

# POLICIES

## 1. Ethical Policy

The *International Journal of Social and Multidisciplinary Research (IJSMR)* is committed to maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity and publication ethics.

- Authors must ensure that their work is **original** and not under consideration elsewhere.
- **Plagiarism, data fabrication, falsification, and duplicate submissions** are strictly prohibited.
- All manuscripts undergo a **double-blind peer review process**.
- Authors, reviewers, and editors must disclose any **conflict of interest**.
- In case of any serious errors or ethical concerns in a published article, **corrections, clarifications, or retractions** will be issued as appropriate.

## 2. Peer Review Policy

All manuscripts submitted to *IJSMR* undergo a rigorous **double-blind peer review process**.

- Each submission is first screened by the Editor for scope, quality, and adherence to guidelines.
- Suitable manuscripts are sent to at least **two independent reviewers**.
- The **identity of authors and reviewers remains anonymous** to ensure fairness.
- Reviewers evaluate manuscripts based on **originality, research quality, methodology, relevance, and proper citation of sources**.
- Authors may be asked to **revise and resubmit** their manuscripts in response to reviewer comments.
- The **Editor-in-Chief** makes the final decision on acceptance or rejection after considering reviewers' recommendations.

## 3. Copyright & Open Access Statement

- All articles published in *IJSMR* are under **Open Access terms**.
- Authors **retain copyright** of their work while granting IJSMR the right to publish it.
- Articles are published under the **Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0)**.
- This license allows others to **read, download, share, and adapt** the work, provided proper attribution is given to the original author(s) and the source.
- There are **no subscription or access fees**; all published content is freely available to readers worldwide.