

Hello Majola,

Your post has raised good points concerning Abi's situation. For instance, how data manipulation is unethical and how to ethically handle contradictory conclusions from accurate data analysis by sharing a comprehensive report with all analyses can discourage the manufacturer from selectively promoting favourable outcomes (Nosek & Bar-Anan, 2012).

Additionally, you are right that Abi can consider publishing the findings independently in a reputable scientific journal (Shamoo & Resnik, 2009). However, in addition to that, Abi should ensure that all sensitive data, like the participants' personal data, etc. - in his findings are anonymised, removed or censored, before publicizing his findings (User research community, 2018). He can guarantee that his research data management and privacy practices adhere to the law by having a data protection expert or legal adviser within his organization review them and also get informed consent from the participants to ensure data privacy like General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and confidentiality is achieved (User research community, 2018) (National Academy of Sciences (US), National Academy of Engineering (US) and Institute of Medicine (US), 2009).

Other factors that Abi should consider before publishing it are: Ownership of the research data, funding sponsor, if there is a Confidential Disclosure Agreement or not, etc. It is essential for Abi to address these factors in order to minimize the risks of lawsuits, breaching data privacy and confidentiality, etc. (RCR Administrators, N.D.).

References

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