

# Trends of Articles Published in National Journal of Physiology, Pharmacy and Pharmacology (NJPPP)

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Periodical analysis of the published articles can be very informative regarding the research agenda, the group of participants involved in research, and their priorities & interest in the type of research field.

**Aims & Objective:** To review trends in publication of the NJPPP focusing on manuscript country of origin, subject interest, contributions by institutions, and use of structured abstracts.

**Materials and Methods:** All volumes and issues of the NJPPP were retrieved (2011–2013). Each article was reviewed for the type of articles, geographic region of origin of the author, and the presence of a structured or unstructured abstract.

**Results:** There were increase in number of articles with every issue and every volume. Of the 62 articles, 45 were research articles while 7 were review articles. Most of the research articles were written on descriptive studies. All the abstracts of the research articles were written in a structured format and for rest of the articles it was written in unstructured manner. Articles were generated from 5 different countries: India, Serbia, Malaysia, Egypt, Ethiopia, China, and Algeria. Majority of articles were related to the Physiology (22), Pharmacology (14) & Pharmacotherapeutics (7) and Pharmacy (5).

**Conclusion:** Analysis of the published article of NJPPP revealed trends in article types over a 2 year period. Manuscripts were submitted primarily by authors from Indian colleges and the majority was from Gujarat. Majority of articles are research articles and related to the subjects as of the name of the journal.

**KEY WORDS:** Publication Trends; Type of Articles; National Journal of Physiology, Pharmacy and Pharmacology (NJPPP)

## INTRODUCTION

Medicine is an ever-changing science. New clinical trials/researches and clinical experiences are coming up day to day which can broaden our knowledge related to human physiology and patients' disease management including diagnosis, drug therapy, its consequences, and follow-up plans. Association of Physiologists, Pharmacists and Pharmacologists (APPP) started a scientific journal, *National Journal of Physiology, Pharmacy and Pharmacology (NJPPP)*, to create a common platform for sharing the scientific knowledge and experiences. Primary aim of the journal NJPPP was to publish and share the knowledge from the field of clinical physiology, experimental physiology, medical education in physiology, pharmacy practices, social pharmacy, experimental pharmacy, pharmacy education, pharmaceutical marketing, clinical pharmacology, experimental pharmacology, clinical trials, medical education in pharmacology etc. in the form of various articles like original articles, review articles, short communications, letters, education forum, guest editorials, books reviews.

NJPPP is a biannual, peer reviewed open access journal. The first issue of journal was published online on ScopeMed, which is an online journal/article management system, in 2011. Over two years, NJPPP has gain trust and popularity for the publication of all types of research work and clinical experiences among researchers of different fields. Now the journal has been indexed in over 20 web portals and also listed in International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and Healthcare Information for All by 2015 (HIFA 2015), Charlbury, Oxfordshire, UK.

Much can be learned from trends of articles published. Periodical analysis of the published articles can be very informative regarding the research agenda, the group of participants involved in research, and their priorities & interest in the type of research field.<sup>[1-4]</sup> It can also be useful for the young scientists to identify the specific research question for which previous research is lacking.

The purpose of this study was to review trends in publication of the articles in NJPPP focusing on manuscript country of origin, type of articles, subject interest, contributions by institutions, and use of structured abstracts.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The data were collected by reviewing all contents of the NJPPP from 2011 (volume 1, issue 1) through 2013 (volume 3, issue 1) from the journal homepage which gives the link to the current as well as past issues of the journal. The following items were recorded for each article: article type, abstract style, number of authors, geographic locations of the authors, and subject of interest and referencing style. Abstracts were identified as structured versus Unstructured as per CONSORT format. We classified abstracts as structured if they were broken down into subsections of background, aim/objective, material and methods, results and discussion. Abstracts written in narrative format were designated as unstructured. All the articles were categorize into following fields for identifying subject of interest as Pharmacology; Pharmacotherapeutics; Pharmacy; Physiology; Teaching Methodology; Research Methodology; Biochemistry; Paediatrics and Others. As all the medical fields are overlapping to each other, it was not possible to categorize the article in single subject, Authors designation and department were also considered for categorization of subjects.

