Research Integrity & Publication Ethics: Indian Scenario

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University Grants Commission
APEX REGULATOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

- 900+ Universities
- 10,000+ Institution
- 40,000+ Colleges

- GER - 25.8%
- Enrollment 36.6 m
- Teachers: 1.285 m

- Students:
  - UG 29.03 m
  - PG 4.14 m
  - PhD 0.161 m

- 34,400 PhDs Awarded
- 147,537 Publications

- 9400 Research Fellowships / Year
Scimago Country Ranking
H-Index and Research Publications – 1996-2017

US: 11036243 Documents, 2077 h-Index
UK: 3150874 Documents, 1281 h-Index
Germany: 2790169 Documents, 1131 h-Index
Japan: 2539441 Documents, 920 h-Index
China: 5133924 Documents, 712 h-Index
India: 1472192 Documents, 521 h-Index
Predatory Journal Menace

• The publication pressure among researchers and inadequate monitoring the research

• Academic Performance Indicators and PhD Regulations

Seethapahy et al, India’s scientific publication in predatory journals: need for regulating quality of Indian science and education Curr Sci, 111(11), 1759-64.
A critical analysis of the ‘UGC-approved list of journals’

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Scholarly journals play an important role in maintaining the quality and integrity of research by what they publish. Unethical practices in publishing are leading to an increased number of predatory, dubious and low-quality journals worldwide. It has been reported that the percentage of research articles published in predatory journals is high in India. The University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi has published an ‘approved list of journals’, which has been criticized due to inclusion of many substandard journals. We have developed a protocol with objective criteria for identifying journals that do not follow good publication practices. We studied 1336 journals randomly selected from S099 in the university source component of the UGC-approved list. We analysed 1099 journals after excluding 227 indexed in Scopus/Web of Science. About 34.5% of the 1099 journals were disqualified under the basic criteria because of incorrect or non-availability of essential information such as address, website details and names of editors; another 52.2% of them provided false information such as incorrect ISSN, false claims about impact factor, claimed indexing in dubious indexing databases or had poor credentials of editors. Our results suggest that over 88% of the non-indexed journals in the university source component of the UGC-approved list, included on the basis of submissions from different universities, could be of low quality. In view of these results, the current UGC-approved list of journals needs serious reconsideration. New regulations to control unethical practices in scientific publishing, along with organization of awareness programmes about publication ethics at Indian universities and research institutions are urgently needed.

Keywords: Predatory and dubious journals, publication ethics, university source component, unethical practices.

with peers and others. This has also fuelled unprecedented commercial interests in publication of research journals, so that major publishers across the globe indulge in aggressive publication efforts and policies. The competitive market of research publications has witnessed undesirable and unhealthy publication practices. The widespread ‘publish or perish’ policies have given rise to a breed of ‘predatory journals’ whose main objective is to make money by publishing ‘anything’ in the name of a research paper for a fee commonly known as article-author processing charge (APC). Such unethical practices and the unscrupulous business of publishing have rapidly grown during the last decade. It is common to receive unsolicited, dubious e-mails inviting articles, promoting special issues, editorial board memberships and speaker invitations from predatory journals, publishers and conference organizers. The pioneering effort known as Beall’s list of ‘potential, possible, or probable predatory’ publishers and journals was closed down in January 2017, depriving researchers across the world of some certainty advice.

The global concern of researchers and other stakeholders, such as funding agencies, with the increasing menace of predatory journals has elicited collective responses. The National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA, encourages prospective authors to think more deeply about where to publish. Additional faculty members involved in consultative process:

Guidelines for Research Publications

The committee composition:

Prof Bhushan Patwardhan, School of Health Sciences (Chairman)
Prof D D Dhavale, Department of Chemistry
Prof Sujata Bhargava, Department of Botany
Prof Rajeshwari Deshpande, Department of Politics
Prof Aniket Jaaware, Department of English
Prof Saroj Guuskadbi, Department of Zoology
Prof Mahendra More, Department of Physics

