



Fighting Predatory Journals: A Strategic Solution for the Quality and Sustainability of Scientific Publications in Indonesia

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Abstract: The phenomenon of predatory journals seriously threatens the academic ecosystem, especially in Indonesia, where the pressure to "publish or perish" and low academic literacy exacerbate the situation. Predatory journals offer a fast publication process without adequate peer review, thereby lowering the quality of research, hurting the reputation of academics and institutions, and spreading invalid information. Although many global studies have addressed this issue, there are research gaps related to the Indonesian context, especially strategic solutions that consider regulation, literacy, and management of scientific journals. **This research aims to** identify the impact of predatory journals, outline the challenges for academics and journal managers, and offer strategic solutions based on Agency and Knowledge-Based Theory. **The research method** used is descriptive-analytical with a qualitative approach based on secondary data from scientific literature. **The results** show that the main challenges are low academic literacy, pressure to publish, limited access to reputable journals, and financial exploitation. Strategic solutions include education through programs such as "Think, Check, Submit." Strengthening regulations, using technology to detect predatory journals, and national and international collaboration. The role of journal managers is vital in maintaining the quality of publications through editorial transparency, certification, technological innovation, and the development of the reviewer community. **The implications of** this study emphasize the importance of collaboration and academic literacy in creating a healthy academic ecosystem. **The novelty** research lies in integrating Agency and Knowledge-Based theories in the context of predatory journals in Indonesia, offering relevant and applicable strategic solutions to support the sustainability of high-quality scientific publications.

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INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, scientific publications have become one of individuals and institutions' leading indicators of academic success (Collyer, 2016; Larivière et al., 2015). In Indonesia, the demand for "publish or perish" is increasing in line with regulations requiring publication for graduation, promotion, and academic recognition (Gaus et al., 2021). Unfortunately, this phenomenon not only encourages an increase in the quantity of publications but also raises a significant challenge to the existence of predatory journals (Xia et al., 2014). Predatory journals refer to publishing entities operating without ethical standards and academic quality (Cobey et al., 2019). They attract writers by offering a fast publishing process, often at a high cost but without adequate peer review (Richtig et al., 2018). As a result, published works often cannot be accounted for regarding their validity and contribution to science. This phenomenon not only harms the author but also harms the reputation of the institution concerned and creates the illusion of academic achievement that is not quality-based. In addition, predatory journals damage the academic ecosystem by polluting the scientific literature (Beall, 2015). Published information is often invalid, thus risking spreading misinformation to readers and other researchers. This phenomenon is increasingly prevalent in Indonesia, where academic literacy about reputable journal standards is still relatively low, and supervision of scientific publications is not optimal. With the development of technology and the accessibility of online publishing, predatory journals have more room to attract less vigilant academics.

Indonesia has one of the fastest growth rates of scientific publications in Asia. Based on data from the Garuda Portal and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), the number of registered online scientific journals reaches thousands (Nguyen & Pham, 2011). However, not all these journals meet international standards; some are classified as predatory journals. Some of these journals take advantage of the need for academics to publish works at an affordable cost and a fast process without paying enough attention to the quality and integrity of the publication. This phenomenon is also influenced by regulatory pressure requiring students and lecturers to publish articles for academic assessment. In many cases, academics' ignorance of the characteristics of predatory journals becomes a loophole that predatory publishers take advantage of (Cobey et al., 2019; Mertkan et al., 2021; Richtig et al., 2018). As a result, many studies with the potential for significant impacts become incredible because they are published in journals that do not meet academic standards. Although many studies have addressed the impact of predator journals globally, specific research on their impact in Indonesia is still limited. This gap lies in the lack of in-depth analysis of the factors driving the growth of predatory journals in Indonesia and contextual strategic solutions. In addition, existing prevention efforts tend to focus on the education of individual academics. At the same time, systemic aspects such as regulation, strengthening the infrastructure of reputable journals, and international collaboration have not received adequate attention. In this context, a holistic approach is needed to create a healthy academic ecosystem with integrity.