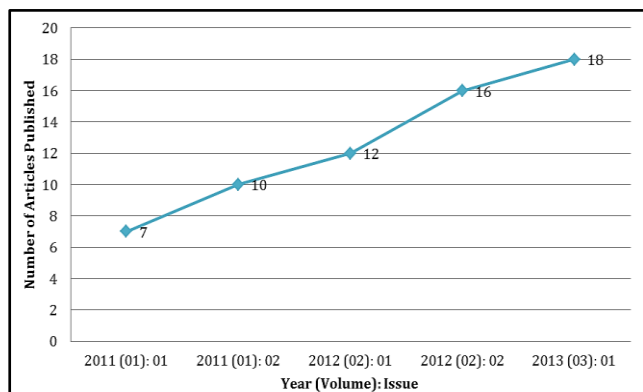
## RESULTS

Three volumes consisting of 5 issues of the NJPPP were published in 2 and half years since journal has been started. Sixty three articles published in the same time period were included in the study. As the years progressed, increasing number of articles with every issue and every volume (Figure-1) was identified. Number of articles published in the first year was 17 (26.98%), increased to 28 (44.44%) in second year and still increasing in the third year.

**Table-1: Type of Articles Published in NJPPP**

Year	Vol.	Issue	Research Article	Review Article	Letter to the Editor	Editorial	Others*	Total Articles
2011	1	1	1	2	2	0	2	7
	1	2	7	1	1	0	1	10
2012	2	1	8	3	1	0	0	12
	2	2	14	0	1	1	0	16
2013	1	1	15	1	0	1	1	18
Total			45	7	5	2	4	63

\*others included: Technical Notes and other correspondents



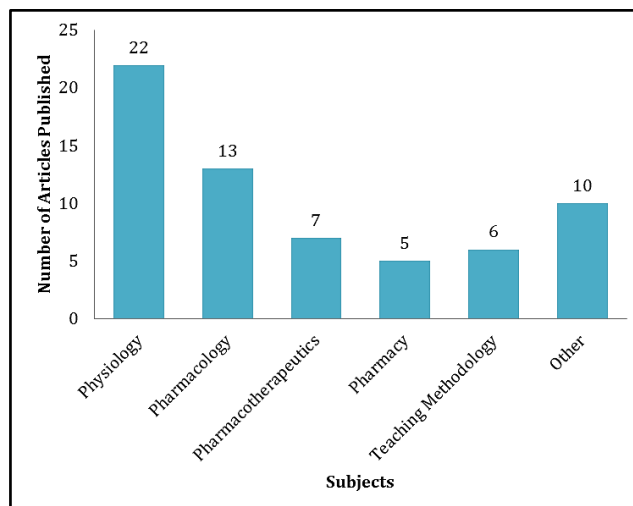
**Figure-1: Growth of the Journal (Number of Article Published in each Issue, Volume and Year)**

**Table-2: Countries and States\* Contribution for Articles Published in NJPPP (N=63)**

Countries & State	No. of articles (%)	
India	Gujarat	22 (34.92)
	Karnataka	9 (14.28)
	Uttar Pradesh	9 (14.28)
	Maharashtra	6 (9.52)
	Punjab	3 (4.76)
	Madhya Pradesh	2 (3.17)
	Himachal Pradesh	1(1.58)
	Haryana	1(1.58)
	Rajasthan	1(1.58)
	Tamil Nadu	1(1.58)
Total	55 (87.30)	
Egypt	2 (3.17)	
Ethiopia	2 (3.17)	
Serbia	1 (1.58)	
Malaysia	1 (1.58)	
China	1(1.58)	
Algeria	1(1.58)	



**Figure-2: Location of the Authors**



**Figure-3: Subject of Interest of Articles Published in NJPPP**

Type of articles published in NJPPP is shown in table 1. Out of total 63 articles, 45 (71.42%) were research articles while 7 (11.11%) were review articles (Table-1). Number of research articles published in a year also increased as the publishing year progressed.

