

# **The Pursuit of Research Integrity - An Evaluation**

**O-018**

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◆ How bad behaviours could be provoked in young research minds/ prospective research fellows and ultimately influence on moral codes?

◆ Imprinting of optimal misbehaviour

“everybody does it”

- To highlight the subtle characteristics that encroach on integrity in research.
- To assess how inappropriate circumstances influence the graduate students' psyche and subsequent activities

Objective

# Methods

Setting	Participants demography	Participants size	Proposed rewards
1	Dental interns from parent school	10 (9+1 actor)	Co-authorship
2	Dental interns from parent school	10 (9+1 actor)	Co-authorship plus economic incentive
3	Dental interns from parent school & other school	10 (9+1 actor)	Co-authorship
4	Dental interns & investigator from parent school	11 (10+1 actor)	Co-authorship

## Materials provided to the participants:

- 1.A sheet of pain VAS scores (baseline and after 6 hours) of 26 patients(jumbled) from a drug trial
- 2.Pencil, sharpener and eraser
- 3.A leaflet mentioning the nature of participant's involvement

## Nature of the Actor

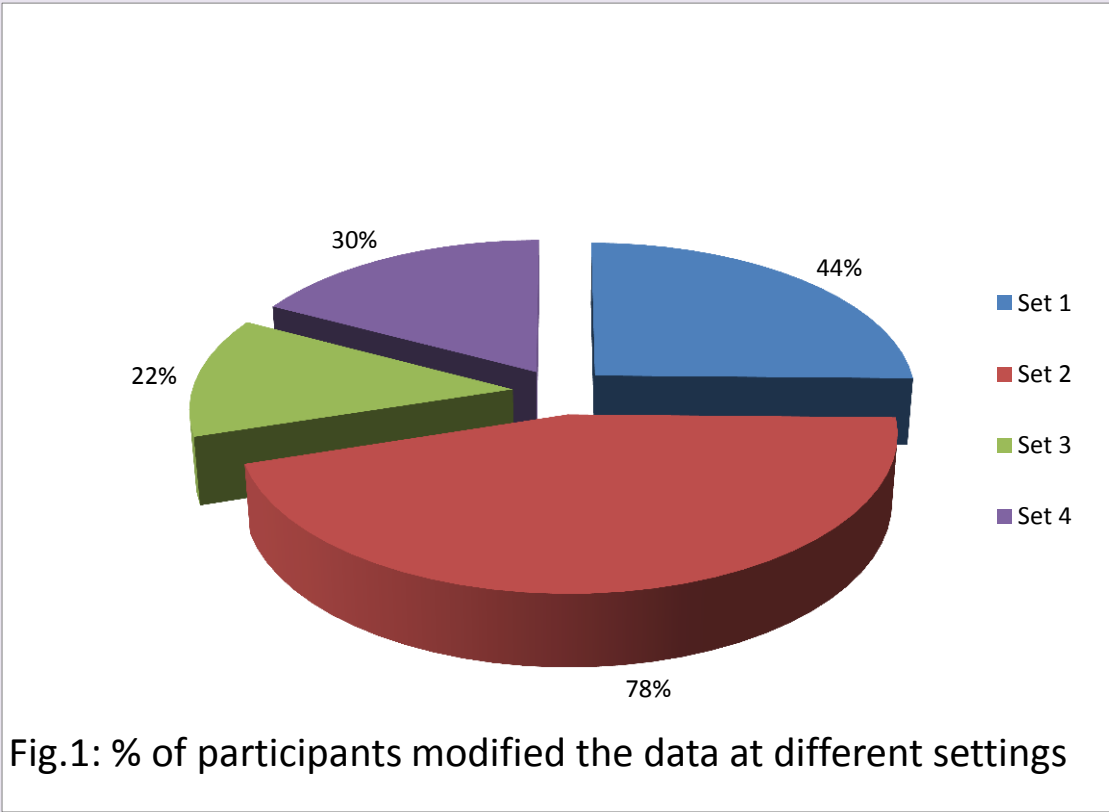
- Setting 1 one amongst the peers of the same school
- Setting 2 one amongst the peers of the same school
- Setting 3 Actor from parent school , but rest 9 participants were from another school
- Setting 4 Actor was the investigator himself and 10 participants were from same parent school

## Role of the Actor

Exhibit misconduct openly

# Results

Setting	Total Participants	No.of. Participants did misconduct	% of participants misconduct
1	9	4	44%
2	9	7	78%
3	9	2	22%
4	10	3	30%



