

Scope of the Journal and Instructions to the Authors

Indian Journal of Mental Health (Journal) is the official publication of the Desousa Foundation that considers for publication manuscripts that must be prepared in accordance with 'Uniform requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journal' developed by Journal Editors (2006). The uniform and specific requirements of the Indian Journal of Mental Health are summarized below. The journal will be published twice a year with one or two supplement issues every year.

THE EDITORIAL PROCESS

The manuscripts received shall be peer reviewed for possible publication with the understanding that they are being submitted to only this journal and not simultaneously submitted or accepted for publication elsewhere. The Editors shall review all submitted manuscripts initially. Manuscripts with scientific flaws or vague research designs may often be rejected. The journal will not return any unaccepted manuscripts. The reviewers shall review all papers in a blind review and convey their decision to the Editors. Within a period of 8-12 weeks, the contributors shall receive comments, need for corrections and notice regarding acceptance or rejection of the manuscript. Other journals appropriate for the paper may be suggested in some cases of rejection. Articles accepted would be copy edited for grammar, punctuation, print style, and proofs for correction shall be sent to the author prior to publication. Authors will be asked to sign a copyright form and undertaking for plagiarism in case of accepted manuscripts. Only upon receipt of corrected proofs from the authors and completion of all form required, will a paper be published in the journal.

TYPES OF ARTICLES

- **Original Research Papers or Article** : These papers should only include original research findings from planned research studies such as case-control series, surveys with high response rates, randomized controlled trials and treatment based intervention studies. Meta analyses shall be included in this section. The word limit is 6000 words excluding references and an abstract (structured format) of not more than 250 words with 4-6 key words.
- **Case Reports** : These should contain reports of new, interesting or rare cases of clinical significance or with implications for management. It could also include case reports where novel management methods were used. It has a word count of 1500 words with up to 15 references and an abstract of not more than 150 words.
- **Review Papers (only invited)** : These are systematic and critical assessments of the literature which will be invited. Authors wishing to submit a review paper will have to contact the editor and seek permission for submission of the review. Only after permission has been sought will the article be accepted for peer review. The review article has a word limit of 8000 words and must be state of the art in every respect. Only invited reviews will be published. However exceptionally interesting topics even if uninvited when submitted may be considered.
- **NGO Corner or Psychosocial Intervention Narrative** : This is a one of its kind section in the journal which will look at mental health related non governmental organizations in India and Asia while giving them a chance to show case their work and more so their dreams, ambitions, goals and journey in their fields so far. The article in this section shall not exceed 3000 words and must be written by a person working in the NGO mentioned.
- **Personal Subject Related Viewpoint** : These should be experience-based views and opinions on controversial issues that affect the profession. They could also be part of clinical problems that

confront people in routine practice. The author should have sufficient experience or must have some unique personal experience based on the subject being considered. The word limit is 2500 words.

- **Announcements** : Information regarding conferences, meetings, courses, awards and other items likely to be of interest to readers should be submitted with the name and address of the person from whom additional information can be obtained (up to 200 words).
- **Free Format Writing** : This is a section where clinical discussion and ethical standpoints or dilemmas may be discussed without references in a narrative format rather than scientific writing in view of personal experience or a current issue that plagues mental health or clinical practice. The word limit for this section is 2000 words.
- **Book or Movie Review** : Exceptionally readable and good books and movies or documentaries which shall be academic and otherwise in the field of mental health shall be considered in this section. The word limit shall be 1500 words.
- **Poems** : Poems related to various themes in psychology, mind, brain, neuroscience, mental health and psychiatry shall be considered based on their merit for this section.
- The journal is in evolution and newer concepts shall be considered from time to time.

SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

Send soft copy of the manuscript along with a covering letter in Microsoft Word 2007 or 2010. Name and designation of all authors with designation and name of the corresponding author must be mentioned. Copies of any permission(s) to reproduce published material, and to use illustrations or report information about identifiable people must accompany the manuscript.

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For online submission articles should be prepared in two files (first page file and article file). Images should be submitted separately.

First Page File : Prepare the title page, covering letter, acknowledgement, etc. using a word processor program. All information which can reveal your identity should be here. Use doc/pdf files. Please do not zip the files.

