



Policy Document For 2024-25



Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Aims and Scope	3
Frequency of Journal	3
Peer Review Policy	3
Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest	4
Conflict of Interest	4
Ethical Guidelines For Editors	8
Ethical Guidelines For Reviewers	9
Review Process	14
Resubmission of paper (after peer review)	16
Reviewer's Proforma	17
Copyrights and Plagiarism Policy	18
Confidentiality Policy	20
Policy Statement (Open Access Policy)	21
Article Processing Charges	21
Author Agreement and Compliance Declaration Form	21





Aims and Scope

The International Research Journal of Advances in Computing Sciences (IRJACS), published by the Faizi Education Research Center, is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal that delves into a comprehensive range of topics within computing sciences. IRJACS is committed to advancing the field by providing a platform for researchers, academicians, and practitioners worldwide to present their innovative research across various sub-disciplines. These include, but are NOT limited to, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Information Security, Software Engineering, Human-Computer Interaction, Networking, Internet Technologies, Systems Architecture, Computational Theory, Mathematics, Cloud Computing, Ethics in Computing, Quantum Computing, IoT, Blockchain Technologies, Computational Biology, Bioinformatics, Game Development, Autonomous Systems, Edge Computing, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Wearable Technologies, E-Learning Technologies, Computational Finance, and Digital Forensics.

IRJACS encourages the submission of high-quality, original, and innovative research papers that contribute significantly to the advancement of computing sciences. The journal aims to facilitate communication and collaboration among researchers and practitioners across different regions and disciplines. By fostering interdisciplinary studies and integrating diverse computing domains, IRJACS is an intellectual hub for national and international scholars to promote groundbreaking research. All manuscripts will be presented in English and undergo a double-blind peer review process, adhering to the rigorous standards accepted by the global academic community.

Frequency of Journal

IRJACS is a bi-annual research journal.

Peer Review Policy

Peer review is the system used to assess the quality of a manuscript before it is published. Independent researchers in the relevant research area assess submitted manuscripts for originality, validity and significance to help editors determine whether the manuscript should be published in their Journal.

IRJACS operates a *double-blind peer-review system*. The reviewers do not know the authors' names or affiliations, and the reviewer reports provided to the authors are anonymous. Submitted manuscripts will generally be reviewed by two to three experts who will be asked to

3

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan

Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem



evaluate whether the manuscript is scientifically sound and coherent, duplicates already published work, and whether or not the manuscript is sufficiently clear for publication. Reviewers will also be asked to indicate how interesting and significant the research is. The editors will make decisions based on these reports and, where necessary, will consult with Editorial Board members.

Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest

- The potential conflicts of interest of all author(s) must be conveyed to theeditor at the earliest possible stage, including but not limited to employment, consultancies, honoraria, etc.
- All sources of financial support for the project should be disclosed.

Conflict of Interest

The editors and reviewers will not edit a submitted paper for those author(s) and/or instit against which s/he has any conflicts of interest.

Conflict of Interests Policy

A Declaration of Conflicting Interests policy refers to a formal policy a journal may have to require a conflict of interest statement or conflict of interest disclosure from a submitting or publishing author.

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) states in its Guidelines on Good Publication Practice (2003) that: "Conflicts of interest arise when authors, reviewers, or editors have interests that are not fully apparent and that may influence their judgments on what is published. They have been described as those which, when revealed later, would make a reasonable reader feel misledor deceived."

Many scholars, researchers, and professionals may have potential conflicts ofinterest that could affect their research. As a result, the Journal requires a formal declaration of conflicting interests, enabling a statement to be carried within the paginated published article.

A potential conflict of interest may arise from relationships, allegiances, or hostilities to particular groups, organizations or interests, which may influence one's judgments or actions excessively. The issue is particularly sensitive when such interests are private and/or may result in personal gain.

4

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Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem



All manuscripts submitted to the journal are evaluated fairly and are not necessarily rejected when any competing interests are declared. Examples of conflicts of interest might include the following, although it is not an exhaustive list:

- Having received fees for consulting
- Having received research funding
- Having been employed by a related company
- Holding stocks or shares in a company that might be affected by the publication of your paper
- Having received funds reimbursing you for attending associated symposia or talk
 If there are other interests that the reasonable reader might feel have affected your research,
 you may also wish to declare them. (Please note that details of financial arrangements are not
 expected to be disclosed when a competing interest is declared.)

