

Review of: "How Do Academicians Publish More Research Papers for Their Promotion and Positions? A Scrutiny of CV"

Natasha Das

Potential competing interests: I have authored articles related to research integrity and authorship issues. I also conduct paid training programs on these topics.

The article covers very relevant topics. There are a lot of articles already published on such topics. Yet, I find the general awareness is still inadequate. Such discussions are important in order to build a more ethical research and publication environment in India and across the globe.

1. The author needs to rephrase it to give proper insight to the reader about what to expect in the full text. I was misled. I expected it to provide tips on how academicians can possibly publish more research papers.
2. The abbreviation 'CV' is also not expanded anywhere in the entire article. Let us not assume that everyone must be familiar with it.
3. The overall style of writing seems more like a personal perspective than a research article. Even if it is a personal perspective, I would like to see more citations to validate the author's statements.
4. When the title says "A scrutiny of CV", I expect it to be a research article.
 1. A few details about the methodology used for the conclusion would be helpful.
 2. How was the study conducted?
 3. How many CVs were scrutinized?
 4. Were all of those from a single department/institute?
 5. Was the number adequate to draw any conclusion? Can the results be projected to a larger academic community?
 6. Is this menace seen only in India or in other countries as well?
 7. If this research was not primary, did the author conduct a systematic review of published literature to come to the conclusions?
 8. There are very few references and no standard style of in-text citations has been used.
 9. Is this only the author's personal experience? If yes, the article should clearly indicate that.
5. I see three important points being discussed here.
 1. Should a research guide be included as an author?
 2. Should academic research papers have only a single author?
 3. What place should the guide be provided in the authorship order?
6. **Should a research guide be included as an author?** Each author must fulfill all 4 criteria suggested by the ICMJE recommendations (<https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of->

authors-and-contributors.html#two). If they fulfill all 4 criteria, there is no harm in including them as authors. If they do not contribute substantially, they cannot be authors.

7. **Should academic research papers have only a single author?** Academic research can at times involve multiple departments. A group of 2-3 students from the same department may also work on the same research project. In an academic research project, there is often a guide and a co-guide involved. If the students and guides contribute significantly and fulfill the 4 ICMJE criteria, they should be included as authors too.
8. **What place should the research guide be provided in the authorship order?** ICMJE, COPE, WAME --- none of these provide any guidance to authors about the authorship order. Each person is listed as an author only if they have made 'substantial contribution'. The nature and quantum of contributions of each person may vary and no one knows it better than the authors themselves. Readers and evaluators must refrain from assuming the contributions made by individual authors unless it is explicitly stated. The author may wish to take a look at the Contributor's Role Taxonomy (CRediT) and how more and more journals are now asking authors to use CRediT to detail their contributions to the research and its publication. CRediT is now a national standard in the USA and many publishers have adopted it already. Author's contributions rather than their place in the authorship order should be taken into consideration when evaluating their papers for promotion to a higher post.

Overall, I would like to see more refinement in the approach to such a topic which is often discussed in the academic circles. The article needs to be backed by facts rather than assumptions and premonitions.