

Is your Research Landing in the Right place? The Essential Guide for Smart Researchers

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Research is the heart and soul of academic progress. Picking the right journal is essential to maximize the visibility, impact, and credibility of our research. With the new regulations from different institutions accompanied by the pressure of “publish or perish”, for the promotion and career advancement, it is observed that some Nepalese researchers published papers in predatory journals. Predatory journals are publications that publish articles online without providing the expected editorial and publishing services associated with legitimate scholarly journals.¹

More recent article disputes the view that most authors published in predatory journals come from less developed countries. It is estimated that between 2010 and 2014, the estimated number of articles published by predatory publishers increased from 53000 articles to 420000.² In August 2024, the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME) which was held in Sydney issued a statement addressing predatory journals as a major agenda.³

Predatory journals draw the interest of young researchers who are eager to publish quickly to achieve promotion. This practice of enticing researchers to publish valid work in predatory journals result in the loss of significant, Validated studies. Studies have reported that several predatory journals have started to creep into credible repositories, such as PubMed, PubMed Central, MEDLINE, SCOPUS and Web of Science.

Strategies To Cope With Predatory Journal

1. Indexing and the impact factor of journal should always be verified through reputable databases like PubMed, Scopus, or Web of Science rather than relying solely on journal-provided information.⁴
2. The Journal's website (name, location, time in existence, editorial board, digital storage policy, editorial standards, publication procedure, plagiarism prevention systems, ISSN, DOI, rejection rate) should be investigated.
3. The journal's copyright assignment policy, publication fees and the peer review process should be clearly stated on the website of the journal.
4. The resources and tools available on the web should be used so that researchers can spot predatory journals (eg. ThinkCheckSubmit.org, The directory of open access journals (DOAJ), SCImago Journal Rank, National Library of Medicine (NLM) Catalog, The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) Stop Predatory Journals, Cabells' Whitelist and blacklist).
5. The journal's formal appearance (logo, images published, the spelling and grammatical accuracy of the wording used, etc.) should be carefully examined.
6. Whether the journal is a member of the Committee on Publication and Ethics (COPE) or Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA) or listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) should be checked.⁵

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