



UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

**SPEECH BY PROF. DANIEL MUGENDI NJIRU,
VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF EMBU
DURING**

**THE SIXTH POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS
WORKSHOP ON PUBLISHING
IN CHARTER HALL**

**ON
THURSDAY, 27TH MAY 2021**

AT 8.00 A.M.



**ISO 27001:2013
Certified**

Knowledge Transforms



**ISO 9001:2015
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- Members of University Management Board
- Facilitators and Resource Persons
- Deans, Directors and Chairmen of Departments
- Academic staff
- Postgraduate students
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning,

It is with great pleasure that I join you this morning for the Sixth Postgraduate Students Publishing Workshop. This workshop brings together about 130 postgraduate students from the University of Embu.

I take this opportunity to thank each one of you for attending and more importantly, the Director BPS and the University Librarian for organizing this workshop. I appreciate the willingness of Prof Romano Mwirichia, Dr Julius Mugweru, Dr Daniel Nthiwa, Dr Hellen Njura, Mr James Njue and Prof Nancy Budambula to facilitate



this workshop. Thank you for supporting postgraduate studies at the University of Embu.

I wish to draw your attention to four (4) items.

1. Avoid plagiarism

Plagiarism is academic fraud that devalues research in universities and graduate employability. I therefore urge you to avoid plagiarism at all costs. Turnitin is the official plagiarism detection tool of the University of Embu. Please note that the acceptable maximum similarity level for all student works remains 15%. Endeavour to make it less than 15%.

Work closely with your supervisors and learn how to check your own work. The University has already trained your supervisors on how to use Turnitin. In the event you have challenges in using or interpreting the output from Turnitin, please feel free to consult the Library staff.



2. Attendance of postgraduate trainings

The different postgraduate trainings organized in the University, are intended to build your research capacity and improve your student experience. I note with concern that some students habitually fail to attend these trainings. Please note that you are required to attend these trainings. Director BPS please let me have the names of those students who are not in today's training for action by my office.

3. Use of Electronic Resources

In addition to hardcopy books, the University has paid for 39 information databases through the Kenya Library and Information Science Consortium. There are other additional 35 open-access databases. The University Library has also subscribed to the Remote-X platform which allows for off-campus access to these electronic resources.



Out of the 39 databases, 26 of the subscribed resources have actively been used. Springer, Taylor and Francis, Wiley and Sage are the most accessed databases. From the statistics, the usage has improved from 34.5% in 2019 to 66.7% in 2021. However, I would like to see maximum utilization of all the databases especially by postgraduate students.

4. Publications by Postgraduate students

a) Publication requirements

At the University of Embu, a master's student is required to publish at least one paper before the degree is awarded. The PhD student is required to publish at least two papers before award of the degree. All the papers published by postgraduate students shall be in refereed journals from reputable publishers indexed in Scimago. This means that your research work must translate to meaningful research output.



Publication of one paper by a master's student and two papers by a PhD student is the bare minimum. A good master's thesis should yield two papers while a good PhD thesis should yield at least four papers. This is determined by having smart objectives. I urge you to aim high and go beyond fulfilling the minimum requirements.

b) Excellence in research and publications

Globally, universities are expected to be centres of excellence in training and research. Webometric ranking of universities is done globally twice in a year. As postgraduate students, you are expected to contribute to the **excellence** criteria in the ranking by publishing in high impact journals. Currently webometric ranking is based on journals indexed in Scimago.

c) Recommended indexing body

With effect from 1st March 2021, only papers indexed in Scimago are being accepted from postgraduate students



at the University of Embu. At the moment, there are 32,954 journals indexed in Scimago. The Scimago database has journals in all areas of knowledge including business and education.

In the last few weeks, the Director BPS has given guidance on how to search for a journal in Scimago. The Director has also guided you on how to differentiate a journal that is currently indexed from one that was once indexed, but is no longer indexed in Scimago. I urge you to pay attention to these details to avoid frustration. It is also important that you work closely with your supervisors in the publishing process.

Going forward, the University will not entertain any student who feigns ignorance on this matter.

d) Publishing papers and writing the thesis

For timely completion of your studies, you will need to adopt an effective strategy since it takes 6 to 12 months



to publish in most of the good journals. Immediately you have some data that can be analyzed, start writing your first paper. Focus on publishing your findings, objective by objective. Once the minimum requirements of one paper for masters and two papers for PhD are met, you can focus on writing your thesis or project report. The other papers can be written as the thesis examination process continues. Many students lose time by first writing the thesis before starting on the publications. Director BPS, please expound on this aspect during this workshop.

e) Progress in publishing

Despite the challenges, the University has made good progress in publishing by postgraduate students since the last workshop held in 2019. In the last one year, a number of postgraduate students published their research findings in high impact journals by reputable publishers such as Elsevier, MDPI, PloS and Springer. In



particular, I commend the master's students who published in high impact journals for this effort.

In conclusion, I urge all participants to pay attention and attend the whole workshop. The University expects continuous improvement in original research and quality publications from all areas of knowledge. Today's workshop will enlighten you on how to prepare your manuscript and navigate the peer review process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish you a very fruitful time and I hope that you will benefit immensely from this training.

It is now my pleasure to declare the sixth publishing training for postgraduate students officially opened.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru, Ph.D
VICE-CHANCELLOR