Furthermore, discussing predatory journals is very important to maintain academic integrity and the quality of scientific publications in Indonesia. By understanding the phenomena, backgrounds, and challenges and applying relevant theories such as Agency Theory and Knowledge-Based Theory, we can identify strategic solutions to create a healthy and integrity academic ecosystem. Education, strengthening regulations, and collaboration of various parties are crucial first steps in preventing and overcoming the

phenomenon of predatory journals. Referring to this phenomenon, the formulation of the problem in this article includes the following:

- How the phenomenon of predatory journals affects the quality of research in Indonesia
- What are the challenges faced in preventing the predatory journal phenomenon?
- What are the strategic solutions and preventive measures to overcome predatory journals?
- What is the role of scientific journal managers in maintaining the quality of publications?

Therefore, referring to the formulation of the problem mentioned above, the purpose of this article includes the following:

- Identify and analyze predatory journals' negative impact on Indonesia's academic ecosystem.
- Outline the challenges academics and journal managers face in dealing with this phenomenon.
- Provide strategic solutions to prevent predatory journals, including through education, strengthening regulations, and improving journal standards.
- Provide practical recommendations for scientific journal managers to improve the quality and integrity of publications.

This article makes an important contribution to the academic literature by integrating the theories of Agency Theory and Knowledge-Based Theory in the context of the predatory journal phenomenon. From the perspective of Agency Theory, this article examines how regulatory pressures, such as the obligation to publish as a condition for promotion and graduation, create complex principal-agent relationships between academics, institutions, and journal publishers. This regulation can encourage predatory publishers to engage in opportunistic behavior by taking advantage of the needs of academics to meet publication targets. Thus, this article expands on the application of the theory in the academic ecosystem in Indonesia. In addition, the practical implications of this strategy are to emphasize the importance of improving academic literacy about the characteristics of predatory journals and reputable journal standards through training programs, workshops, and technology-based learning modules. Furthermore, this article focuses on the important role of journal managers in maintaining quality and integrity and the sustainability of scientific publications.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The phenomenon of predatory journals has become a crucial issue in the academic world, especially in Indonesia, where the pressure to publish scientific articles is increasing. This literature review will use Agency Theory and Knowledge-Based Theory to provide a relevant theoretical perspective in understanding and addressing the challenges associated with predatory journals. These two theories are relevant because they can explain the mechanism of relationships between actors in the academic ecosystem and the role of knowledge in improving the quality of journal management.

Agency Theory highlights the relationship dynamics between principals (e.g., academic or government institutions) and agents (journal managers or researchers) with different goals (Gómez-Mejía et al., 2005; Mahroji et al., 2024). In the context of predatory journals, this theory is relevant to explain:

- Abuse of Trust: Predatory journal managers often prioritize financial gain over academic contributions, which is a form of failure of the principal-agent relationship

(Cobey et al., 2018; Yeo-Teh & Tang, 2021). They offer a fast publication process without adequate peer review, leading to the publication of low-quality scientific papers.

- **Lack of Control Mechanisms:** The principal's absence of adequate oversight mechanisms allows predatory journals to operate (Shrestha, 2021). This includes weak regulations and a lack of audits to ensure transparency in the issuance process
- **Prevention Strategy:** Increase journal managers' accountability by implementing international standards such as SCOPUS or DOAJ, requiring cost transparency and peer-review that third parties can audit (Cortegiani et al., 2020).
- **Reputational Impact:** Researchers who publish in predatory journals risk losing credibility, while academic institutions that support such activities will suffer from a bad reputation (Shen & Björk, 2015).

