

## Fostering Research: Open Access Journal and Indian Research Repository

Researchers should publish their research works, otherwise their research is not complete. Research findings should also be communicated in digital form, which should be freely available to all so that other interested researchers and policy makers can make use of it. If the findings of research projects or thesis are not published, the researcher should be made accountable. What is the best way to disseminate the research findings to others? If the findings are very important, many would prefer to publish in high impact journals. The problem is that their publications or findings cannot be freely accessed in these journals. Many journals request payment to download articles. I believe that marketing scientific information, which should be used to improve the public health, is unacceptable. Further, there are criticisms on giving too much importance for the impact factor of a journal.

In December 2014, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India have published their policy on open access to DBT and DST funded research. It states that the knowledge and information generated from their project should be made publicly available as soon as possible. The researchers have the right to publish their work in journals of their choice. It states that intrinsic merit of the work is more important than the title of the journal in which an author's work is published. DBT and DST do not recommend the use of journal impact factor either as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist's contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions. To cite my personal experience in 1978, my first research paper was not accepted for publication in *Clinical Pharmacology Therapeutics* (an American Journal with high impact factor). Later I published the same article in *Indian Journal Pharmacology* (non-indexed at that time). My work was cited with positive remark in an American text book "Andre's Goth Medical Pharmacology". This was possible because my paper had new finding about the nutritional status and metabolism of highly protein bound drug.

What is needed is the availability of truly Open Access (OA) journal and an Indian Research Repository. There are many OAJ but few of them charge the authors in one form or other. According to Dr.Crotty, (The Scholarly Kitchen, 2015) majority of OA papers are published by paying an Article Processing Fee (APC). Dr.Arunachalam in his 2017 article stated that India is spending about US\$ 2.4 million per year on APCs paid to OA journals. I have seen an advertisement of a so called OA journal promising to accept the article within 2 days of receipt. It is unethical to pay for publishing a research paper. It only promotes the growth of predatory journals. In order to curb the menace of OA journal publication, in July 21, 2017, MHRD has notified to National Institutes of Technology that papers published in journals that levy an APC will not earn career advancement credits for their authors. MCI guidelines for counting research publications for promotion of teaching faculty of medical colleges is not including e-journals. It appears that it is best for Indian researchers to publish their research paper in a peer reviewed journal, not charging APC or other fee under any pretext. Further the full text of journal articles should be available free on the website besides having a print version.

Another necessity is to establish Indian Research Repository in the pattern of PubMed Central (PMC). A repository, provides access to pre-prints or accepted articles for publication, conference papers, doctoral theses and dissertations, computer software, clinical guidelines etc. It should have provision for correction or retraction. In Europe, a PMC repository (<http://europemc.org>) has been established by 26 biomedical research funders. Similar initiatives are already in place at China and Latin America. In our country, DST-DBT has hosted the SCIENCE-CENTRAL (<http://sciencecentral.in/>) as a centralized Institutional Repositories Hosting Service for DST-DBT laboratories and a Harvester service for DST-DBT Institutional Repositories. There is a need to have an Indian Research Repository at par with Europe PMC to foster research activities and publication in India

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