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WITHDRAWN: Comparative Analysis of Ground Water Potentiality Zone using Fuzzy-AHP and Frequency Ratio Techniques

Deepjyoti Bora

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This article has been withdrawn due to the reported author's misconduct. The Ethical Committee of Cotton University, Guwahati investigated the misconduct and found that the manuscript was originally submitted by Ms. Parimita Saikia & Professor Bijoy Singh Mipun to a conference (44th Annual Meet and International Conference of the Institute of Indian Geographers) organized by Cotton University, Guwahati, India. Mr. Deepjyoti Bora was a master's degree student at the same university and a volunteer at the conference, as a result, he got access to the conference submissions and misused it by posting this manuscript under his own authorship.

The detailed investigation reports are available on the next pages.

How to Cite:

Kindly do not cite this preprint, its already withdrawn.



COTTON UNIVERSITY

Panbazar, Guwahati-781001, Assam

Research and Development Cell

Governed by

Research Advisory Council, Cotton University

Committee 5: IPR, Legal and Ethical matters

REPORT ON THE ETHICAL MISCONDUCT INVESTIGATION

Involving the original authorship of a manuscript submitted to the 44th Annual Meet and International Conference of the Institute of Indian Geographers organized by Cotton University from 22-24 January 2024.

Matter: A manuscript received by the aforementioned conference has been allegedly stolen by a student named Mr. Deepjyoti Bora, who is affiliated with Cotton University. This manuscript, originally authored by Ms. Parimita Saikia & Professor Bijoy Singh Mipun from Royal Global University, Guwahati, was reportedly copied in its entirety and posted under Mr. Bora's name on the AIJR Preprints server.

The Committee on "IPR, Legal and Ethical matters" under the Research and Development Cell, Cotton University has undergone a thorough investigation into the alleged incident mentioned in the matter cited above. The relevant parties were interviewed to determine the extent of Mr. Deepjyoti Bora's involvement in the unauthorized use of the manuscript. After the completion of the investigation, the report of the Committee on "IPR, Legal & Ethical matters" is as follows:

- i. A letter of Confirmation from Prof. Kalyan Das, Convener of the Conference Committee with a subject "**Statement regarding fraudulent action of one PG student of Department of Geography**" dated 16.02.2024, regarding the original authorship of the manuscript submitted to the conference in question has been attached herewith.
- ii. Mr. Deepjyoti Bora, the alleged author was given the opportunity to provide an explanation regarding the allegations of unauthorized use of the manuscript, in the Ethical Committee meeting conducted on 13th Feb, 2024. He has given a **confession letter** to the convener of this committee, clarifying his involvement in the submission and posting of the manuscript on the AIJR Preprints server. This letter is attached herewith.

Following are the institutional steps to prevent future cases:

- a) Cotton University has a robust policy for sensitizing its students, scholars and academic staff with the standard policies of research and publication ethics.



- b) Research Scholars of the institute goes through a UGC mandated compulsory PhD coursework paper entitled "Research and Publication Ethics".
- c) Students of the university are given opportunities to enhance their ethical and IPR concerns via various hands-on workshops. There are curricula accredited papers on Research Methodology in every PG program of the university. Moreover, there are Skill Enhancement Courses too for the students at UG and PG level.
- d) Regular training on IPR and Plagiarism detection is conducted from the central library for the academic staff of the university.
- e) University has access to similarity detections software "Drillbit" and all the thesis of the University goes through a similarity check before submission. Theses are also uploaded to the public domain of Shodhganga.
- f) Moreover, in light of the current incident, there has been a policy being in formulation illuminating guidelines and standard operating procedure for the volunteers of various events of the university.

Concluding Remarks:

After conducting the investigation, the committee finds that Mr. Deepjyoti Bora is not the original authors of the article concerned, and he is found guilty of the ethical misconduct. The original authors are Ms Parimita Saikia & Professor Bijoy Singh Mipun from Royal Global University. Therefore, the committee requests AJR Preprints to remove the uploaded article at the earliest. The committee finds that already there are appropriate measures and initiatives taken by various stakeholders of the University for preventing such research misconduct practices in the institution. This is observed to be one of the unfortunate events of this kind that has occurred for the first time in the university.