In addition, knowledge-based theory emphasizes the importance of knowledge as a strategic resource that can improve the quality of scientific journal management. In the context of predatory journals, this theory is relevant for:

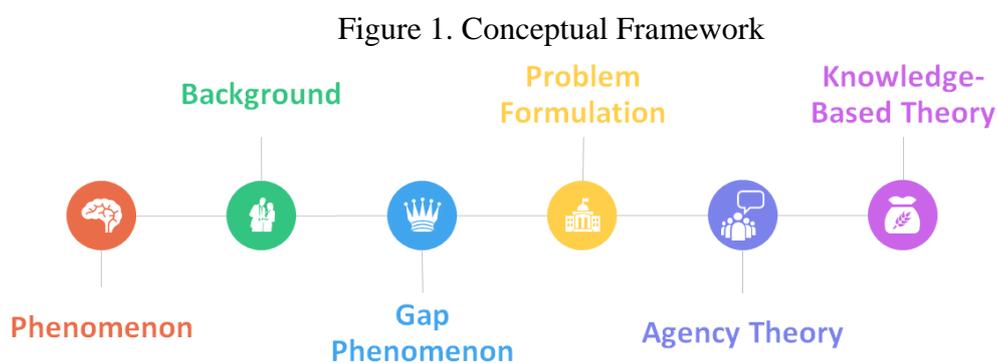
- **Improving Academic Literacy:** Literacy in predatory journals needs to be improved, especially for novice researchers (Shrestha, 2021). For example, education on recognizing predatory journals through the "Think. Check. Submit." became a strategic step.
- **Knowledge Management in Journal Managers:** Reputable journal managers must leverage their knowledge of global publishing standards to improve operational quality (Wu et al., 2024). This includes applying technology in editorial management and transparency in the peer-review process.
- **Innovations in Journal Management Systems:** Open peer review can increase transparency and distinguish reputable and predatory journals (Ross-Hellauer, 2017). Journal managers can adopt AI-based technology to detect plagiarism and better manage metadata.
- **International Collaboration:** By building international collaborations, institutions in Indonesia can learn from best practices in managing reputable journals in other countries.

Predatory journals have emerged due to the Open Access paradigm, where Article Processing Charges (APCs) are integral to the scientific publishing business model (Aleksić et al., 2015). Although the open-access model aims to increase the visibility and accessibility of scientific works, this practice is exploited by unethical publishing entities for financial gain. Predatory journals exploit the need for academics to publish their work quickly, often without adhering to applicable ethical standards and academic quality (Frandsen, 2022). Predatory publishers do not have a rigorous peer review process or don't even do it at all (Wolfram et al., 2020). Articles are published almost without in-depth evaluation, which results in the publication of invalid works, plagiarism, or even serious errors. This directly threatens the scientific integrity and credibility of research while creating the illusion of academic achievement that is not based on quality.

Furthermore, the term predatory journal was introduced by Jeffrey Beall, a librarian at the University of Colorado (Ross-White et al., 2019). Beall defines predatory journals as publishers that exploit open-access models for financial gain by ignoring standards of quality, ethics, and transparency (Kendall, 2021). The main characteristics of predatory journals include manipulating journal names to look similar to reputable journals, lack of cost transparency, and a speedy but shallow publishing process (Inouye & Mills, 2021). According to Beall (2016), predatory journals have the following characteristics:

- Shallow or Fake Peer Review Process: Articles are accepted without significant evaluation or go through a review process at all.
- High Publication Costs Without Transparency: Predatory journals often charge high publishing fees without explaining the details of the costs.
- Impersonation of Reputable Journals: Some predatory journals falsify their identities to look like reputable journals.
- Aggressive Promotion: Invitations to authors are often sent aggressively via email or social media without considering the writer's skill set.
- Unclear Publisher Information: Many predatory journals do not provide valid contact information or have fake addresses.

Furthermore, the conceptual framework of this article can be illustrated as follows:



Source: From various sources that have been processed

Following Figure 1 above, the conceptual framework of this article can be described as follows:

- Phenomenon
 1. There is an increasing need for scientific publications in Indonesia (publish or perish).
 2. The emergence of predatory journals that exploit the needs of academics.
- Background
 1. Publication regulation pressure as an academic requirement.
 2. Low academic literacy against the standards of reputable journals.
- Gap Phenomenon
 1. Global research on predatory journals is numerous, but the focus on the Indonesian context is still limited.
 2. Lack of strategic solutions considering systemic aspects such as regulations and academic literacy.
- Problem Formulation
 1. The impact of predatory journals on the quality of research in Indonesia.
 2. Challenges in preventing predatory journals.
 3. Strategic solutions, and
 4. The role of journal managers.
- Agency Theory
 1. Analyze principal-agent relationships between academics, institutions, and publishers.
 2. Highlights the abuse of trust by predatory publishers.

