

Research and Publication in Nepal

The culture of research and publication has not been well developed, even though the voice has been raised time to time in Nepal.¹⁻⁴ There could be various reasons like not realizing the importance of scientific work by higher authority and concerned stake holders, poor scientific community even if present lack of motivation, incentive and discouragement. That doesn't mean research funding and skilled man powers is not present but are very less.

In the present scenario, had there been no compulsory article requirements in the academic achievement, most of the Nepalese Journal wouldn't have bulk of article for the publication. With the privatization, there has been mushrooming of medical colleges and health institutions from early 1990s. We didn't have enough academicians to hold the pressure of increasing institution in Nepal. In that scenario India became the destination to look for the skilled manpower. However, the development of human resources has increase tremendously in the country too. With this, the race for getting academic achievement has started so much so the article submission has been increased in the journal and many new journals have appeared in the scientific community. Therefore a publication bias is imminent.⁵

Whenever there is a competition, few things are very important viz; the judge, player and the audience. The editor being the judge, author as player and reader as the audience if they have synchronization there will be a fair play. But due to lack of trained editor in the country, poor qualities of scientific article are being published in most of the journals. This, in terms of methodological flaws ; poor study design, no ethical approval, breech in research ethics, poor sample size and sampling, inappropriate use of statistical tools, data fabrication and falsifying, lack of writing skill, too ambitious conclusions and poor citation.

The basic principle for professional conduct of science in all countries and all disciplines is honesty towards oneself and towards others. Therefore it is utmost important that the scientific community prevents scientific misconduct by fostering research integrity. Biomedical research seems to be most susceptible for scientific misconduct since internationally we see many of the cases in this field.⁶

In the developed world, the role played by the private sector, particularly the pharmaceutical industry, in funding research has been growing at an accelerated pace in recent decades. On the top of that, the private sector has become the primary funding source of clinical trials in some countries. As a result, pharmaceutical companies exercise ever-growing control over not only the design of clinical trials but also the publication of their results. However, conflict of interest has to be looked upon.⁷ But nations like USA or any other developed country government has become the source of funding researches.⁸

The importance has been increased to alert scientists and ultimately to adjust the scientific system in a way which allows the next generation of scientists to develop their careers in true research integrity.⁶ The responsibility has not only limited to editors but author, peer reviewer, reader, academician and concerned stakeholder and government as well. The

time has come for Nepal to look into research integrity and publication issues, seriously. Because they, not only affect academic environment but also determines how and in which direction our scientific community will move ahead.

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