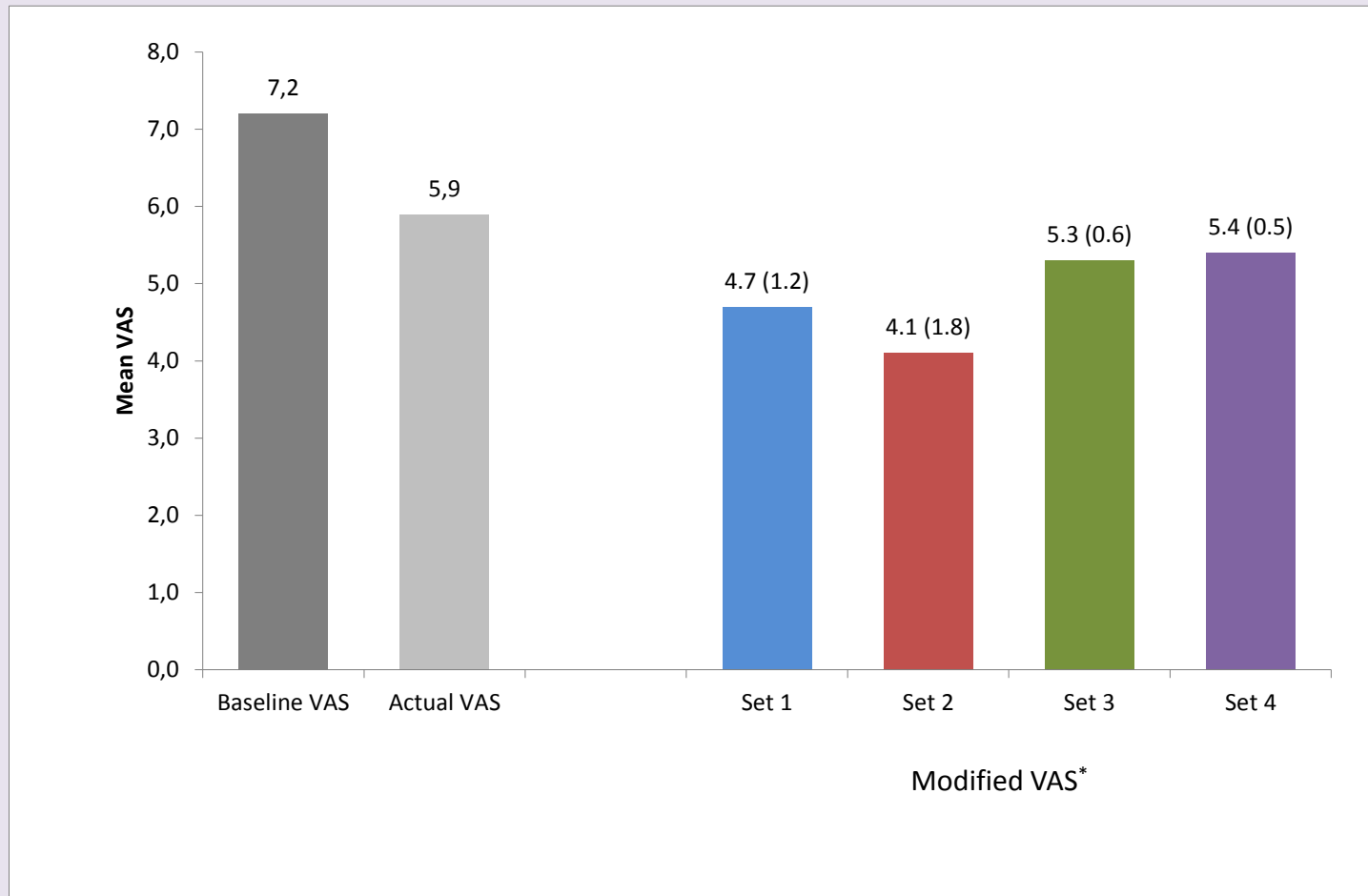
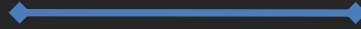


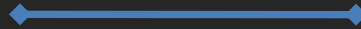
Fig.2: Modified VAS at different settings



# Lesson 1



Circumstances play a major role



- 1 presence of reward
- 2 Presence of additional economic incentive
- 3 Group heterogeneity
- 4 Leadership malpractice



## Lesson 2

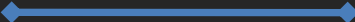


People see each other behaving

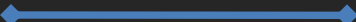


In fact, every day when we open the news we see examples of people doing wrong things. What does this cause us?

## Lesson 3



The glorious trap of  
instant gratification



- Is there 'righteousness' in the heart?
- Publish or perish
- Research has large social implications
- The scenario of financial gains before moral obligations

Research  
integrity  
conundrums

The ultimate responsibility  
for good research practice  
lies with **individual**  
researchers.

However, such practice can  
only flourish in a favorable  
environment

**S h a p i n g**  
t o m o r r o w ' s  
research integrity

# Limitations

- Small sample size with no controls and less robust study model
- Probability of getting caught was not assessed

So what's the status of cost-benefit analysis?

# Conclusion

Though not an ideal social experiment, the assessment highlights certain variables for research integrity

- Young students were prone for misconduct when they witnessed malpractices happening around them and more so when money was involved.
- An element of honesty noted if the misconduct happened out of the group



# Satya Yug

(Golden Era)



# Kali Yug

(Present)

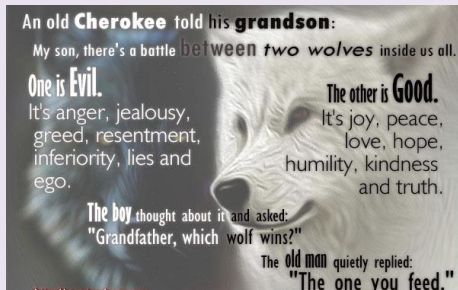


# Treta Yug

(Ramayana)

# Dvapara Yug

(Mahabharata)





*Have a nice  
day...*