- Knowledge-Based Theory
 1. The importance of literacy and knowledge management in improving the quality of journal management.
 2. Emphasis on technological innovation and international collaboration.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical research type (Napitupulu et al., 2020; Oktris et al., 2022). This approach aims to understand the phenomenon of predatory journals in-depth and provide strategic solutions for scientific journal managers in Indonesia. The data is secondary from previous scientific literature, including journal articles, books, and relevant reports (Nugroho et al., 2023). This method allows for an in-depth analysis of predatory journal phenomena based on previous findings, related theories, and a comparison of best practices in scientific journal management. The following are the stages in this study:

- Determination of Problem Formulation
The research begins by formulating problems based on the existing gap phenomenon. The identified gap phenomena are:
 1. There is a lack of specific research that discusses the phenomenon of predatory journals in the Indonesian context.
 2. Lack of strategic solutions considering systemic aspects such as regulation and academic literacy.From the formulation of this problem, the focus of the research is directed to answer:
 1. How do predatory journals affect the quality of research in Indonesia?
 2. What are the challenges in preventing predatory journals?
 3. What are the relevant strategic solutions to overcome this phenomenon?
 4. What is the role of journal managers in maintaining the quality of publications?
- Determination of the Appropriate Theory
This study uses two main theories to provide a conceptual foundation:
 1. Agency Theory highlights the dynamics of principal-agent relationships in journal management, including abuse of trust by predatory publishers and a lack of control mechanisms.
 2. Knowledge-Based Theory: This theory emphasizes the importance of academic literacy, knowledge management, and technological innovation in improving the quality of scientific journal management.
- Literature Review
A literature review was conducted to identify and integrate findings from previous scientific literature relevant to the topic. Steps in a literature review include:
 1. Collect secondary data from journal articles, books, and reports related to predatory journals in Indonesia and globally.
 2. Examine the characteristics of predatory journals, their impacts, and prevention strategies proposed in previous literature.
 3. Grouping literature based on key themes related to problem formulation, such as the impact of predatory journals, prevention challenges, and strategic solutions
- Analysis and Discussion
The analysis was carried out with a descriptive-analytical approach. The process includes:
 1. Compare the phenomenon of predatory journals in Indonesia with the global context to identify similarities and differences.

2. Integrate Agency Theory and Knowledge-Based Theory to provide relevant theoretical perspectives.
3. Develop strategic solutions based on the findings of literature reviews and theories used.

The results of this analysis are discussed systematically to answer the formulation of the problem, focusing on:

1. The impact of predatory journals on research quality.
2. Challenges faced in preventing this phenomenon.
3. Recommendation of strategic solutions.
4. The role of scientific journal managers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Negative Impact of Predatory Journals on the Academic Ecosystem in Indonesia

The phenomenon of predatory journals has become a significant issue in the global academic context, and Indonesia is no exception. Predatory journals are publications that offer ease and speed in the process of publishing scientific papers without going through a strict peer-review mechanism (Memon, 2017). These journals often ignore recognized scientific standards, with the primary goal of obtaining financial benefits without considering scientific integrity (Ross-White et al., 2019). The pressure of "publish or perish" among academics, especially in developing countries such as Indonesia, is one of the main drivers of this phenomenon. Academics often feel compelled to publish their work for promotion or professional recognition without checking the journal's credibility. This phenomenon has a negative impact not only on individual researchers but also on the academic ecosystem as a whole.