Conflict of interests

Upon identification of any conflict of interest, the editors may require more information from the author, which may include the following:

- Acknowledge financial support/sponsorship for their Contribution
- Any commercial or financial involvements that might present an appearance of a conflict of interest related to the Contribution are disclosed in a cover letter accompanying the Contribution, and all such potential conflicts of interest will be discussed with the editor as to whether disclosure of this information with the published Contribution isto be made in the Journal.
- If they have signed an agreement with any sponsor of the research reported in the Contribution that prevents you from publishing both positive and negative results or forbids you from publishing this research without prior approval of the sponsor
- If they have checked the manuscript submission guidelines to ensure whether the journal requires a Declaration of Conflicting Interests and have complied with the requirements specified where such a policy exists
- The Authors must complete and sign the Copyright and Author Consent Form upor submitting the manuscript.

Editor obligations regarding conflicting interests

The same obligations apply to the editors or guest editors writing an editorial for the journal. When you are submitting or publishing your article in a journal which requires you to make a Declaration of Conflicting Interests, please include such a declaration at the end of your

5

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan

Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem



manuscript after any Acknowledgements and before the Funding Acknowledgement, Notes (if relevant)

*Please note that a Conflict of Interest Statement will not appear in journals that do not require a declaration of conflicting interests. Where a declaration is required, the disclosure information must be specific and include any financial relationship that all authors of the article have with any sponsoring organization and the for-profit interests the organization represents, and with any for-profit product discussed or implied in the text of the article.

Ethically Guidelines for The Author(s)

The following ethical guidelines are obligatory for all author(s) violations, which may result in the editor applying penalties, including but not limited to the suspension or revocation of publishing privileges.

Reporting Standards

- Will ensure the research report and data contain adequate detail andreferences
- · Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements are unethical and unaccepta

Originality and Plagiarism

- Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behavious unacceptable.
- Material quoted verbatim must be placed in quotation marks
- If more than 19 % similarity index is found, it will either be rejected or left at the discretion of the Editorial Board for a conditional acceptance, as per HEC's policy

Declaration

- A declaration is required that the manuscript contains solely the author's original work that is not under consideration for publishing in any other journal in any form.
- A co-authored paper must be accompanied by an undertaking to claim the right to authorship and ensure that all have agreed to the authorship order.

Multiple, Redundant and Current Publication

- Authors should not submit manuscripts describing the same research to more than one
 journal or publication except if it is a re-submission of a rejected or withdrawn
 manuscript.
- Concurrent submission of the same manuscript to more than one journal is unethical publishing behaviour and is unacceptable.

6

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Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem



Acknowledgement of Sources

- A paper must always contain a proper acknowledgement of the work ofothers.
- The author(s) must also acknowledge the contributions of people, organizations, and institutes who assisted in the research orfinancial funding (in the acknowledgement).
- The author(s) must conduct a literature review and cite theoriginal publications.

Authorship Credit

- Authorship of the work may only be credited to those who have made a noteworthy contribution to the manuscript's conceptualization, conducting, data analysis and writing.
- The corresponding author should ensure that all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.

Privacy of Participants

- Authors must respect the privacy of the participant(s) of the research.
- Authors must ensure that in instances where the participant's identity needs to be revealed in the study, explicit and informed consent of the concerned party is obtained.

Data Access and Retention

- The author(s) should provide raw data to the editor if any question arises about the accuracy or validity of the research work during the review process.
- The author(s) must accurately describe how the images were generated and produced and will ensure they are free of manipulation.

Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest

- The potential conflicts of interest of all author(s) must be conveyed to the editor at the earliest possible stage, including but not limited to employment, consultancies, honoraria, etc.
- All sources of financial support for the project should be disclosed.

Manuscript Acceptance and Rejection

- The author can contact the editor to ask about its status during the review.
- In case of revisions, the author(s) must expose all corrections made in the manuscript.
 The revised manuscript should, then, go through the process of affirmation of revisions and be accepted or rejected accordingly.
- In case of dissatisfaction with the decision to reject, the author can submit an appet to the editor of IRJACS at <u>editor@irjacs.com</u>.

7

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan Principle Contact: **Dr Muhammad Naeem**



Ethical Guidelines For Editors

The Editor's Responsibilities

- Establish and maintain the quality of the journal by publishing quality papers.
- Promotion of freedom of expression within the cultural, constitutional/legalframework

Good practices

- Encourage new ideas and suggestions for improving the quality of IRJACS
- Applying the process of blind peer review in its true letter and spirit
- Promoting & implementing anti-plagiarism & journal policy without institutional pressure.

Fair play and Impartiality

- Will ensure an impartial evaluation of the content of research papers
- Disregard all discriminating factors during the selection of articles, e.g. gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, etc., of the author(s)

Confidentiality

- Confidentiality of the author(s) and reviewers during the peer review will be ensured.
- Confidentiality of the research participants should also be ensured.
- Before publication, the content of the manuscript would be kept confidential.