Most of the research articles were written on descriptive studies (36, 80%). Few interventional studies (9, 20%) were also published but mostly in the field of experimental pharmacology or in the teaching methodology.

All the abstracts of the research articles were written in a structured format and for rest of the article type like review, editorial or case report, it was written in unstructured manner. The journal follows Vancouver style of referencing for all the articles.

Articles were generated from 5 different countries: India, Serbia, Malaysia, Egypt, Ethiopia, China, and Algeria (Table-2, Figure-2). In India, Gujarat had contributed most in the article publication with 22 (34.92%) articles (Table-2).

Majority of articles published in the journal were related to the field of Physiology (22, 34.92%) followed by Pharmacology (14, 22.22%) & Pharmacotherapeutics (7, 11.11%) and Pharmacy (5, 7.93%) as shown in Figure-3.

## DISCUSSION

Scientific journal provide a platform for conveying the views and research experiences to the other researchers in effective and methodical manner. It is considered as unbiased and authentic source of information for various fields for finding out the scientific information. As the medical science is advancing day by day, it has become essential to keep ourselves updated with regard to different scientific subjects, to deliver the effective and rational drug therapy to the patients. As the field of physiology, pharmacology and pharmacy are interrelated; the association of physiologists, pharmacists and pharmacologists had started the journal NJPPP. The *NJPPP* provides a much needed outlet for health and related professionals representing a number of different constituents. This study reflects these diverse interests with regards to the *NJPPP* article topics; however, this study also reveals concerning trends with the journal's publication record.

In these first two and half years of the journal's existence, there was an increase in the number of articles published. This trend may be an indicator of rising popularity of the journal. The possible reasons, for more articles submitted, are indexing of the journals in many web portals (which may have improved the perceived prestige of the journal), ease of article submission process and improved quality. However, some of these early papers lacked the rigor that one would have expected in peer-reviewed journals of the day. Other important finding emerged from this study that vast majority of individuals who contribute to the journal only publish once and the percentage of institutions publishing twice or more is very limited. The *NJPPP* may need to conduct some marketing efforts focusing on this finding.

Major contribution for published articles came from India<sup>[5-55]</sup>, as the journal is nationalized (Indian) journal and managed and published in India. There were few articles from other countries<sup>[56-63]</sup> also which show journal recognition outside of India. But there is a need for greater international participation for better knowledge transfer.

Most of the articles published in the *NJPPP* were belong to the subjects like, Physiology [11,15,18,22-24,26-29,33,34,38-40,44,45,47,50,51,55], Pharmacology [8,14,19,20,25,30,35,36,43,46,58], Pharmacotherapeutics [5,17,21,31,54,57,59] and Pharmacy [7,53,56,60,62]. As the name of the journal itself contains the name of these particular subjects, it attracts the researcher of that field or work done in that field to be published in this journal. But studies of other related subjects are also published in this journal.

There is much evidence that the *NJPPP* has undergone many changes since its conception but it is still in its development phase. Many of these changes, including examples such as the launch of indexing and abstracting services and a revised editorial review processes, are aimed at improving the quality of the journal; however, there are still areas where improvement efforts can be made. This type of self-reflective investigation based studies can help in improving the quality, quantity and utility of the journal.

## CONCLUSION

Analysis of the published article of *NJPPP* revealed current trends in research and its types in the form of the article over period of last 2 years. Manuscripts showed increasing trend and submitted primarily by authors from Indian colleges and the majority were from Gujarat. Majority of articles are research articles and related to the subjects as of the name of the journal. There is a need to strengthen the activities for increased popularity of the journal among other regions of India as well as outside the India to share the scientific knowledge worldwide.



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