

How to identify the journals\organizations using unethical/unlawful practices in research publication & be cautious of Scams

Following are some useful tips to identify the scammers:

- i. The journal publishes papers that are not academic at all, or the archives of published articles/ issues are missing.
- ii. The Journal/ publisher falsely claims universities or other organizations (such as authenticate etc.) as partners or sponsors.
- iii. Same authors are published several times in the same journal and/or issue.
- iv. The publisher/ journal displays prominent statements that promise rapid publication and/or unusually quick peer review (less than 4 weeks).
- v. The journal's website does not have a clearly stated peer review policy or inadequate peer review.
- vi. The Journal publishes an/ the article(s), citing predatory journal(s) and/or predatory database(s).
- vii. There is no geographical diversity of authors, and the journal claims to be International.
- viii. The journal uses email option as the medium for entire editorial management workflow, including. article submission, peer- reviewing invitations to reviewers, multiple rounds of peer-review, decision on articles acceptances/ rejections etc. instead of any recognized editorial manager/ management system (e.g., Scholar One of Clarivate Analytics, EVISE of Elsevier, Open Journal Systems (OJS) of Public Knowledge Project, etc.).
- ix. Hijacked journal (defined as a fraudulent website created to look like a legitimate academic journal for the purpose of offering academics the opportunity to rapidly publish their research for a fee).
- x. Information received from the journal does not match the journal's website.
- xi. The title of the journal is copied or so like that of a legitimate journal that it could cause confusion between the two.
- xii. No editor or editorial board listed on the journal's website at all, or Editors/ Editorial board members/ advisory board members do not actually exist or are deceased.
- xiii. The founder of the publishing company is the editor of all the journals published by said company.
- xiv. Evident data showing that the editor/review board members do not possess academic expertise to reasonably qualify them to be publication gatekeepers in the journal's field.
- xv. The journal falsely claims indexing in well-known databases (e.g. JCR, indexing data bases of Clarivate analytics, SCOPUS).
- xvi. The journal uses misleading metrics (i.e., metrics with the words "impact factor" that are not the Thomson Reuters Impact Factor). The journal is found listed in any fake/ predatory indexing data base.
- xvii. The journal offers options for researchers to prepay Article Processing Charges (APCs) for future articles but does not give information regarding APCs amount or gives conflicting information.
- xviii. The author must pay APC or publication fee before submitting the article (specifically calls the fee, a publication fee, not a submission).

- xix. Publisher/ journal states that the journal is completely open access but not all articles are openly available.
- xx. There is no web presence of the publisher or journal.
- xxi. There is no web presence of online version of published articles or published issues.
- xxii. Seemingly deliberate dead links are present for the online version of published articles or published issues.
- xxiii. PDF/ online version of published articles or published issues are locked.
- xxiv. The website(s) of the publisher or journal does not identify a physical address or correct address for the publisher or gives a fake address.