

E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

First of all accept my heartiest congratulations on 40 years long innning of PODJ which is still playing a leading role.

I appreciate your concern regarding the future of PODJ but at the same time let us not forget the ground realities. The quality of research depends on research facilities, financial support and environment of the institution. Another factor could be the curative approach to the disease instead of prevention. This being the main reason why most of the journals receive articles based on data analysis. You will also appreciate that major contributors to local journals are clinicians who share their own experiences through clinical studies. If PODJ stops receiving such articles in future, this will send a negative message among these contributors. I think a better approach will be that articles based on original research, epidemiological studies and randomized clinical trials shall be preferred over other articles based on data analysis.

I am personally a strong advocate of the opinion that a Medical/Dental Journal must have a managerial office in the institute for the following reasons; ¹Strong faculty component ²Less financial burden ³Strong IT Department ⁴No separate logistics required in the form of office and HR ⁵Some universities have their own printing press

If the journal is not based in the institute or has a strong financial background, the management is left with no other option but to charge as per requirement of the journal for its existence.

Dr. Qiam ud Din

Former Dean/Principal
Khyber College of Dentistry

First of all, I want to congratulate you and the entire editorial team for the successful completion of continuous and uninterrupted publication of the “Pakistan Oral and Dental Journal”. Your selfless efforts are countless in this regard.

You are very right sir that it is time of extraordinary change. We need to modify our publishing policies according to the need and pace of the time to meet the changing requirements. Suggestions regarding the issues you raised are as below:

¹Emphsis should be given to original research (epidemiological studies, and randomized clinical trials). Out of the total 10 articles to be published in one issue, there should be 8 such articles (epidemiological studies, and randomized clinical trials) and only 2 articles of surveys and data analysis should be included.

²People who are writing good original articles should be appreciated to send their articles to this journal for publication.

³Work should be done to improve the indexing of the journal to increase the interest of people for publication in this journal.

⁴Journal can be shifted to complete OJS for better handling and fast working.

⁵To raise the funds of the journal publication charges can be increased accordingly.

⁶A new system of fast track publication can be introduced. Authors requesting for fast track publication can be reviewed at double the cost of publication. Quota can be fixed in an issue for fast track publication. For example, 4 articles in an issue can be published on fast track and 6 articles on normal charges.

⁷Cost of normal publication charges can be increased and for fast track publication it may be Rs:50000.

Dr Khalid Mahmood Siddiqi

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In my opinion we should not accept simple studies based on questionnaires because self made questionnaires are not reliable and results of such studies are also not acceptable. Only studies with authentic questionnaires which are already tested and available online or in books should be acceptable for PODJ. In all international journals, studies based on questionnaires are not self made and authors are supposed to give reference in their articles. Clinical studies are the best. Moreover, change should be gradual.

Dr Saeeda Abdullah

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Allow me to congratulate you on successfully containing the Pakistan Oral and Dental Journal for 4 decades. It is no doubt one of the most read dental journals in Pakistan.

I agree with the idea that the type of the research published in the Journal should be uplifted. That will encourage quality research in Pakistan, however. I will suggest that this transition should be gradual and not sudden. Initially reduce the number of such publications and over a period of one to two years eliminate them completely. This will allow the researchers to publish ongoing research.

The publication fee may be increased for publication of a single article

Facility for Fast Track Review should be available

Prof. Dr. Tayyaba Saleem

Professor & HOD

Prosthodontics, Islamabad Medical & Dental College

Your sincere efforts for the uplift of the profession are adorable. Majority of specialists, including myself could not have achieved academic appraisals if PODJ had not existed. It is an honour for me to be a part of the Journal.

I suggest the following:

¹Limit the space for data collection type articles and gradually upgrade to research based studies. This will enable gradual transformation.

²If possible, make it monthly publication Journal rather than quarterly.

³Increase the publication fee.

⁴Hard copies of PODJ may be placed in foreign country libraries.

Prof Rehan Qamar

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