

Research and Publication of Orthopedics in Tamil Nadu

Olden days infrastructure for research activities were less or almost nil in our country. In Tamil Nadu, Prof TK Shanmugasundaram did a lot of study about skeletal TB and bone tumors. He motivated his postgraduates to publish papers in the reputed journals. Professor Mayilvahanan Natarajan and Dr S Rajasekaran were his students. Prof. T.K. Shanmugasundaram used to say Publish or Perish.

Prof. Mayilvahanan Natarajan, towering personality, known for his orthopedic oncology, has published many articles. He motivated and insisted his postgraduates to publish scientific papers. As the vice-chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, he made E.Journal publication mandatory for the postgraduate degree students.

Dr S. Rajasekaran, an authority in orthopedics, is well known for his publications. Coimbatore is in the orthopedic world map because of his tireless orthopedic activities. Both were awarded Tamil Nadu Scientist Award and were President of Tamilnadu Orthopaedic Association and Indian Orthopaedic Association.

Dr. Ramesh Babu started training program about how to write the manuscript for the benefit of postgraduates under Tamilnadu Orthopaedic Association.

A study on the patterns of publications in the field of medicine in India showed that the number of articles published has increased from 10,046 (2001–2005) to 19,273 (2005–2010), which indicates a 92% increase.¹ In Asia, India is in the third rank in the number of paper publication.¹ Only three orthopedic journals, which publish all types of research articles from India, are indexed in PubMed and SCOPUS.² The main institutes responsible for the publication of the articles about spine were the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (6.6%), Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (5.8%), Ganga Hospital (5.8%), Christian Medical College and Hospital (4.6%), and the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (3.2%).³ The share of Indian publications in top 1% impact-making journals was only 0.54% in 2001, though it had increased from 2,610 (2001–2005) to 4,723.³

Earlier having a postgraduate degree was enough for a teaching faculty to get his promotion.

Slowly, the Medical Council of India have changed the norms and now it is compulsory to publish in the indexed journals to get promoted as associate professor and professor.

In 2015, as per the Medical Council of India norms, publishing in an indexed journal like Index Copernicus was sufficient for the teaching faculty to get their promotion. Now the National Medical Commission have changed the norms and it is mandatory to publish the scientific papers in the journals indexed in DOAJ, SCOPUS and PubMed to get their promotion (2005–2010).

Hence it is high time for the senior residents, associate professors to improve their standard of manuscripts so that it will be accepted by the journals indexed in DOAJ, SCOPUS and PubMed.

In our country, the clinical material is plenty and it is our responsibility to convert our clinical material into scientific papers in the indexed journals. Today, the manuscript processing charges/publication are very high. Thanks to Indian Journal of Orthopaedics and Journal of Orthopedics and Joint Surgery run by Indian Orthopaedic Association and Tamilnadu Orthopaedic Association respectively, where the manuscript processing charges are nil and scientific papers are published free of cost by the associations.

Now it is high time for us to publish our clinical material so that it will be useful all over the world as we are living in the era of digital technology.

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