

Role of multidisciplinary journals in academic acceleration

Journals play an important role in academics by providing a platform for students, faculty, and other researchers to share their research work with the rest of the academia. In the past, when information technology and computers were not common, publishing a paper was very difficult, and it took years in the peer review and publishing process. With the advancement of information technology, the peer review process has become very easy, and nowadays, the author is able to track the progress of their submitted paper in real time. With the evolution of the publishing industry, nowadays, there are hundreds of journals available. Some journals are subject-specific and publish research papers confined to a specific area, while others are multidisciplinary and publish papers related to multiple research areas.

Multidisciplinary journals are advantageous in terms of providing a variety of research papers belonging to several disciplines to the audience on a single platform. The future of such journals is also very safe over the long run as usually there is never a lack of papers in such journals. Multidisciplinary journals are also popular for the industry that is about to start a journal, as a subject-specific journal usually faces a shortage of papers during the starting volumes. However, the multidisciplinary journal also tends to be controversial regarding the quality of research they publish. The authors usually like to publish their research in subject-specific journals to reach the target audience.

Apart from pros and cons, a multidisciplinary journal that publishes quality research plays an important role in academic acceleration. Here, the quality of research does not imply some “big research” with “lots of data” but implies the basic standards of quality. For example, the originality of the research, lack of plagiarism, authentic figures and tables, and standards of the peer review process. Students and researchers in their early carrier are not experts in the communication and publishing of their research. In search of a good journal, they usually ended up trapped in predatory journals. It is the responsibility

of a journal to guide the authors towards publishing by providing the appropriate feedback in terms of reviewer’s comments, publishing fee concession, and quick publication. A multidisciplinary journal that maintains quality standards acts as the best tool for promoting academic research.

There are certain predatory journals that lure the authors by giving interactive offers of easy and fast publication with a small publication fee. Certain journals publish the research paper on the same day. How could such journals maintain the academic standards of quality research and peer review? There are also a few journals that, once indexed in reputed indexation like Embase and Scopus, they start publishing hundreds of papers per issue by taking the huge publication fee from the authors. Even after such journals are discontinued in Scopus, they keep publishing the upcoming papers in their previous issues that were indexed in Scopus. Such journals are defaming the name of multidisciplinary journals.

A multidisciplinary journal helps in the academic acceleration of early career researchers, and it should maintain the basic academic standards of ethical publishing. It is not wrong for a journal to ask for a publishing fee from the authors, as basic financial expenses need to be met for the survival of the journal. The authors looking for multidisciplinary journals must watch the facts mentioned above and be careful about falling into the trap of predatory journals.

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Access this article online

Website: <http://www.jpbs-online.com>

E-ISSN: 2321-0125

How to cite this article: Goyal AK, Saini J. Role of multidisciplinary journals in academic acceleration. J Pharm BioSci 2023;11(1):1-1.

Source of Support: Nil, **Conflicts of Interest:** None declared