

Experiences and Attitudes Towards Research Publishing – A Questionnaire Study Among Dental Faculty and Postgraduates in Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital, Khammam, Telangana

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Abstract: Background: Research experience not only enhances understanding but also instills evidence-based practice and improves skills. A natural successor to research is publishing. Research publishing is conducted by postgraduates as a part of curriculum and by dental faculty to progress in career. However, publishing requires the integration of certain levels of practice and knowledge, together with the right attitude. So, there is a need to assess the experiences and attitudes towards research publishing among dental faculty and postgraduates in Khammam, Telangana. **Methodology:** A pre-validated 26-item closed ended questionnaire relating to experiences and attitudes towards research publishing was distributed to the participants. Data was collected, compiled and analyzed. Chi-square test was used to test the significant difference between post graduates and faculty members. **Results:** A total of 47 dental faculty and 53 Postgraduates were participated in the study. Majority (53%) of the postgraduate students displayed a positive attitude towards research but stated that they had fewer opportunities to take part in research (59%). Most of the faculty and postgraduate students were in favour that career progression is the main motivation to consider publication and relevance to career was the main reason for selection of journals. All the participants agreed that it is important to publish, despite only 50% had submitted an article for publication. A total of 85% of the participants expressed to attend training in publishing an article. **Conclusion:** The need of the hour is to conduct research related workshops along with training on how to publish an article for both faculty and post graduate students to enhance their skills in this regard.

Keywords: Research publishing, Attitude, Dental faculty, Postgraduate student.

1. Introduction

Creative work that is undertaken on a systematic basis, with the purpose of increasing knowledge, and to devise new applications is known as research. It has several uses ranging from establishing scientific statements to solving new or existing issues. Research in medical and dental sciences is important to improve health care. Medical and dental students

can play an important role in the research productivity at an institution. Dental graduates who incorporate evidence-based philosophies into their practices have been at the forefront of debate among dental researchers and academicians over the past few years. This requires a thorough understanding and use of scientific principles and methods. The utilization and production of research along with human and institutional development are two important components of health research. Post-graduate teachers constitute an integral part of both these components¹. A lack of attention to research from government and the educated community creates a knowledge gap among community members, as well as the world at large. Some of the most influential factors impacting the research process are attitude to, experience in, and barriers toward research. A natural successor to research is academic publishing, which describes a system that is necessary in order for academic scholars to peer review the work while making it available to a wider audience. Studies on dental students' attitudes, experiences and barriers related to research and publishing are meager, and the few assessments documented in literature are limited to a small population. In particular, results from one large scale survey in India suggest that meager college funding, lack of time, and insufficient infrastructure pose substantial barriers to student participation in research. Hence the study was undertaken with the aim of assessing the experiences and attitudes towards research publishing among dental faculty and post graduates in Khammam, Telangana.

2. Material and Methods

A cross sectional questionnaire-based study was conducted among Dental faculty and postgraduates in Tertiary care teaching hospital, Khammam, Telangana. Ethical clearance obtained from ethical committee of tertiary care teaching hospital, Khammam before the commencement of the study.

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Consent was taken from the individual participants. A 28-item pretested valid questionnaire were distributed to the Dental faculty and postgraduates and the data was collected. Descriptive statistics including frequency for correct responses was used to assess experience and attitudes. Chi-square test was used to test the statistical differences of experience and attitude between faculty members and postgraduates.

3. Results

A. Demographic Characteristics of the Study Population

The study population consisted of 47 dental faculty and 53 postgraduates. Table 1 depicts the distribution of study population based on age group, gender and designation. The participants with mean age \pm SD of 32.67 ± 8.38 . Majority of the participants were postgraduates - 53, followed by Professor-19, Reader-18 and Senior lecturers-10. Based on the Gender, Females were 60 and Males were 40.