Lowering the Quality of Research

Predatory journals threaten the quality of research by accepting manuscripts without going through an adequate peer-review process. Published articles often contain methodological errors, invalid data, and shallow analysis (Cobey et al., 2019; Mercier et al., 2017). This creates a false perception of research results and damages the credibility of Indonesian scientific literature in the global arena. Furthermore, Agency Theory explains that researchers as agents act for personal interests by choosing predatory journals to meet publication targets, even though this is contrary to the interests of academic institutions as principals. The absence of an effective monitoring mechanism allows this conflict of interest to occur. In addition, based on Knowledge-Based Theory, it is also emphasized that knowledge generated from low-quality research tends to be useless. This has the potential to hinder the development of science and innovation, which should be encouraged by high-quality research.

Lowering the Reputation of Academics and Institutions

Academics caught up in predatory journal publications risk losing their professional reputations. Publication in uncredible journals often violates academic ethics, affecting career opportunities, collaboration, and research funding (Mouton & Valentine, 2017). Higher education institutions whose staff are heavily involved in publications in

predatory journals also face reputational challenges, especially in assessing academic quality. Furthermore, referring to Agency Theory shows that institutions as principals often have difficulty supervising the actions of agents (researchers) in choosing the right publication platform. The inability of institutions to provide explicit directives and incentives exacerbates this problem. On the other hand, Knowledge-Based Theory also adds that institutions that lose credibility will have difficulty accessing relevant new knowledge, reduce the appeal for international collaboration, and hinder academic progress.

Spreading Invalid Information

Predatory journals are often a medium for disseminating inaccurate or even misleading information (Ross-White et al., 2019). Published articles can negatively impact public policy and professional practice, especially in critical areas such as health, technology, and education. In the context of Agency Theory, researchers who chose predatory journals showed a lack of responsibility for the long-term impact of the information they disseminated. This reflects the failure of moral hazards in the principal-agent relationship. In addition, according to Knowledge-Based Theory, invalid information results in a flawed knowledge base in the academic community. These consequences have profound implications, primarily when policy decision-making relies on such information.

Financial Exploitation of Researchers

Predatory journals often charge high publication fees without commensurate services, such as quality peer-review or professional article management (Shrestha et al., 2018). This burdens researchers, especially those from institutions with limited resources. In Agency Theory, this exploitation reflects the information imbalance between researchers and publishers. Researchers' ignorance of the credibility of journals allows predatory publishers to take advantage of the situation to their financial advantage. Meanwhile, according to Knowledge-Based Theory, it is also emphasized that the lack of academic literacy is the root of the problem of researchers' financial exploitation. Without adequate education, researchers cannot make the right decisions about where to publish their work.

Erosion of Academic Integrity

The phenomenon of predatory journals also erodes academic integrity. Focusing on the quantity of publications over quality encourages an unhealthy academic culture, ignores ethical values, and lowers the standards of scientific research (Cobey et al., 2019). In Agency Theory, moral hazard arises when researchers consciously select predatory journals to meet publication targets, indicating a lack of alignment with the interests of institutions and the scientific community. According to Knowledge-Based Theory, the erosion of academic integrity weakens the foundation of science as the leading resource in modern society. Without integrity, science loses its relevance and value.

Challenges Faced by Academics and Journal Managers

The phenomenon of predatory journals has become a serious challenge for the academic ecosystem in Indonesia. These journals offer ease and speed in publishing but

often overlook the required quality standards. Academics and journal managers face various obstacles to countering predatory journals' negative impact (Mouton & Valentine, 2017). An in-depth analysis of these challenges using the agency theory and knowledge-based theory approaches can help explain them comprehensively.

