

## The rush to publish: Where are we heading?

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The current situation is that one requires research thesis and academic performance. Usually the commonest conversation among the faculty members in any medical college is about publishing an article for promotion. Medical universities require publications as a prerequisite for promotion for their faculty member. The universities seem currently unable to assess and probe the actual scenario for basic research environment in the medical colleges but set a rule in which publication is necessary for advancement. Furthermore this is mandatory for the acquiring of academic degree or for promotion in their career. Unfortunately it has generated a desperate 'publication race'. It has led to 'cook up' or falsify results and even to plagiarize to produce articles. The pressure to publish an article has not only promoted wasteful research but also aroused plethora of new journals which are made just to raise money in the name of article publishing charge (APC)<sup>1</sup>. The publishers know the hidden truth that publication is obligatory for all the health professionals to show their growth in terms of academic profile and due to this there is a comical escalation of scientific journals which promises to publish articles within a shortest frame of time. No doubt scientific publication houses have fulfilled the demand for all the academician who lacks proper research settings in their college and needs their work getting published in a very short period of time but the question arises, are we heading in a right direction?

There are various reasons why young researchers and faculties fail to conduct a quality research. Lack of proper funding, deficient in sensitive instruments, inadequate infrastructures and healthy environment to conduct research have left behind all the young minds to limit their study<sup>2</sup>. Are publications the only criteria to judge

an academician? This is a well-known fact that only publication cannot judge whether a faculty should be promoted or not but the current platform is focused mainly on experience and number of publications.

Each and every research we do need lots of dedication. We devote our precious time and energy to complete a study. The Journey begins from writing a proposal, getting ethically cleared from the concerned authority and finally conducting it. But the whole work is judged only if it is published in any journal. There is a big query among the researchers, where to send the manuscript for publication. It is a crucial decision for the authors to choose the journal for their prospective manuscript. Be it a reputed journal with highest impact factor or a local journal with very low impact factor. Author should be focused on few basic facts before pressing the button "Submit"<sup>3</sup>.

Author should check whether the journal is blacklisted or listed under group of predatory journal<sup>4</sup>. Judging a journal and putting question mark on its reputation is a tedious job and sounds very unprofessional. But on the basis of following tips it may be helpful for the authors to segregate the fake journals from the genuine one;

1. Fake journals lack peer-revision process.
2. The provided website has a simple submission format with catchy words like, indexed in Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). So that the author may get attracted to the journals.
3. Generally, they work in a multidisciplinary way and lacks specific scientific scope.
4. The period between submitting and publishing the papers is very short.
5. They never mention the requested fee in order to publish the papers on their sites, and notify the authors privately in a separate letter.
6. Commonly, they publish repetitive papers or even papers from other journals.
7. They have a broad advertisement plan in the form of spam E-mails.

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8. The names of such journals commonly contain grand adjectives e.g. World, International, and Global.
9. Instead of the journal's official mailing address, it carries personal mail particulars.
10. The editor's and the editorial board publication is very poor
11. Whether the journal is listed in "Beall's list of predatory journals/publishers" at <https://beallslist.weebly.com/>.
12. Before submitting your manuscript, it is always safe to check whether it is black listed journal, at <http://blacklist.research.ac.ir/index.php?export=pdf>.

Due to the lack of assets, we end up doing researches only for the sake of fulfilling the criteria and most of the time our study is limited to a questionnaire based study in the students who are studying in the same medical school. There is nothing wrong in doing such researches but in many instances we choose to conduct those studies only because it is less time consuming, needs less efforts and can be carried out in our general settings. Evaluating academic performance on the

basis of journal publication is misleading research priorities<sup>5</sup>. The method of judging a scholar only by his/her publication has created pressure in them to show their creativity which has negative impact on quality of research oriented works.

An academician has to cross various hurdles, firstly the frustrating research environment, secondly the time limit to publish and lastly falling in trap of predatory journals. Looking at the present scenario, we are unable to change the first two hurdles. Being clever enough we should always have our eyes open while choosing a proper journal to publish our study. We should think multiple times before we press "Yes" for submission.

The above mentioned recommendations require proper attention, adequate planning and careful implementation; however, following this advice could help the faculty members and other scholars improve the likelihood of getting their work published, and that will be a key to have a productive, exciting and rewarding academic career.

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