

Letter to editor:

The history of modern Nepalese medicine is not very long.¹ Despite of its relatively short history, scarce resources and overall under developed state; it has made some remarkable progress. It is encouraging for Nepalese medicine to have 3 Nepalese indexed Journals. We are confident that these journals facilitate and further the development of medical services, research and academia. Journals provide a forum for professional contributors for disseminating message for changes- through the exchange of their knowledge, ideas, experiences and findings; for self satisfaction and career development; for aesthetic value enriching the literature and or for furthering the 'search for the truth'.² Irrespective of their aspirations and objectives, the authors contribute to the progress of their fraternity and hence, raise the image of the journals too. Journals' reputations depend on the trust of readers, authors, researchers, reviewers, editors, patients, research subjects, funding agencies, and administrators of public health policy.³ So, the authors and the journals compliment and synergize each other. One should not negate the importance of the other.

Our attention was drawn by the editorial of 2008 March Issue of *Nepal Med Coll J* entitled 'NMCJ takes action against "Dual Publication"'.⁴ It seems fair on part of the NMCJ to take action against dual publication. The step will re-enforce the authors to abide by publication ethics. We are writing this letter not to express that this action is unfair but to draw attention of all the concerned regarding devising some approach to minimize such unfortunate incidents and to create a conducive environment for both journal management and author side.

Practically, it appears that there are rules and regulations, terms and conditions for the authors from the beginning of the process of publication (even before submission). We once again would like to emphasize that these have to be followed by the contributors. At the same time, we are concerned about the responsibility on part of journal management team as well. The editorial board taking action against contributor should not overlook the

importance of timely communication in different stages of publication processing- acknowledging the receipt of the work, forwarding feedbacks of the reviewers and other necessary communications or about the acceptance or the release of the journal. The journal members should remember that the authors are contributors and they voluntarily choose to work, write and contribute. It is unfortunate on part of the journals to block the process of publication of any work of any author not communicating in time.

The delay in communication creates frustration in contributors and hence, they naturally try to publish through other journals, because many a times the delay decreases the relevance of the information. We acknowledge the under resource of the journal, in terms of finance and manpower, nevertheless, timely communication does not require a huge resource. The index incidence could have possibly been averted, had a timely and clear communication been there, as authors' intention does not seem dubious.

Timely communication will decrease the dissatisfaction in any side. The work of any of our colleagues will ultimately raise the image of our fraternity irrespective of the journal, be it Nepalese or other. Our Nepalese journals have indeed provided vast fora for Nepalese contributors and readers. And, should continue to do so in days to come without any hassles to further the research culture in Nepalese medicine. We hope this will be taken in a positive light.

DR. Shakya and PM Shyangwa
E-mail: drdhanashakya@yahoo.com

REFERENCES

1. Dixit H. Quest for health in Nepal.
2. Tyrer P. A journal describing present undertakings, studies and labours of the ingenious. *Brit J Psychiatr* 2008; 192:1-2.
3. WAME Publication Ethics Policies for Medical Journals.
4. Editorial - NMCJ takes action against "Dual Publication". *Nepal Med Coll J* 2008 March; 10