

Review of: "[Commentary] To Publish Scientific Journals: For Some, the Big Business of the Century"

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The author has atomised and spotlighted a growing concern, particularly for the young authors, most of whom are doctoral students. In the wake of pressure to publish, these young authors very often come across such dilemmas. Taking advantage of the same and the need for doctoral scholars to publish, predatory journals try to exploit the situation with the relatively lesser publication rates as compared to international APCs.

Also, quality reviewing takes time and effort, and it should be acknowledged and, if possible, rewarded appropriately. There is no mechanism for the same, as of now.

The author himself seems to hold an interesting and impressive profile; if he sees the challenges, or say deterrents, posed by APCs, then think of the relatively young and less experienced persons.

As for the predatory journals, there is no foolproof mechanism to identify them, but by the looks of their sites, similar sounding names that are unusually similar to the genuine ones and impact factor (calculated on a strange basis to help their case favourably) are major giveaways. Yet this too needs efforts and a discerning eye.

But most of the points raised in the article are real; particularly, the APC charges translate into bigger amounts once these are converted into the weaker currencies of most of the emerging economies, which otherwise have some of the best educational institutions.

The core of the idea needs more scholarship, followed by relevant policy changes and action by the relevant stakeholders in academia.