



## EDITORIAL

“Predatory journal” is a well encountered name in today’s research world, especially in developing countries, not only because of scarcity of quality and original research works which can hardly find place in reputed journals, but also because of necessary (and sometimes unnecessary) regulations asking for a minimum number of publications required for obtaining degrees or promotion in academic jobs. The predatory journals make use of this situation of hype in demand for publication and in most of the cases make profit out of it, by publishing articles (mostly of low quality) at a high price. It is interesting to analyse the characteristics of the predatory journals. On careful observation, one finds that the journals have most of the following features, as mentioned below.

- These journals ask for money for publishing articles.
- These are open access journals.
- The journals promise to publish an article within 30 days (sometimes within 15 days or 7 days), thus compromising with the proper process of peer review.
- Plagiarism is not taken seriously by these journals.
- These are not indexed in reputed citation indexing services like Scopus or Web of Science.
- These journals do not have “impact factor” (which is only available to the journals indexed by Web of Science).
- These journals claim to have other types of impact factors, say, “Good Journal Impact Factor” (which is generally written in the header or footer of every article they publish), provided by non-reputed bodies.
- These journals offer to give certificates for publication.

Although, it is not illegal to publish in any of these journals, but one is at a risk of compromising with the recognition one would have deserved and more importantly, one is at a danger of losing the publication altogether, as that journal might totally stop operating in case it is not making a good profit out of these practices.

However, in some cases some of these journals can somehow pave their ways to some citation indexes (although, not in very reputed ones) and more recently, can manage to be in the accepted/approved list of Journals released by statutory bodies. This is both unfortunate and alarming. Consequently, it calls for the authors to be more vigilant and informed. They should use their wisdom and judgement to choose quality research journals and not fall prey to *Predatory Journals*.

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