Challenges for Academics

The challenges for academics in dealing with the existence of predatory journals, which are currently quite massive, are as follows:

- **Lack of Academic Awareness and Literacy**
One of the main challenges is the lack of academic awareness about the existence and risks of predatory journals. Many researchers, especially those just starting their academic careers, cannot distinguish between credible journals and those that are not (McKiernan et al., 2019). The lack of academic literacy makes them vulnerable to predatory journals (Negre et al., 2022). Based on the perspective of Agency Theory, the relationship between academic institutions (principals) and researchers (agents), where there is often an imbalance of information. Researchers may not be aware of the reputational risks they face by choosing predatory journals, while institutions expect high-quality publications. The absence of a supervisory mechanism increases the risk of moral hazard. Meanwhile, the knowledge-based theory perspective emphasizes weaknesses in knowledge management at the institutional level, which is the leading cause of the lack of education for academics, where, without adequate guidance, researchers often make wrong decisions regarding journal choices.
- **Pressure to Publish**
Academics are pressured to publish research results to qualify for promotion or funding. This pressure prompted them to choose the fast track, including publishing in predatory journals (McKiernan et al., 2019). Furthermore, referring to Agency Theory, researchers as agents often pursue their short-term interests to meet publication targets without considering the long-term impact on the institution's reputation or scientific integrity. On the other hand, based on Knowledge-Based Theory, it is stated that without good knowledge management, institutions fail to provide information and guidance that helps researchers understand the importance of publication quality over quantity.
- **Lack of Access to Reputable Journals**
Many academics, especially from small or regional institutions, have difficulty accessing reputable journals due to limited funding, infrastructure, or academic networks (Butler et al., 2022). This makes predatory journals seem like a more accessible option. Furthermore, following Knowledge-Based Theory, the limitations in managing knowledge resources in small institutions create a gap in access to quality publications. This has a negative impact on the development of research and the reputation of academics.
- **Financial Exploitation**
Predatory journals charge high publication fees without commensurate services, such as a rigorous peer review process or effective dissemination of research results (Shamseer et al., 2017). This is an additional burden for academics, especially those from institutions with limited resources. Furthermore, referring to Agency Theory, this financial exploitation's occurrence reflects the information imbalance between researchers and publishers. Predatory publishers take advantage of researchers' lack of knowledge for financial gain.

Challenges for Journal Managers

In addition to the challenges for academics, there are also challenges for journal managers, which can be explained as follows:

- **Competition with Predator Journals**
Reputable journal managers face stiff competition from predatory journals that offer a faster publishing process at a lower cost (Günaydın & Doğan, 2015; Salehi et al., 2019). This can reduce the attractiveness of reputable journals for authors. Referring to Agency Theory, journal managers (agents) face pressure to lower editorial standards to attract more authors, potentially damaging their own journal's reputation. The lack of regulation exacerbates this situation.
- **Resource Limitations**
Many scientific journals in Indonesia operate with limited resources regarding finance and people (Wiryan, 2014). This makes it difficult for them to maintain a rigorous peer review process and maintain high editorial standards. Therefore, when viewed from Knowledge-Based Theory, journal managers often lack access to the technology and training needed to improve the quality and efficiency of their journal management. This weakness hinders their ability to compete with predatory journals.
- **Pressure for Indexation**
Reputable journals face pressure to meet international indexation standards, which requires time, resources, and a high commitment to quality. In contrast, predatory journals often claim false indexation to attract the attention of academics (Clements et al., 2018). Following Agency Theory's perspective, an excessive emphasis on indexation can potentially encourage journal managers to adopt short-term strategies detrimental to their integrity, creating a moral dilemma in journal management.

Strategic Solutions to Prevent Predatory Journals

The phenomenon of predatory journals has become a significant challenge in the academic world, especially in Indonesia. These journals often offer a fast and low-cost publishing process but ignore the required quality standards (Sayab, 2023). To prevent the existence of predatory journals, strategic solutions are needed that can be implemented by academics, journal managers, and educational institutions. In this context, the solution can be analyzed through two important theories: Agency Theory and Knowledge-Based Theory.