Table 1
Demographic profile

Demographic profile	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Age groups		
24-30yrs	55	55.00
31-40yrs	26	26.00
>=41yrs	19	19.00
Mean age	32.67	
SD age	8.38	
Gender		
Male	40	40.00
Female	60	60.00
Designation		
Senior Lecturer	10	10.00
Reader	18	18.00
Professor	19	19.00
Postgraduate	53	53.00
Total	100	100.00

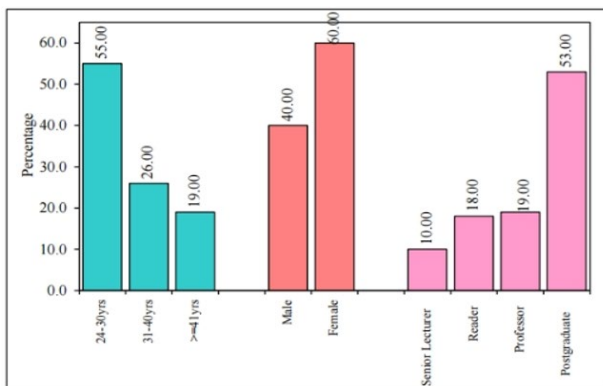


Fig. 1. Demographic profile

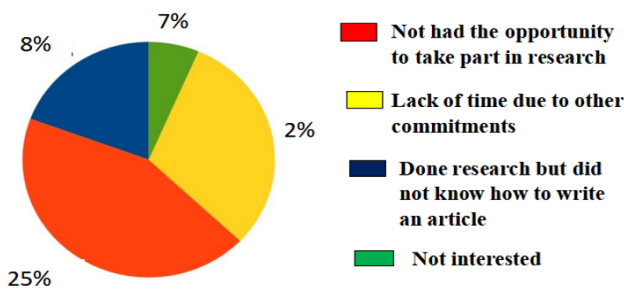


Fig. 2. Reason for not publishing among study participants

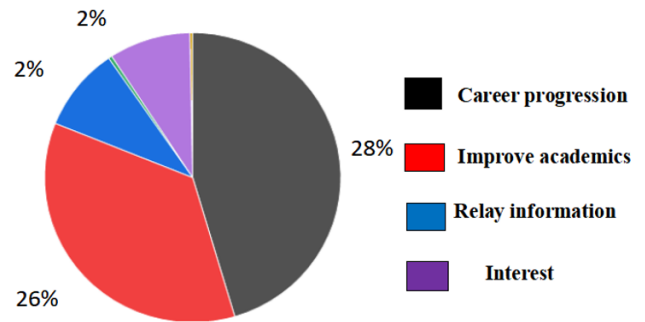


Fig. 3. Main motivation of study participants to consider publication

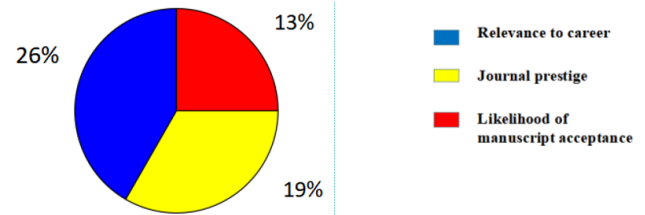


Fig. 4. Factors that affected your choice of journal for submission

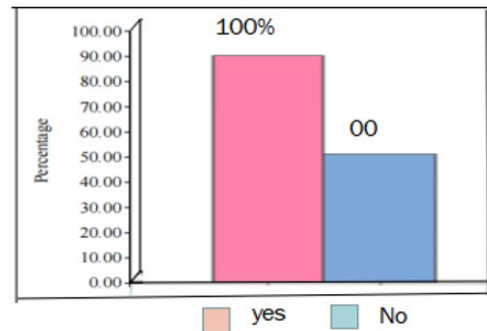


Fig. 5. Are research studies beneficial to general public

B. Opinion Responses on Research Publication

Table 2 and Figure 2, 3, 4 depicts responses on questions about research publication among dental faculty and postgraduates. All the participants agreed that it is important to publish, despite only 58% had submitted an article for publication. 25% of the participants had got no opportunity to take part in research. Career progression was the main motivation of study participants to consider publication and relevance to career was the factor that affected your choice of journal for submission.

