Scope of the Journal & 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. It is also the official journal of the Global Society for Digital Psychology and has a dedicated section on Digital Psychology which shall publish articles in keeping with the aims and objectives of the society. This is in addition to articles on psychology, mental health, psychiatry, psychopharmacology and psychiatric social work as well as occupational therapy that are also published in the journal.

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

The journal does not charge for submission, processing or publication of an article.

Types of Manuscripts:

Original Articles: These are accurately planned research studies such as experimental designs, outcome studies, meta-analysis, cohort studies, case-control series and surveys with high response rates, randomized controlled trials, epidemiological assessment, intervention studies, studies of screening and diagnostic tests, cost-effectiveness analyses and decision analyses. The word limit is 3500 excluding abstract, tables, figures, acknowledgments and references. The abstract should be structured and cover 5 headings: Background, aim, methods, results and conclusion. The word limit for abstracts is 250. The number of tables and images (combined) should not exceed 5. The number of references should not exceed 40. The article should include an introduction, methods, results, discussion, acknowledgement if any, and references. The discussion section should include a paragraph mentioning the limitations of the study. All original research papers should follow EQUATOR reporting Guidelines. Clinical trials should conform to CONSORT Checklist available from http://www.consort-statement.org. Meta-analyses of clinical trials should include the PRISMA flow diagram and checklist whereas meta-analyses of observational studies should incorporate the MOOSE checklist. Registration of clinical trials at an online public trial registry is mandatory, if the trial has been conducted after 2014. Permission from ethics committee/ Institutional Review Board (IRB), is mandatory and it must be mentioned in the "methods" section of all manuscripts. The authors must mention statement of sources of support and conflict of interest.

- Brief Research Communication: These manuscripts, with not more than 2 tables/figures, should contain short reports of original studies or evaluations, preliminary investigative findings and early information of therapeutic trials, or unique first-time reports. The word limit is 1500 words (excluding abstract, tables, figures, acknowledgments and references) and up to 20 references, and an abstract (structured format incorporating background, aim, methods, results and conclusion) of not more than 150 words. Permission from ethics committee/ Institutional Review Board (IRB), is mandatory and it must be mentioned in the "methods" section. The authors must mention statement of sources of support and conflict of interest.
- Case Reports: Interesting cases that are worth publishing shall be considered in this setting. The word limit shall be 2000-2500 words with 10-15 references. In special cases this may be flexible. The patient consent for publishing of the case is needed and the same is needed for publishing imaging files or MRI images.
- Case Series: This should include 3 or more cases which are novel or interesting in terms of presentation or management. The word limit is 2500-3000 words (excluding abstract and references, but including tables, if any) and 10-20 references. There should be a structured abstract of not more than 100 words. The case series should have a brief introduction, description of individual cases followed by discussion and clinical implications.
- Review Articles and Invited Reviews: Review articles are meant to critically assess and evaluate existing literature on a topic of general interest in the field of psychiatry and allied sciences. Review articles are usually invited by the Editorial Office although unsolicited reviews may also be considered in exceptional cases depending upon the quality of the review and its clinical relevance. Review articles can be either systematic reviews or narrative reviews. Systematic Reviews require a complete systematic search of literature with the help of several databases across many years. The quality of the cited evidence is to be graded subsequently. Systemic reviews should follow EQUATOR Reporting Guidelines which include a PRISMA style flow diagram and a PRISMA Checklist. Narrative Reviews are usually written by recognized experts on a particular field. These do not require a systematic review of literature but the recommendations and conclusions should be based on evidence including recent systematic reviews and guidelines. Review articles should include a structured abstract of not more than 300 words describing the purpose of the review, collection and analysis of data, main conclusions and relevance. The review article should include an introduction, methods, discussion/observation, conclusion and references. The word limit is 4000-12,000 words excluding tables, references and abstract. Tables/figures (combined) should not be more than 5. Number of references should not exceed 150.
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- and opinions on the topic which should be backed by evidence as far as possible. The article should not have more than 2000 words (excluding references), 15 references and 3 authors.
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- 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.
- Poem: 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.

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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.

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