Increasing Academic Literacy and Researcher Awareness

The first step that needs to be taken is to increase academic literacy and researchers' awareness of predatory journals. Education and socialization are important in helping researchers, especially young researchers, recognize credible journals' characteristics. Academic institutions must organize specialized training programs that include information on a good peer review process and the importance of choosing the right journal for publication (Luca et al., 2022). Campaigns like "Think. Check. Submit". It can be a practical step to improve researchers' understanding of predatory journal risks. From the agency theory perspective, researchers often act as agents motivated by the incentive of rapid publication, which can be detrimental to the principal, i.e., the academic institution and the scientific community. Improving academic literacy can minimize information asymmetry between agents and principals. Meanwhile, Knowledge-Based Theory highlights that low academic literacy reflects weaknesses in knowledge

management. Institutions that strengthen knowledge capacity will create an environment that supports information-based decision-making.

Improving Transparency and Journal Management Standards

Journal managers also need to commit to improving their transparency and management standards. A transparent and comprehensive peer review process ensures the journal's credibility (Wicherts, 2016). Open peer review has been proposed to increase transparency in the issuance process. In addition, encouraging journals to obtain certification or accreditation from international bodies such as Scopus or Web of Science can increase authors' confidence in the journal. In the context of Agency Theory, this certification acts as a supervisory mechanism to ensure that journal managers act in the principal's interests, namely the scientific community. Strong journal management also shows how Knowledge-Based Theory can be applied. By managing knowledge effectively, journal managers can improve their reputation and create added value for all stakeholders.

Strengthening Regulations and Policies for Scientific Publications

Regulations and policies of scientific publications also play an important role in preventing predatory journals. Governments and higher education institutions must establish a firm legal framework, including regulations prohibiting the use of predatory journals as an academic requirement (Shrestha et al., 2018). Implementing incentive policies for publications in reputable journals can encourage academics to avoid predatory journals. The use of technology to detect predatory journals, such as the predatory journal blacklist (Beall's List) and AI-based applications, can help researchers identify predatory journals quickly and accurately. In Agency Theory, strong regulation incentivizes agents, researchers, and journal managers to act in the principal's interests. From the Knowledge-Based Theory perspective, technology shows how sophisticated knowledge management can help the academic community avoid harmful practices.

Building International and National Collaborations

Collaboration between national and international institutions is a key element in this effort. Partnerships with global organizations allow for sharing best practices in journal management, which can ultimately improve the standards of journals in Indonesia (Smith et al., 2014). Establishing a local academic community that focuses on empowering researchers in scientific publications can also strengthen the overall academic ecosystem. From the perspective of Agency Theory, this collaboration creates a mutualistic relationship between various parties, ensuring that the agent and principal have a shared vision to improve the quality of research and publications. Knowledge-based theory emphasizes the importance of sharing knowledge to overcome global challenges such as predatory journals. This collaboration allows academic institutions to learn from international experiences and adopt best practices to support a healthier academic ecosystem.

A Holistic Approach to Improving the Academic Ecosystem

Strategic solutions to prevent predatory journals require a holistic and collaborative approach involving all stakeholders, including researchers, journal managers, educational

institutions, and policymakers. Education, improving journal standards, transparency, collaboration, and the use of technology are key elements in this strategy. By utilizing Agency Theory and Knowledge-Based Theory, this solution reduces the threat of predatory journals and strengthens academic integrity and credibility in Indonesia. This approach ensures that the academic ecosystem becomes healthier and supports the sustainable development of science and technology.

The Role of Scientific Journal Managers in Maintaining Sustainable Publication Quality

The manager of a scientific journal has a critical role in ensuring the quality of publications and maintaining the journal's sustainability. With the growing number of scientific journals, both reputable and predatory, the responsibility of journal managers is increasing to ensure that they not only meet academic quality standards but can also survive amid global competition (Shamseer et al., 2017). This role can be analyzed through the Agency Theory and Knowledge-Based Theory approaches, which provide a framework for understanding the challenges and solutions faced by scientific journal managers.

Transparent and Accountable Editorial Oversight

One of the main tasks of journal managers is to increase transparency and accountability in the editorial process. A rigorous peer review process is the foundation for maintaining the quality of publications (Mulligan et al., 2012). Systems such as open peer review, where the reviewer's comments are published alongside articles, can increase the trust of the scientific community. From the agency theory perspective, journal managers act as agents for principals, namely the academic community and authors. Transparency in the editorial process strengthens trust and attracts quality contributions. From the point of view of Knowledge-Based Theory, a transparent editorial process reflects good knowledge management, ensuring only relevant and valid research is published.

