

EDITORIAL

Overview of Journals in Developing Countries

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Research in developing countries has undoubtedly progressed in the last few decades. Local journals of developing countries are a vast source of original knowledge. Unfortunately, not all articles from developing countries are published and remain out of view internationally. Science Citation Index (SCI) reported that fewer than 2 percent of the articles are published from developing countries¹. According to Richard Smith, Editor of the British Medical Journal (BMJ), research conducted by developing countries is often not published. Only 13% of articles from developing countries are listed in Ulrich's Directory of Scientific Serials repository and only 2 percent journals are indexed on Medline². However, eight developed countries e.g. US, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Canada, Switzerland, and Japan produce almost 85 percent of the world's most cited publications, while another 163 countries, mostly developing ones, account for less than 2.5%³. It is really a concern that 85% world population's health problems are addressed by the research of 15 % of the world population⁴. Of 90% burden of preventable mortality that occur in developing country cannot be alleviated by developed country knowledge. So, knowledge of developing countries is very important for solving local and global challenges.

A survey by Lancet Editor, Richard Horton reported that bias is a very important factor in not publishing articles from developing countries in favor of North⁵. BMJ Editor also emphasized that research is able to be conducted is often not published due to biases within a publishing industry largely located in the developed country². Some projects of international organizations have been taken to provide a platform

for developing countries' journals development and dissemination to minimize the gap e.g. Hinari, AGORA, OARE, and ARDI. But the information gap is another big challenge for developing countries' journals⁷.

Health Information in developing countries is struggling although rapid advances are being made with the uptake and use of new technology. There are limited opportunities to share scientific information for the best practice of medicine. Researchers have also limitations in publishing their results and scholarships. We have to find ourselves how to mitigate our challenges in publishing quality journals. Knowledge of 80% of the world's population cannot be ignored for sustainability and economic growth of the world. If not addressed in the right way in a timely manner the gap will widen continuously.

Therefore, the Bangladesh Society of Medical Journal Editors (BSMJE) has been established to improve the quality of medical journals which will be launched at the International Conference on **Academic Integrity in AI Technology** to be held on 11th December 2023 at Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka jointly organized by Bangladesh Medical Research Council and Bangladesh Bioethics Society (BBS). It may be an example to other developing countries of how Bangladesh is trying to improve the quality of their journals. I invite you all to attend this conference and be a member of BSMJE.

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