CHALLENGES FOR JOURNAL EDITORS

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Publish or perish is an aphorism describing the pressure to publish academic work in order to succeed in professional career especially at research universities. The value of published work is often determined by the prestige of the academic journal determined by high impact value. All the prestigious journals have one thing in common, which is they all have highly qualified, responsible editorial boards members who adhere to COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics).

Working as an editor for a journal in a low resource countries like Nepal is a challenging job. Though it gives the feeling of being privileged and rewarding, however it is usually an honorary, voluntary work with no financial benefits. The primary aim of the editors is to increase the visibility of research done by researchers and increase the quality of their journal.

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The Editor is accountable for endorsing the mission of the journal and for accepting original papers that provide noble and prime contributions to research work. The editors themselves may write editorials or may even assign guest editors for special issues. Few qualities that an editor must have are subject expert and a keen eye with command over language. Various skills an editor need to have are good knowledge of English language, excellent verbal communication, being flexible and highly versatile with ability to work well with others.

The editorial board in the journal needs to be author-friendly with suggestions and comments from authors as well as readers to be taken in a positive way for standardization of scientific publications. However at the end, it is the experience of the editor that works always.