Editing and Formatting Guidelines

Clear guidelines for preparing and formatting a paper are available on IRSISS's webpage.

The Review Process

- Articles are initially scrutinized and then go through double-blind peer review pr
- Sufficient guidelines, along with a Reviewer's Proforma, are provided to reviewer's Reviewer's Proforma download section)
- Sharing the reviewer's comments with the author and incorporating suggested corrections
- Referring troublesome cases to the Advisory Committee

Dealing with Misconduct

- Will encourage reviewers to comment on ethical issues and possible misconduct
- Confirmation of plagiarism through Turnitin and/or searching for similar titles, etc. Will

8

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem



publish a corrigendum, remove and retract a plagiarized article

Transparency

- Only one paper as a PI (principal investigator) should be published on the same issue
- Editorial Board Members will only be limited to ONE paper per Issue. Authorship & coauthorship policies will be strictly adopted.

Conflict of Interest

The editors and reviewers will not edit a submitted paper for those author(s) and/or institution against which s/he has any conflicts of interest.

Disclosure

The authors will not use any unpublished information/data from the submitted research paper without the permission of the author(s).

Publication Decisions

- Only shortlisted research papers relevant to the journal's scope will be published after completion of the review process.
- Acceptance or rejection of a paper will be based on academic standards
- The editor will justify the reason (s) for rejecting a research paper and will timely communicate the editorial decision to the author(s)

Procedure for Appeal

The editor is responsible for establishing a proper mechanism for appeals launched against the rejection of a research paper.

- Objections to publications causing harm to any party
- Infringement of Ethical boundaries in any manner

Ethical Guidelines For Reviewers

The Reviewers should

- Inform the editor if they do not have the subject expertise required to carry of the review, and s/he should inform the editor immediately after receiving a request.
- Be responsible for acting promptly and submitting review reports on time.

Standards of Objectivity

a

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan

Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem



- The reviews should be objectively carried out with a consideration of high academic, scholarly and scientific standards.
- All judgments should be meticulously established and maintained.
- The decision should be purely based on the quality of the research paper and not influenced, either positively or negatively, by any personal, financial, or other conflicting considerations.
- A reviewer should not use unpublished material disclosed in a submitted manuscript without the editor's approval.
- A reviewer must declare any potentially conflicting interests (e.g. personal, financial, intellectual, professional, political or religious).
- A reviewer should be honest enough to declare conflicts of interest if the research paper under review is the same as their presently conducted study.
- If the reviewer feels unqualified to separate their bias, s/he should immediately return the manuscript to the editor without review and justify the situation to them.

Confidentiality

Reviewers should consider the research paper a confidential document. They must not discuss their content on any platform except when professional advice is sought with the authorisation.

Ethical Considerations

- If the reviewer suspects that the research paper is almost the same as someone else work, s/he will ethically inform the editor and provide its citation as a reference.
- If the reviewer suspects the results in the research paper to be untrue/unrealistic they will share it with the editor.
- Suppose there has been an indication of violating ethical norms in treating human beings (e.g. children, females, poor people, disabled, elderly, etc). In that case, this should be identified by the editor.
- If the research paper is based on any previous research study is a replica of an earlier work, or the work is plagiarized, e.g. the author has not acknowledged/referenced others' work appropriately, then this should be brought to the editor's knowledge.

Originality

For evaluating originality, the reviewers should consider the following elements:

• Does the research paper add to existing knowledge?

10

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan

 $\label{eq:principle contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem} Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem$



 Are the research questions and/or hypotheses in line with the objective of the research work?

Structure

If the layout and format of the paper do not match the prescribed version, the reviewers should discuss it with the editor or include this observation their review report. On the other hand, if the research paper is exceptionally well written, the reviewer may overlook the formatting issues. At other times, the reviewers may suggest restructuring the paper before publication. The following elements should be carefully evaluated:

- If there is a severe problem with language or expression and the reviewer gets the impression that the research paper does not fulfil linguistic requirements, readers will face difficulties reading and comprehending the paper. The reviewer should record this deficiency in their report and suggest that the editor make the proper edits. Such a situation may arise when the author(s)' native language is not English.
- Whether the data presented in the paper is original or reproduced from previously conducted or published work, the papers which reflect originality should be given preference for publication.
- Clarifying illustrations, including photographs, models, charts, images and figures, is essential. If there is duplication, it should be reported in the review report. Similarly, descriptions provided in the "Results" section should correspond with the data presented in tables/figures; if not, they should be listed in the review report.
- Critically review the statistical analysis of the data. Also, the rationale and appropriateness of the specific analysis should be checked.
- The reviewers should read the "Methodology" section in detail and make sure that the author(s) has demonstrated an understanding of the procedures being used and presented in the manuscript.
- The relationship between "Data, Findings and Discussion" requires a thorough evaluation. Unnecessary conjectures or unfounded conclusions not based on the presented data are unacceptable.
- Further questions are whether the research paper's organisation is appropriate or deviates from the standard or prescribed format.
- Does the author(s) follow the guidelines prescribed by the journal when preparing and submitting the manuscript?
- *Is the research paper free from typographical errors?*

