

Open Forum

The Academicians

I share with you that these days, we have a large number of journals many dealing with very specific aspects so the results of research are very much focused and receive the right audience. It is equally heartening to note that the publication of the papers have become very rapid compared to the earlier times when it used to take almost a year to publish a paper. The question arises if this has really improved the quality of the research papers or for that matter the overall quality of research. Perhaps the answer is certainly not yes if not a blanket no.

These days publication of paper has become essential to get the degree like M.Phil or Ph.D., apparently to improve the quality of research for the award of degree. This has given a large numbers of papers and has increased the numbers of papers and apparently, the number of journals and subsequently, the publishers. Some of the publishers only aim to get a large numbers of papers and even skip the editorial review process. Otherwise, how could a paper be published in just a month or week? A point to ponder upon?

Interestingly, large number of the journals have prescribed publication fees while a few have some consideration for the economic status of the researcher. There are some journals who ask for the fees after the review is conducted and the paper is recommended for publication like this journal. To some extent, from academic point of view, this approach is appropriate. What about those who do not have enough fees to pay? There are several journals now which publish the paper to earn money. The question arises why there is publication fees? The answer is simple when the libraries do subscribe the journals who will fund the publisher for the publication. Further, the libraries do not subscribe the journals due to several reasons like lack of funds or diversion of funds for computerization so and so. To cite digital subscription has become the need and most of the libraries opt for the same. Thus, even the paucity of the funds and stress for the computerization have contributed to this phenomenon.

The academicians and all those involved in domain of education and research should think if a person is not having money he will not have any publication? While business community even in the education domain would enjoy the privilege of high quality publication the person without money would lag behind. This is something which is indigestible to hard core academicians.

Another issue of relevance is that the researchers submit their papers to a journal. If the same is extensively edited and made suitable for publication, it is published in some other journal. The journal that did lot of efforts is denied the paper. What policy is appropriate for the author which do such practices.

Cordially, I invite the academicians, the educators the researchers students and the public to open up their mind, express their views and send these to the the editor-in-Chief which would be published as letters to editor. Of course, no fee would be charged for the publication of letter to the editor.

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