**Main Submission**

**Title: Publication in Biomedical Journals: Is there a need to address authors and readers concerns?**

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**Key words:** Authors, Biomedical research, Journals, Manuscript cycling, Publications

**Declaration of interest:** None to declare

**Source of funding:** None

**Previous submission/ presentations:** None

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Dear Editor,

Selection of journals by authors for publication mainly depends on indexing and impact factor of a journal besides its field of publication. However, authors do consider other factors such as number of issues published in a year, manuscript acceptance rate, time to acceptance and publication, manuscript’s content specific journal, maximum number of authors permitted for a specific section and number of articles already in backlog for publication by the journal.

Authors and readers have certain expectations from the journals that publishes biomedical literature. Though many prestigious and reputed journals do try to maintain the timelines and adhere to journal policies regarding publications, however, there are certain lacunae in many other journals which, if addressed, can attract more audience. We hereby attempt to highlight those drawbacks and wish for the rectification of the same. First and foremost, it has been seen that many journals rejects the manuscripts without stating the reasons for rejection. There is always a scope of improvement and if journals can highlight those reasons for rejection, the authors can subsequently address these feedbacks and attempt for publication in other suitable journal. Secondly, many journals take unusually long time such as around 6 months for first reply and up to a year or more for final decision (1,2).The duration from the time of manuscript uploading till it gets accepted or rejected should be minimised by aggressive and timely peer reviewing process. This holds more relevance for manuscript pertaining to dynamic situations (e.g. epidemic). During this interim phase, the authors may wish to know the status of their manuscripts by writing to Editor. However, in many instances, the authors do net get reply from Editor (3). If these queries are addressed timely, the authors do feel reassured. Again, the process of peer-review is not blinded in many journals and reviewers have access to each and every details of the authors. This in turn can influence manuscript cycling process. Thus, it is important that the process of peer-reviewing should be completely blinded to avoid any bias. Again, the time from acceptance of the manuscript till its publication is delayed by 6 months or more in some journals (4). Though many journals makes ahead of print articles available online, this feature should be adopted uniformly by all journals so that the readers can read them well in advance specially during dynamic situations warranting regular updation of knowledge. Another important feature that all journals should include is “Reply to published articles” whereby readers get an opportunity to express their views on the published article. This, in turn, provides more comprehensive knowledge to the readers about a particular topic (5). Again, studies which are expected to be path-breaking and bring landmark changes in clinical practice should be thoroughly and extensively reviewed. Improperly conducted studies with forged data can bring significant damage to the society if they clear peer-review process followed by its application in clinical practice. And, finally, journals publishing biomedical literature should refrain from publishing manuscripts on political issues which in turn can sensitise people and evoke hazardous responses (6).

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