Table 2 and Figure 5 depicts comparison of faculty and postgraduates regarding research publication. 83% of the participants expressed to attend training in, how to write an abstract or a scientific paper and 85% of the participants expressed to attend training in, publishing a scientific article. All the participants stated that research studies are beneficial to general public. Majority of the faculty members (47%) submitted article for publication and know how to critique a paper (36%) compared to postgraduates, whereas majority of the postgraduates read journals (51%) compared to faculty. To improve career was the main reason to publish the journal among both faculty and postgraduates.

Table 2: Item wise responses of respondents

Questions	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Have you ever submitted an article for publication		
Yes	58	58
No	42	42
If yes, what was the MAIN motivation to consider publication		
Career progression	28	28
Improve academics	26	26
Relay information	2	2
For interest	2	2
Please state the factors that affected your choice of journal for submission		
Journal prestige	19	19
Relevance to career	26	26
Likelihood of manuscript acceptance	13	13
Has your article ever been rejected?		
Yes	26	26
No	32	32
If yes, reason for rejection		
Inappropriate journal	8	8
Incorrect format	10	10
Inadequate illustrations	8	8
If have not published. Why not?		
Not interested	2	2
Not had the opportunity to take part in research	25	25
Lack of time due to other commitments	8	8
Done research but did not know how to write an article	7	7
Would you like more opportunity to take part in clinical/ laboratory research?		
Yes	96	96
No	4	4
Have you applied to an ethical clearance committee for a research project?		
Yes	74	74
No	26	26
If no, why not?		
Not needed to apply for ethical clearance	15	15
Supervisor did it for me	9	9
Avoided projects with ethical clearance, as did not know how to	2	2
Do you know that submitting papers, performing research is the way		
Yes	92	92
No	8	8
Do you read journal articles?		
Yes	98	98
No	2	2
If yes, why		
Interest	11	11
To improve knowledge	82	82
To critique articles	5	5
Do you know how to critique a paper?		
Yes	53	53
No	47	47
Do you know how to critique a paper?		
Yes	19	19
No	81	81
Are you a part of the editorial or review board of any journal?		
Yes	96	96
No	4	4
Have you been taught how to write an abstract or a paper?		
Yes	96	96
No	4	4
Do you feel you know the process of submitting an article?		
Yes	72	72
No	28	28
Would you like to be trained on how to write an abstract or a paper?		
Yes	83	83
No	17	17
Would you like to be trained on publishing practices?		
Yes	85	85
No	15	15
Do you feel it is important to publish a paper?		
Yes	100	100
No	0	0
Why it is important to you to publish		
To improve career	61	61
For interest	15	15
To relay information	24	24
NewVar13: Total	100	100

4. Discussion

The purpose of the study was to assess the experiences and attitudes towards research publishing among dental faculty and post graduates. This cross-sectional questionnaire-based study was conducted on 47 postgraduates and 53 dental faculty including both males and females in Khammam, Telangana.

In the present study majority of the participants agreed that it is important to publish, despite only 58% had submitted an article for publication similar to study done by Aditi Hedge (2017) stated that less than half of the students had submitted an article for publication

In the current study, 25% mentioned that they had got no opportunity to take part in research was the reason for not publishing among study participants which is in contrast to study conducted by Aditi Hegde (2017) and Manali R Srinivasan (2014), where lack of time due to other commitments (34.56% and 53.8%) respectively was the main reason.

Career progression was the main motivation to consider publication similar to the study conducted by Manali R Srinivasan (2014) where 48.4% agree for the above

In the present study relevance to career (26%) was the main reason for choice of selection. Contrast to the study conducted by Manali R Srinivasan (2014) where journal prestige (54 %) was the reason for choice of selection.

In the current study, 83% of the participants expressed to attend training in, how to write an abstract or a scientific paper and 85% of the participants expressed to attend training in, publishing a scientific article. Similar to the study conducted by Manali R. Srinivasan (2014) stated that majority (92.7%) of the study population knew how to write an abstract or article. 55.3% of them stated that they had been taught how to write an

abstract or a paper and 76.7% would like to be trained in the above process.

All the participants (100%) agreed that it is important to publish a paper which is similar to Manali R Srinivasan (2014) where stated that about 94.7% of the study group agreed for the above.

5. Conclusion

The research work should be in such a way that it not only permitted for publishing but it also be genuine and purposeful for the beneficiary to the human kind in India.

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