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Images and Tables : Submit good quality colour images. Each image should be less than 400 kb in size. Size of the image can be reduced by decreasing the actual height and width of the images (keep up to 800 pixels or 4 inches). All image formats (jpeg, tiff, gif, bmp, png, eps, etc.) are acceptable; jpeg is most suitable. Do not zip the files. All tables, figures and images must be duly labelled.

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PREPARATION OF THE RESEARCH PAPER (MANUSCRIPT)

Please use A4 size (212 × 297 mm) on Microsoft Word, with margins of 1 inch from all the four sides. If sending a hard copy, type or print on only one side of the paper. Use double spacing throughout. Number pages consecutively, beginning with the title page. The language should be British English or American English.

Title Page

1. Type of manuscript (Original/Review/Case etc)
2. The title of the article, which should be concise, but informative;
3. Running title or short title not more than 50 characters;
4. The name by which each contributor is known with institutional affiliation;
5. The name of the department(s) and institution(s) to which the work should be attributed;
6. The name, address, phone numbers, facsimile numbers and e-mail address of the contributor responsible for correspondence;
7. The total number of pages, photographs and word counts separately for abstract and for the text (excluding the references and abstract).
8. Acknowledgements : Specify contributions that need acknowledging but do not justify authorship, such as general support by a departmental chair and acknowledgments of technical, financial and material support. Also mention financial grants received or conflict of interest if any.
9. If the manuscript was presented as part at a meeting, the organisation, place, and exact date on which it was read along with mention of any award it may have received.

Abstract Page

The second page should carry the full title of the manuscript and an abstract (no more than the number of words already specified). For abstract we follow an unstructured abstract format that should not exceed 250 words. Below the abstract should provide 3 to 6 key words.

Text of the article

State the purpose of the article and summarize the rationale for the study or observation in Introduction. For case reports give incidence of similar cases in past. Describe the selection of the observational or experimental subjects clearly in Patients and Methods section. Identify the age, sex, and other important characteristics of the subjects. Identify the methods, apparatus (give the manufacturer's name and address in parentheses), and procedures in sufficient detail. Give references to established methods, describe new or substantially modified methods, give reasons for using them, and evaluate their limitations. Identify precisely all drugs and chemicals used, including generic name(s), dose(s), and route(s) of administration. Reports of randomised clinical trials should be based on the **CONSORT statement** (<http://www.consort-statement.org>).

When reporting experiments on human subjects, procedures followed should be in accordance with the standards ethical committee on human experimentation and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2000 (http://www.wma.net/e/policy/17-c_e.html). Do not use patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers, especially in illustrative material. Present the results in logical sequence in the text, tables, and illustrations. Do not repeat in the text all the data in the tables or illustrations; emphasise or summarise only important observations. Use standard guidelines for statistics (See *Ann Intern Med* 1988;108:266-73).

Emphasize the new and important aspects of the study and the conclusions that follow from them along with implications of the findings and their limitations in the Discussion section.

References

References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Identify references in text, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals in square bracket ([]). References cited only in tables or figure legends should be numbered in accordance with the sequence established by the first identification in the text of the particular table or figure. The titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the style used in *Index Medicus*. Avoid using abstracts, unpublished observations, and

personal communication as references. Please refer <http://www.icmje.org> for other types of references such as electronic media, newspaper items, etc.

1. Standard journal article: Seshadri L, George SS, Vasudevan B, Krishna S. Cervical intraepithelial neoplasia and human papilloma virus infection in renal transplant recipients. *Indian J Cancer* 2001;38:92-5.
2. List the first six contributors followed by et al.
3. Personal author(s): Ringsven MK, Bond D. *Gerontology and leadership skills for nurses*. 2nd ed. Albany (NY): Delmar Publishers; 1996.
4. Chapter in a book: Phillips SJ, Whisnant JP. Hypertension and stroke. In: Laragh JH, Brenner BM, editors. *Hypertension: pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management*. 2nd ed. New York: Raven Press; 1995. pp 465-78.

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- Number tables, in Arabic numerals, consecutively in the order of their first citation in the text and supply a brief title for each.
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