



Research and Scientific Publication in Developing Countries Challenges and the Way

Dr. Kalyan Sapkota

Editor-in-Chief

Journal of Bharatpur Hospital (JoBH)

Scientific research and publication are the cornerstone of modern-day evidence-based medicine, they shape our clinical decision making, public health approach and guide us in policy formulation. Despite the growing number of academic institutions in these regions, several systemic barriers hinder the progress of scientific inquiry and knowledge dissemination.¹ Performing scientific study in developing countries has numerous challenges; inadequate financial support,² with scarce government allocations and dependency on external grants³, lack of proper infrastructure and institutional support. Without adequate mentorship and research training programs and limited access to advanced laboratory and research facilities, early-career researchers face difficulties in formulating research questions, applying for grant, designing robust studies, and analyzing data effectively. Nepalese researchers often face difficulties in publishing in high-impact international journals due to language barriers, methodological limitations, and a lack of statistical support.^{3,4}

To overcome these barriers, a multi-faceted approach is needed. Governments must prioritize investment in research and development, increasing national funding for health and medical research. Universities and hospitals should strengthen research infrastructure, providing access to advanced laboratory facilities, research software, and international databases.

Furthermore, capacity-building initiatives, including mentorship programs, workshops on research methodology, and scientific writing training, should be promoted to enhance research competency among early-career scientists.² Some of the institution that are working to strengthen the research ecosystem are Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC), and the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other institutions offering research grant, NHRC is also actively involved in setting research priorities, strengthening capacity building through various training program, funding health-related studies, and ensuring ethical compliance.

NepJOL, supported by INASP, provides an essential platform for Nepalese researchers to publish and disseminate their findings, improving accessibility and visibility. International collaborations and partnerships with other research institutions can help in overcoming publication challenges. Joint research projects, exchange programs, and mentorship by experienced researchers can improve methodological rigor and enhance the global visibility of research.

In conclusion, while research and scientific publication in developing countries face numerous challenges, strategic investments, systematic research training, developing a research culture and global collaborations can foster a more inclusive and equitable research ecosystem. Building robust research capacity in these regions is

vital not only for local progress but for global health security, scientific advancement, and data-driven decision-making.

Warm Regards

Assoc. Prof. Dr Kalyan Sapkota

Editor-in-Chief

Journal of Bharatpur Hospital (JoBH)

Official Email: journalbharatpurhospital@gmail

REFERENCES

1. Salager-Meyer F. Scientific publishing in developing countries: Challenges for the future. Journal of English for academic purposes. 2008 Apr 1;7(2):121-32.[DOI]
2. Al-Worafi, Y.M. (2024). Research Publication in Developing Countries: Achievements and Challenges. In: Al-Worafi, Y.M. (eds) Handbook of Medical and Health Sciences in Developing Countries. Springer, Cham. [DOI]
3. Sharma MR, Tuladhar SR, Adhikari A, Khadga A, Singh S, Ghimire N. Status of Research Funding in Nepal: A Scoping Review. JNMA: Journal of the Nepal Medical Association. 2024 Jul 31;62(275):485.[DOI]
4. DahalS., Shrestha G. S., Singh S., Raj Joshi D., Situala R., Raj Chalise P., & Raj Sharma M. (2022). Perceived Barriers to Publication in Scholarly Journals by Faculty from Maharajgunj Medical Campus. Journal of Nepal Health Research Council, 20(02), 366- 371. [DOI]

Citation: Sapkota K. Research and Scientific Publication in Developing Countries Challanges and the Way Forward. JoBH, Nepal. 2025; 1(1): 3-4.