To improve or not to improve

Technology, research and ethics
Group 2

The dilemma

After working for a long time on a project, all the results are done and the paper is almost finished. Then, one notices that the method used could be improved, which could result with better/ more precise result.

The time is ticking and your co-authors expect you to be done with the paper, but the other method seems more accurate and can lead to a more significant conclusion.

Solutions

- send to a journal immediately with or without mentioning the possible development.

- continue working on the paper with improved method and send to a journal in a few months

Ethical problems or conflicts

- Number of publications vs. quality of research.

- Moral responsibility of the content; main author vs. co-authors (e.g. PhD students).

- Spend/waste more time on this project vs. using your time contributing with something else. (The opportunity cost)

Decision

Publish directly:

+Maybe not optimal results better than no results

+More publications, more potential funding

+More time over for other research

-Better precision in the results helps users

-Improved model helps future research

-You want to be connected with as good research as possible