
EDITORIAL

The recognition of and value addition to the Journal of the National Science Foundation (JNSF) has been a prime concern of the Editorial Board. In this connection the editorials of the past two issues of the Journal (volume 45, issues 2 & 3) focused on the responsibilities of the authors that submit articles for publication and the peer reviewers selected to referee the articles since they play major roles in improving the quality of the Journal.

The focus of the current editorial was to discuss the responsibilities of the Editorial Board along with the staff of the Journal Publication Unit. There is no doubt about the absolute importance of promptness by the above personnel who process the submissions for publication. Their functions are manifold. They have to ensure that there is no delay in the processing.

Before I discuss the details of the responsibilities of these two categories of personnel I wish to share my experience regarding the views of some researchers who are of opinion that there has been a delay in the publishing of their articles submitted to the JNSF.

This issue was nothing new to me. It has been of prime concern to the Editorial Board over a long period of time. This continues to be the most important challenge faced by the Editorial Board. The number of articles submitted both by national and international researchers to the JNSF in 2016 and 2017 have increased heavily increasing the workload of the staff in the Journal Publication Unit. The issue of publishing delays has been the topic of discussion at meetings of the Editorial Board. The Editorial Board identified several courses of

action which could solve the problem. These included the following: reducing to a minimum any delay during the review process; increase of the number of articles published per issue (this has been implemented up to a certain extent. The journal now carries ten or more articles per issue.); increase of the number of issues per volume and early on-line publication of the abstracts and references of articles accepted for publication in future issues with DOI. These solutions could not be realised due to lack of adequate staff in the Journal Publication Unit for processing the articles.

You will agree with me that, the ideal situation to be achieved is one where the researchers of the country are convinced to submit their research articles for publication in the JNSF which is currently, the only indexed journal in the country. If this is achieved and important research articles are published in the JNSF there will be more recognition of and value addition to the Journal. Avoiding publishing delays is of paramount importance to convince the research scientists to join hands with the NSF to improve the recognition of the Journal.

In my opinion a major solution needed to overcome the delay in publishing is to immediately increase the necessary staff of the Journal Publication Unit to an adequate level based on the recommendations of the Editorial Board. The authors and reviewers too have a great responsibility to assist the JNSF in reducing the time taken for the Editorial Board to accept the articles for publication. This will result in a very positive effect on the state of science in the country.

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