

Need for a Journal in Context of Health Research

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Epidemiological research is essential to guide improvements in health systems and develop new initiatives.¹ According to World Health Organization (WHO), research provides the evidence and information that are foundation of sound policies and driving force behind global health and development.²

India and China are the most populous countries in the world but are growing economies, where epidemiological research plays a significant role in overall development. India has weak public health system and staggering disease burden as compared to China and other developed nations. This could be due to poor investment in research by the government and private bodies.³ In South-East Asia region, most of countries are looking at India to learn as far as health science is concerned. Therefore, India must strengthen its base in epidemiological research. First of all, India should focus on inequity in health resources and should develop a robust public health system so that it can help the neighboring countries in delivering of health services. Within the country, there are places where health indicators are comparable to most developed nations. Some of the countries like Malaysia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka are doing very well as far as quality of healthcare is concerned. For this, epidemiological research is vital.

If we look at this region, we can count institutions which are engaged in epidemiological research. For example, in India there is one institution on epidemiology under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). All medical colleges are supposed to carry out research as part of their teaching and training curriculum. But most of the research carried out in these medical colleges is confined to shelves of the libraries in the form of thesis because getting them published is a tedious task. Other institutions are emerging in the field of epidemiological research such as Institute of Public Health, School of Public Health, and many renowned international public health bodies. From the government side, health

research is primarily being supported by 32 ICMR institutions and nearly 100 field stations/ units funded by ICMR in collaboration with other science agencies, department of information technology, department of environment and forests, department of atomic energy, and ministry of women and child development.⁴ Currently, the ICMR is funded by the government of India through the department of health research and ministry of health and family welfare. But the number of scientific paper publications and citations are far less as compared to USA, Germany, England, France, and China. According to essential science indicators from Thomson Reuters for the year 2011 the rank of India in number of citations was 16 as compared to smaller countries like Sweden, Netherland, Spain, Switzerland, etc.⁵

However, there is continuous increase in numbers of paper publications. A study by Kalita et al. shows that the total number of publications based on public health research in India has substantially increased over the first decade of the millennium by 72%.⁶

The balancing of research efforts between different competing fields, especially when resources are severely limited, is a typical problem encountered in the management of medical research.⁴ Further, there is a need for common and enriched information sharing platform for the research undertaken. Also there are many determinants to human health like environment, education, nutrition, etc., which need to be researched for an equal weightage as regards the human health.

In this context, the *Epidemiological International Journal* offers a unique opportunity to disseminate the research and information for scientific evolution of medicine and public health as it is ever-evolving. It is a multi-disciplinary open access journal, which will provide global platform for the academicians, scientists, scholars, researchers and students of all medical and surgical fields including community

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medicine, nursing, dentistry, physiotherapy, occupational and environmental health sciences to share their scientific information.

This journal is open for all suggestions and critical comments and will be heavily dependent on readers and authors to improve its quality. Professionals are also cordially invited to accept the role which they feel suitable for them to strengthen this journal.

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