University of Bamberg

Integrity in Research Practice: Perception of undergraduate students in Rwandan universities
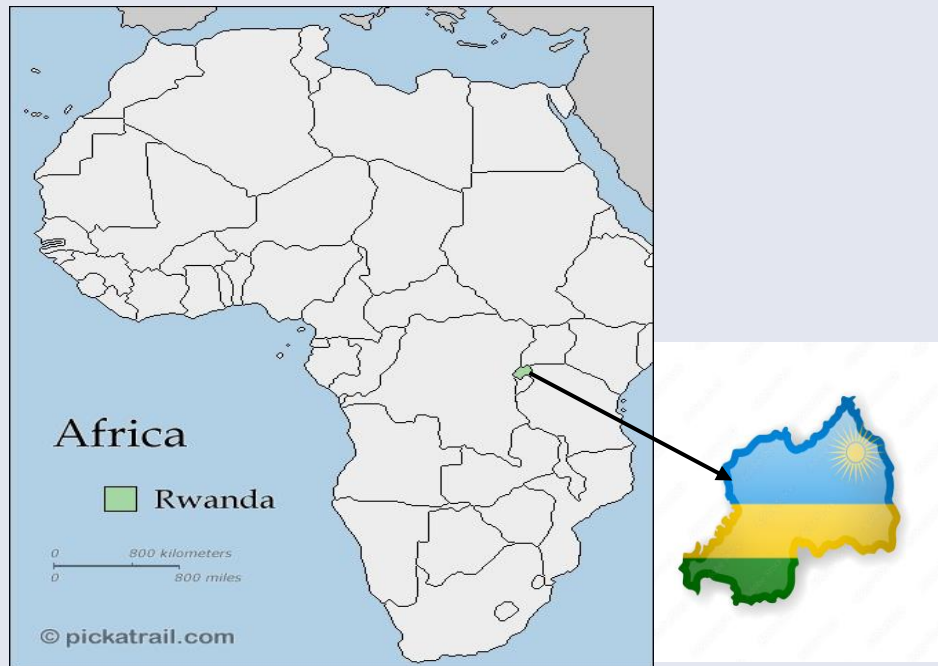
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DAAD

Overview

- Context and problem

- Research questions

- Methodology

- Findings

- Discussion

- Implications

Context and problem

Source: blob:https://www.pinterest.com

Location of Rwanda on the African Map

Size: 26,336Km²
Pop: 14.4 millions

Context and Problem

- Research as a generator of new knowledge is useful to the society (Hessels & van Lente, 2008)

- Research integrity: a set of moral and standards for research activities (Zhaksylyk, Zimba, Yessirkepov, & Kocyigit, 2023)

- Education fosters integrity in research practice (Labib, et al., 2022)

- Gap in Research integrity in early research training (Krásničan, Gaižauskaitė, Bülow, Dlabolova, & Bjelobaba, 2024, p. 157)

- Graduates with insufficient research skills to engineer appropriate responses to the current challenges (Benneworth & Fitjar, 2019, p. 336; Mutamba & Nsavyimana, 2019).

- Research ethics as an issue in the students projects (Kjellström, Ross, & B., 2010)

Research question

Perceptions of undergraduate students about their preparation for research and related experiences

What is the perception of undergraduate students about the respect of research ethical values in their research projects?

Methodology and methods

- Exploratory within Qualitative research approach (Savin-Baden & Major, 2013)
- Target group: undergraduate students in HLIs in Rwanda
- Data collection: semi- structured interviews
- Sampling strategy: Theoretical sampling (Coyne, 1997).

  (21 interviewees reached saturation)

- Analysis : Qualitative content analysis (Green, et al., 2007; Krippendorff, 1989)
  - Transcription and translation of Interviews from Kinyarwanda to English
  - Coding: Deduction-induction iterative process (using MAXQDA)
  - Generalization by Abduction process
- ➢ Ethical consideration
  - Integrity, freedom of participate, anonymization (Cheron, Salvagni, & Colomby, 2022; Pietilä, Anna-Maija, Halkoaho, & Kyngäs, 2020)

Results

Criteria

Evidence based		
Writing trust		
Objective		

Ideal-types of researchers

Types Criteria	Confidential researcher	Dishonest researcher
Evidence based		
Writing trust		
Objective		

Ideal-types of researchers

Types Criteria	Confidential researcher	
Evidence based	Collected data, Analyzed data	
Writing trust	Honesty, valuing others right, no plagiarism	
Objective	Knowledge discovery oriented	

Example of citation from confidential researcher ideal type:

"....how the research was done I often used the results from other research. You know, I didn't include only my research ideas, you have to make references based on what you read, maybe you try to put in your words some of what you read, avoid plagiarism or copy other's work and paste" (Mango: 199-202)

➢ **Honesty in writing without plagiarism**

Ideal-types of researchers

Types		Dishonest researcher
Criteria		
Evidence based		Cooked data, stolen data, copy pasted information, work given
Writing trust		Fabrication of data, Falsification of data , plagiarism, hiring a writer on behalf
Objective		Certification compliance oriented

Example of citation from dishonest researcher ideal type:

"It is the way a person mostly who is unable to write the dissertation oneself (huu), or a person with laziness (huu) of not willing to work, finds another person who seems to know how to write dissertations, he/she negotiate a certain amount of money to pay (huu) and then write for him/her" (Kokum: 208-212)

➢ **Work is given by the hired person to write**

Ideal-types of researchers

Types Criteria	Confidential researcher	Dishonest researcher
Evidence based	Collected data, Analyzed data	Cooked data, stolen data, copy pasted information
Writing trust	Honesty, valuing others right, no plagiarism	Fabrication of data, Falsification of data , plagiarism, hiring a writer on behalf
Objective	Knowledge discovery oriented	Certification compliance oriented

Discussion

- Research integrity is a fundamental principal in the conduct of science (Diaba-Nuhoho & Amponsah-Ofeh, 2021).

- Research Integrity shapes the trustworthy of the science – genuine innovation and discovery for the community (Dove, 2024, p. 137; Magalhães, 2024; Krásničan, Gaižauskaitė, Bülow, Dlabolova, & Bjelobaba, 2024, p. 157).

- Research misconduct with questionable practices including Plagiarism and Falsification destroy the development of Science (Bolland, Avenell, & Grey, 2024)

- Research integrity training and practice for junior researchers is still problematic (Katsarov, Andorno, Krom, & van den Hoven, 2022; Singh & Mendy, 2019; Grinnell, 2013)

Implications

- ## For further research

  - Quantitative research is needed to get distribution of the types that immerged with respect of research integrity

- ## For practice

  - To lecturers of HLIs: rethink how research integrity is integrated into students' education

  - To HEC: Strengthen research integrity policies at universities (especially in Rwanda)

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Thank you very much!!!!

Ευχαριστώ πολύ!!!!