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Editorial

Impact factors and its relevance in dentistry

'Publish or Perish' is the maxim that has taken centre stage in today's academia. The problem with majority of dental fraternity is the lack of understanding on the concepts related with publication. The result of such a situation is poor publication record of young faculty and post-graduates in non-indexed journals with diminishing academic standards.

In view of this, I take this opportunity to elucidate the concept of Impact Factors. Generally, Impact Factor is defined mathematically as total number of citations, the journal received divided by the total number of articles published in the period of computation. Impact Factor is counted for single publication year, two years or for five-year period. Thus, according to this definition, any journal which is well cited has higher chances of good impact factor. It is therefore clear that only that journal can be quoted that has widespread access. Access includes searchability of the article, availability of the text, and ease of communication with editorial staff. Search Engines like PubMed, Google Scholar, Scopus are mostly used for looking relevant articles. Citation History is available from

sites like CiteULike and Google Scholar. Therefore, from the above, it makes sense to conclude that indexing in good and popular search engines is the primary characteristic of a journal having good impact factor.

Why is it important for dental fraternity to know about impact factor? Presently, we are witnessing huge upsurge in publication of journals. Many of these journals are just expressions of financial interest, with no regard to publication ethics and morals. Academically also, they are useless as they do not carry any useful weightage. The purpose of the present write-up is to enhance the publication literacy among dental and oral health fraternity. The Oro-dental fraternity has only a few journals with high impact factor. The reason seems to be the lack of interest and awareness in young authors and wrong selection of journals. The cycle is vicious. The message is clear and precise, be specific with Journal you choose for expected readership, persist in your publication efforts, and be courteous in giving due referral to deserving authors in form of citations.

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