Journal Certification and Accreditation

Journal managers must seek certification and accreditation from reputable institutions such as Scopus or Web of Science. This certification increases trust in the journal and shows that the journal has met international quality standards (Chadegani et al., 2013). In Agency Theory, certification is a monitoring mechanism to reduce information asymmetry between journal managers and users. Meanwhile, Knowledge-Based Theory emphasizes that certification reflects success in structured knowledge management, including evaluating the quality of the editorial process, the reviewers' expertise, and the journal's scientific impact.

Innovation in Journal Management

Adopting advanced technology is key to improving the efficiency and integrity of the publishing process (Bornmann & Daniel, 2010). For example, plagiarism detection software and a digital-based journal management system can speed up the editorial process while maintaining ethical standards. In Agency Theory, this innovation helps journal managers better meet principals' expectations through efficient management.

Knowledge-based theory highlights that technology expands knowledge capacity, attracts high-quality contributions, and ensures published research has a significant impact.

Reviewer Community Development

The success of a journal depends heavily on a competent community of reviewers. Journal managers are responsible for building good relationships with reviewers, providing regular training, and offering incentives to increase their motivation (Grant et al., 2018). In Agency Theory, journal managers ensure that reviewers understand their role as part of a collective effort to maintain the quality of the publication. From the perspective of Knowledge-Based Theory, a strong community of reviewers reflects a solid knowledge base, ensuring that only high-quality articles are published.

Financial Management

Journal sustainability requires efficient financial management. Moreover, journal managers should seek diverse funding sources, such as reasonable publication fees, institutional sponsorship, or government support (Lent et al., 2013). In Agency Theory, journal managers are responsible for managing resources efficiently to meet the principal's needs, namely the academic community. Knowledge-based theory emphasizes the importance of resource management in creating long-term added value and ensuring that journals remain operational and of high quality.

Author Education on Publication Quality

Journal managers have a role in educating authors about the importance of publication quality and choosing credible journals ((Brondz, 2013)). Training programs or campaigns like “Think. Check. Submit.” It can help authors understand the editorial process and research ethics. In Agency Theory, journal managers are agents who help principals (authors) make the right decisions. From the perspective of Knowledge-Based Theory, this education expands the knowledge base, improves the quality of published research, and strengthens the academic ecosystem as a whole.

Collaboration with the Academic Community

Journal managers must build collaborative relationships with institutions, researchers, and international organizations (Lee & Bozeman, 2005). This collaboration can include organizing seminars, workshops, or conferences to improve the quality of publications and expand academic networks. In Agency Theory, collaboration creates a mutualistic relationship between the agent and the principal, ensuring all parties work to achieve a common goal. Knowledge-based theory emphasizes the importance of knowledge exchange in collaboration to improve the overall quality of journals.

CONCLUSION

The phenomenon of predatory journals is a serious threat to the academic ecosystem in Indonesia, reducing the quality of research, injuring the reputation of academics and institutions, and spreading invalid information. The challenges academics and journal managers face include a lack of academic literacy, pressure to publish, limited access to reputable journals, financial exploitation, and fierce competition with predatory journals. Furthermore, to overcome these challenges, strategic solutions are needed. Improving

academic literacy through education and campaigns such as Think. Check. Submit. is an important first step. Strengthening regulations and policies for scientific publications, adopting technology to detect predatory journals, and national and international collaborations can strengthen a healthy academic ecosystem. In addition, journal managers play a key role in maintaining the quality of publications by ensuring transparency in the editorial process, encouraging journal certification, developing a community of competent reviewers, and implementing innovations in journal management. Through the Agency Theory and Knowledge-Based Theory approaches, this effort mitigates predatory journals' impact and strengthens the integrity and sustainability of the academic ecosystem in Indonesia, supporting the development of quality and globally relevant science.

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