Party members

1. Prof. Kalyan Das, Convener
The 44th Annual Meet and International Conference
Department of Geography, Cotton University

Signature

Kalyan Das
23.02.2024



2. Mr. Deepjyoti Bora, student
PG II Semester
Department of Geography, Cotton University
3. Prof. Barnali Gogoi, Convener
RAC and Chairperson of the Committee
IPR, Legal and Ethical matters
(Research and Development Cell)
Cotton University
4. Dr. Purabi Deka Bose,
Convener of the Committee on
IPR, Legal and Ethical matters
(Research and Development Cell)
Cotton University
5. Dr Smita Sarmah
Member of the Committee on
IPR, Legal and Ethical matters
(Research and Development Cell)
Cotton University
6. Dr Deepjyoti Kalita
Member of the Committee on
IPR, Legal and Ethical matters
(Research and Development Cell).
Cotton University

Deepjyoti Bora

*BGogoi
23/2/24*

P. Deka Bose

Smita Sarmah

Deepjyoti Kalita





The 44th Meet of Institute of Indian Geographer
and International Conference

Organised by the Department of Geography, Cotton University
22-24, January 2024



Date: 16.02.2024

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Vice Chancellor, Cotton University
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Mr. Deepjyoti Bhattacharjya

No.

To
Dr. Purabi Deka Bose,
Convenor
Committee for IPR, Legal and Ethical Matters
Cotton University

Subject: Statement regarding fraudulent action of one PG student of Department of Geography

Madam,

Kindly find herewith the statement regarding the incidence of publication of a paper by a student of PG II semester, Department of Geography, Cotton University. The paper was written and submitted by one of the participants of the recently concluded IIG Conference at Cotton University.

The Department of Geography, Cotton University had organised the 44th Annual Meet of Institute of Indian Geographers' and International Conference during January 22-24, 2024, at Cotton University. On the request of the department of Geography, Cotton University had created a dedicated e-mail iigconference@cottonuniversity.ac.in, for all communications, including to receive abstracts and full paper, and registration related matters.

The department on February 6, 2024 had received a complaint with evidence from Ms Parimita Saikia, one of the participants of the Conference on publication of her paper "Comparative Analysis of Ground Water Potentiality Zone using Fuzzy-AHP and Frequency Ratio Techniques" submitted with the co-author Professor B S Mipun, for the Conference, by Deepjyoti Bora, one PG II semester student of the Department of Geography Cotton University in the pre-print version of AIJR pre-prints on February 1, 2024.

It was evident, and later interrogation, the student Deepjyoti Bora has confessed that he had downloaded the paper from the conference e-mail id and submitted it to the journal in his name. The full paper was published within a day after submission in the name of Deepjyoti Bora.

Deepjyoti Bora was entrusted with the duty of volunteering at the registration desk of the conference and the organisers had shared the id of the conference e-mail to check the registration details. Deepjyoti Bora was a member of the Volunteer

Convenor
The 44th IIG Annual Meet
and International Conference
Dept. of Geography
Cotton University, Guwahati



Committee of the Conference and later the Convener of the Registration Committee of the Conference availed his service for the registration desk and the Convener of the Conference shared the password of the e-mail to check the registration payments details. The committee had also shared the password with the student members namely Dibyajyoti Deka, PhD. students – Ms. Rudrakshi Gogoi, Joyceta Tamuli and Ms. Rani Kumari Shah to accomplish the task in a coordinated way.

It thus has appeared that Mr. Deepjyoti Bora breached the trust entrusted upon and downloaded some of the papers submitted for the conference with malicious intention.

Sincerely

Kalyan Das

Kalyan Das
Convener
The 44th IIG Meet and International Conference,

Convener
The 44th IIG Annual Meet
and International Conference
Dept. of Geography
Cotton University, Guwahati

To,

The Convener

The Committee on IPR, Legal and Ethical Matters

(A sub-committee under the Research and Development Cell)

Cotton University

Subject: Confession Letter

Dear Madam,

I hereby confess that I downloaded a few research papers which were sent to the official email id of the 44th IIG Annual Meet and International Conference by the participants of the Conference. I downloaded a paper authored by Ms. Parimita Saikia and Prof. B. S. Mipun submitted to the Conference and I sent that paper for publication to AIJR Publisher in my name. I am no way involved in the original research work and writing process of this paper.

I was entrusted with the duty of volunteering at the registration desk of the Conference and the Convener of the Registration Committee had shared the id and password of the Conference e-mail to check the registration details. Later, I logged in to the conference account breaching the trust entrusted upon and downloaded some of the papers submitted for the conference. I confess that it was my fault that I did not keep the confidence entrusted upon me by the conference committee and downloaded the papers with a motive for personal gain.

I take the whole responsibility of the act and want to inform that the Conference Committee had no role in this unfortunate act.

I feel extremely sorry for my actions and want to assure that this is not going to be repeated in the future.

Yours sincerely

Deepjyoti Bora

(Deepjyoti Bora)

PG 2nd Semester

Department of Geography

Cotton University

Copy to

1. Convener, 44th IIG Annual Meet and International Conference