Additional faculty members involved in consultative process:

Prof N J Pawar, Department of Geology
Prof Nitin Kamalkar, Department of Environment and IACC Cell
Prof Santosh Haram, Department of Chemistry
Prof Suressh Gosavi, Department of Physics
Prof Dilip Kaniah, Distinguished Professor
Prof Jayanta Pal, Department of Biotechnology

Informal consultations from eminent national academicians:

Prof SC Lakhitaria, Editor, Proceedings of Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi
Prof LS Shashidhara, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune,
Prof N V Joshi, Indian Institute of Science and Associate Editor, Current Science, Bangalore
Prof Rani Takwale, educationist and former Vice Chancellor

Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE)

UGC as Regulatory Body in 2019 established an independent committee to create and maintain a white list of credible journals. First edition of CARE List is expected to be announced by 30th June 2019
Consortium For Academic Research Ethics (CARE)

About CARE

The Quality Mandate of the UGC emphasizes importance on promoting high quality research and creation of new knowledge by faculty members. The number of research articles published in reputed journals is one of the globally accepted indicators considered for various academic purposes including institutional ranking, appointment and promotions of faculty members and award of research degrees. The credibility of research publications is extremely important because it represents the academic image of an individual, institution and the nation. High-quality publications in reputed journals help in achieving higher global ranks and overall improvement in the quality of education. Publications in dubious sub-standard journals reflects adversely leading to long term academic damage and a tarnished image. The problem of dubious/sub-standard journals has become of serious concern worldover. The percentage of research articles published in poor quality journals is reported to be high in India, which has adversely affects its image.

Research Journals in disciplines under Science, Engineering, Technology, Agriculture and Bio Medical Sciences are well covered in globally accepted scientific database like SCOPUS and Web of Science (WoS) with three primary indexes such as Science Citation Index, Social Science Citation Index and Arts and Humanities Citation Index. Therefore, journals indexed in SCOPUS and WoS may be considered for all academic purposes in these disciplines.

For other disciplines such as the Social Sciences, Humanities, Languages, Arts, Culture, Indian knowledge systems etc., a list of credible quality journals needs to be prepared and maintained. For this purpose, the UGC has welcomed the initiative on 28th November, 2018 regarding the compilation of a Register of Academic Journals.
CARE
Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics

Create and maintain CARE Reference List of Quality Journals for various academic evaluations

Promote research publications in reputed journals

Develop approach and methodology for identification of quality journals

Discourage publications in dubious journal

Avoid long term damage due to academic misconduct.

Promote academic and research integrity and publication ethics.
# CARE Members

## Statutory Councils, Academies & Bodies

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*6/13/2019 Patwardhan-WCRI-19*
PART I - Basic Information

- Publisher and Journal Name
- Country and Address
- Editor details
- Current status (print/online/ceased)
- Website and Publisher details
- Indexing information
CARE LIST

https://ugccare.unipune.ac.in/index.html

- **Group A:** Journals indexed in SCOPUS and/or Web of Science
- **Group B:** Journals qualified from the existing UGC list.
- **Group C:** Journals recommended by CARE members
- **Group D:** New Journals qualified as per the protocol.
Deceptive Practices

• Many publishers
  • Claiming fake impact factors for their journals
  • Author Publication Charges for assured acceptance
  • Fake indexing databases, Impact Factors
  • Assuring publication within few days

• Duplicate journal titles

• Titles similar to reputed journals

• Interdisciplinary journals without appropriate editorial board

• Many more ...........
Desperation to Publish
Temptation to shortcuts...
Creativity and scientific research is about pleasure, devotion and never ending quest for innovation....

Not just about Publications, Race, Desperation, Recognitions
Socioeconomic Benefits are Natural Outcomes
CARE Needs to Collaborate
To Prioritize Academic Integrity

WCRI is a great initiative
The Embassy of Good Science is indeed very useful Platform
Thank You WCRI 2019!
Thank You HKU!!

Center for Publication Ethics
Pune India