

Predatory Journal or Publishing: A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

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Predatory journals and publication have posed a global threat to the scientific knowledge.¹ Such pseudo-science challenge the established scientific evidence using unethical and dishonest approaches.² They are cheap and low-quality scientific journals without any credibility with main intention focus to extract fees from authors. Young scientists and scholars are vulnerable and easy victims of the predatory journal publications. Predatory publications fail to provide the transparency and scientific facts, hence reduce the accuracy, reliability, and validity of the scientific works published. Apart from that, they do not provide adequate quality control, editorial analysis, peer reviews, or proper indexing as per the quality control.³⁻⁵ So, basically publishing in the predatory journal is wasting time, energy, money, efforts and resources. It is necessary to discourage both the predatory publishers and researchers themselves to publish in those journals. It can be fulfilled by the corresponding institutions by setting the rules for publication in the journals that must be indexed in web of science, Journal Citation Reports (JCR, Clarivate Analytics, formerly Thomson-Reuters) or other famous scientific databases such as Scopus, Directory of Open Access Journals, PubMed, and MEDLINE. Likewise, article citations from predatory journals should be discouraged as far as possible.

This can be done by the corresponding editors, so that the risk of citation from the predatory journals in their own journals cannot be done. They can instruct their subordinates like associate editors, reviewers and authors to thoroughly check the references before citation. Another method is to develop the skills to identify potentially predatory journals. This is not an easy task but online resources such as Think Check Submit (www.thinkchecksubmit.org) and databases like the Directory of Open Access Journals (www.doaj.org) can help. The authors can also go through the blacklists of potentially predatory journals, including Beall's list of potential, possible or probable predatory journals, but this can be difficult to be updated.^{6,7}

However, the academic culture of either publish or perish has a bad impact on the researcher to do the publication as soon as possible and, also the fast track publication with charging money lure them to publish in such journals as fast as possible without any quality peer review.

So, the advice for the authors is to look into the credibility of journal by cross checking through the above mentioned methods, check that it comes from reputable source before citing it in the reference. Other duty of the academic and research institutions is to strictly revise their publishing requirements and check lists to accept high-quality publications and prevent fraudulent publishing.

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