I am an early-career professional with a keen interest in biomedical ethics. My current projects focus on the ethics of authorship and issues related to ageing.

Introduction - 1

1. Fair crediting of authorship is directly linked to recognition of work contributions, respect and justice.
2. Authorship Impacts Recruitment, Promotion, and Tenure ship
3. Core component of responsible conduct of research
4. Prevalence of Inappropriate Authorship Practices across different Settings

Introduction – II

1. Both anecdotal and systematic evidence points towards issues in authorship practices.
2. Bansal (2022) in a survey found that around one-third of the respondents reported some conflict with their guide and over half confessed having given gift authorship in Delhi
3. An online survey of Indian biomedical journals by Shah et al. (2018) found a 60% prevalence of gift authorship.
4. Similarly, Dhingra and Mishra (2014) reported a 65% prevalence among biomedical researchers across various settings

Introduction - III

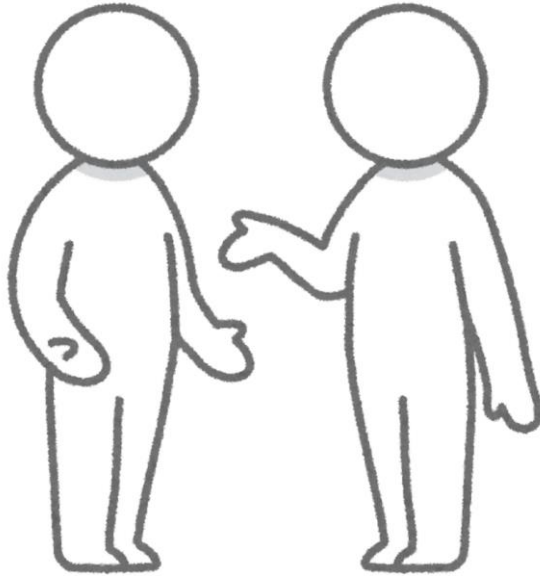


- Unpack the nuances and complexities of authorship
- Move beyond knowledge levels and normative standards
- Humanize the discourse: explore experiences of fear, pressure, and stress in authorship
- Our project – *Decoding AuthorshiPraxis*

Methods – I

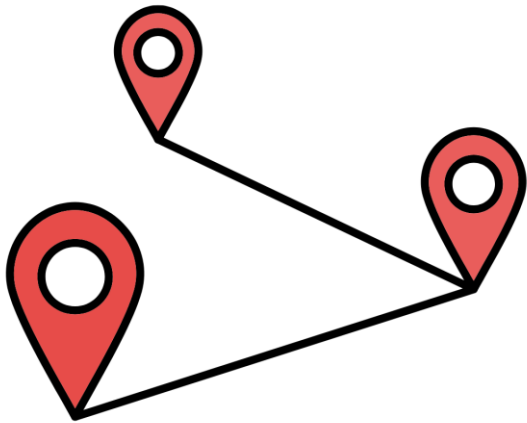
1. Qualitative study using in-depth interviews
2. Approx. 15-10 researchers working in biomedical and health sciences in India
3. Journal Editors, PhD guides and People with Dean/Director level ranks at research institutes.
4. Virtual interviews (over Zoom), recorded, transcribed, coded and analyzed for themes

Results - I



- (a) (Lack of) Early conversations around authorship: no open conversation, organization's culture, mentor deciding on student's behalf
- (b) Challenges for ECRs: Validation, compromises, keeping folks happy
- (c) Systemic issues: pressure, mixing of the personal and professional, hierarchies, systemic exclusions

Results – II



- (d) Navigating disputes: asking a faculty member/senior colleague, learning with time, leaving it to experts
- (e) Sources of support: guidance from mentor, role of senior researchers, encouraging atmosphere
- (f) Unique solutions: using contribution list, having platforms to report grievances, creating *feminist* caring spaces

Discussions and Implications – I

- Organizational culture and mentors/PIs greatly influence authorship practices
- Researchers may rely on peers for guidance in authorship dilemmas rather than formal guidelines
- Systemic issues exacerbates the problem
- Consider authorship for team members who join late or leave early.
- Acknowledging other dissemination methods (e.g., public outreach) alongside academic publications

Discussions and Implications – II

- Prioritize quality of contributions over quantity of publications
- See contribution levels for authorship as equitable, instead of equal – meet people where they are
- Importance of reporting mechanisms and protecting those who report

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(he/him)

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- Organizing team – FERCAP



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