

LETTER TO EDITOR

Peer Pressure of Publishing or Perishing (PPPP)**Divya Gupta**

Associate Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology, Himalayan Institute of Medical Sciences, Swami Rama Himalayan University, Swami Rama Nagar, Doiwala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Corresponding AuthorDr Divya Gupta, Associate Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology, Himalayan Institute of Medical Sciences, Swami Rama Himalayan University, Swami Rama Nagar, Doiwala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
E Mail ID: dr_divyagupta@rediffmail.com**Citation**Gupta D, Peer Pressure of Publishing or Perishing (PPPP). Indian J Comm Health. 2021;33(2):413.
<https://doi.org/10.47203/IJCH.2021.v33i02.037>**Source of Funding: Nil Conflict of Interest: None declared****Article Cycle****Received: 13/06/2021; Revision: 21/06/2021; Accepted: 25/06/2021; Published: 30/06/2021**This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

Sir,

Researchers create or improvise knowledge by innovating concepts, methods and/or interpretations. Scientific research and scientific writing seem to be inseparable in this modern world for professional existence. Publications are important to give a thrust and positive boost up in your career. Since last decade, research has taken a new horizon. Medical schools and universities frequently use the quantification of publication as the measure of a scholar's academic competency. Publications are an essential and sometimes the sole criteria considered during recruitments. The numerical value of the published work is taking a leap step ahead of the quality of research. Scholars, who do not have the aptitude of publishing frequently or who focus more on their clinical work and teaching activities to shape up the undergraduates' and postgraduates' future, may find themselves out of this professional race. Each individual faculty of the medical institutions is unique research scholar. There is an upcoming trend that unless they pen down their research, they will be undervalued in the academic workplace. This undue "Peer Pressure of Publishing or Perishing" is floating as the new "Catch Phrase" of the professional era.

"Publish or perish" term initiated by Coolidge in 1932 is now surfacing as a big boom. It refers to the undue pressure to publish the scientific work in order to survive in the respective academic field. It has in turn led to the various malpractices in the scientific world. This relentless pressure to publish at all costs in order to bag up the number of publications to one's credit is escalating the already existing stress in medical field. Research work ready to be published is a cake's walk for those who are just a "phone call away" in their public relationships while for others it's "climbing the mountain" phenomenon. The clinical work is increasingly being overlooked and given a secondary value. The returns of exceptional teaching and untiring clinical

work rarely match the returns for number of publications, be it genuine or not.

To conclude, research and publication go together but should not be chased more than the clinical acumen and teaching. The only differentiating feature between the two entities is that while publications can be counted but clinical skills can never be measured. One aspect which can be considered for recruitments and promotions should be the log books of the clinical work done during the term, all of which is impossible to be printed. Therefore, publishing should not be obligatory and mandatory. Reforms are expected in this arena. Ironically, we are surrendering first to PPPP by writing this piece about PPPP.

Further Reading

1. Rawat S, Meena S. Publish or perish: Where are we heading? J Res MedSci.2014;19(2):87-89.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3999612/>
2. Abbott A, Cyranoski D, Jones N, Maher B, Schiermeier Q, Van Noorden R. Metrics: Do metrics matter? Nature. 2010;465(7300):860-862.
<https://www.nature.com/articles/465860a>
3. Bauerlein M, Gad-el-Hak M, Grody W, McKelvey B, Trimble SW. We Must Stop the Avalanche of Low-Quality Research. <https://www.chronicle.com/article/we-must-stop-the-avalanche-of-low-quality-research/>
4. Journal self-citation in the Journal Citation Reports – Science Edition(2002).
<https://clarivate.com/webofsciencegroup/essays/journal-self-citation-jcr/>
5. Masic I. Ethical aspects and dilemmas of preparing, writing and publishing of the scientific papers in the biomedical journals. Acta InformMed.2012;20(3):141-148.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3508847/>
6. Gupta D. Mandatory Basic Life Support Training: Why NOT In India; Mandatory End-of-Life Care Policy: Why NOT In India; Mandatory Medical Research Requirements: Why SO In India! Indian J Community Health. 2017;29(1):129-31.
<https://www.iapsmupuk.org/journal/index.php/IJCH/article/view/733>