Review Report

11

12

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem



- The reviewer must explicitly write their observations in the 'comments section because the author(s) will only have access to the comments reviewershave made.
- To write a review report, the reviewers must complete a prescribed form (s).
- It is helpful for the editor and author(s) if the reviewer writes a summary in the first section of the review report. This summary should comprise the reviewer's final decision and inferences from a full review.
- Any personal comments on the author(s) should be avoided, and final remarks should be written courteously and positively.
- Indicating any deficiencies is important. To understand the editor and author(s), the reviewers should highlight these deficiencies in some detail and with specificity. This should help justify the comments made by the reviewer.
- When a reviewer decides on the research paper, it should be indicated as 'Reject',
 'Accept without revision', or 'Need Revision' and either of the decisions should have
 justification.
- The reviewers should indicate the revisions clearly and comprehensively and show a willingness to confirm the revisions submitted by the author(s) if the editor wishes.
- The final decision about publishing a research paper (either accept or reject) will solely Rest with the editor; it is not the reviewer's job to take part in this decision. The editor will consider the reviewer's comments and have a right to send the paper for another opinion or send it back to the author(s) for revision before making the final decision.

"These guidelines are retrieved from the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan manual of "Ethical Guidelines for Journals", which has been prepared by Dr. Rukhsana Kausar, Director Institute of Applied and Clinical Psychology, University of Punjab, Lahore"

Guidelines for Article Submission (English)

IRJACS feels honor to provide a platform by publishing original material of interest to the research scholars. *IRJACS* is an academic refereed journal published two times a year (summer and winter). Unsolicited manuscripts will be welcomed here.

Manuscript Submission

The authors have two options when submitting a manuscript to the International Research Journal of Advances in Computing Sciences (IRJACS). First, manuscripts can be submitted directly through the IRJACS website at https://irjacs.com. If authors encounter any difficulties with the online submission process, manuscripts may alternatively be submitted was email to the editor at editor@irjacs.com. Manuscripts received by any other means will not be

12

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem



considered.

To facilitate the academic review and production process, authors must include their complete name, address, phone number(s), current position/title, and the name(s) of their affiliated universities on the title page. Manuscripts will be considered for publication only if they have not been published previously and are not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

The Review Procedure Manuscripts submitted to IRJACS are subject to evaluation by at least two independent referees (including one from technologically advanced countries) who are experts in the applicable field. The decision to accept or reject a manuscript rests solely with IRJACS Editorial Board. This decision is final. The Editorial Board will, however, base its decision primarily upon the recommendations of the referees who have evaluated the paper.

Format Requirements

General Requirements: Unsolicited manuscripts submitted must be written in English. Type the manuscript on white bond paper, size $8-1/2 \times 11$ inches (21.6 \times 27 cm or A4), ensuring that margins of at least 1.5 inches (4 cm) are maintained on the left side. Begin each of the following sections on a separate page and in the following order:

Title page,
Abstract,
Introduction,
Results & Conclusions, References.

Pages should be numbered consecutively, beginning with the title page. Type the page number in Arabic numerals should be used for page numbering. Page numbering should be shown at the bottom right of every page except the title.

Abstracts:

Provide an abstract of 150 to 300 words, followed by the keywords for the respective article. This abstract should consist of labelled Background, Methods, Results and Conclusion. They should briefly describe the problem being addressed in the study, how it was performed, the salient result and what the authors conclude from the results.

Introduction:

State the purpose of the article and summarize the rationale for the study.

13

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan

Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem



Key Words:

Include the Key Words relating to the article subject.

Results:

Present your results in a logical sequence in the text.

Discussion:

Emphasize the new and important aspects of the study and the conclusions that follow from them. Link the conclusions with the study's goals, but avoid unqualified statements and conclusions not entirely supported by your discussion and references.

References:

Text and references must follow the format outlined in the IEEE referencing style:

M. M. Chiampi and L. L. Zilberti, "Induction of electric field in human bodies moving near MRI: An efficient BEM computational procedure," IEEE Trans. Biomed. Eng., vol. 58, pp. 2787–2793, Oct. 2011, doi: 10.1109/TBME.2011.2158315.

All foreign terms must be underlined and transliterated. IRJACS retains the authority to modify the transliteration of all historical names, titles, and non-English terms to ensure consistency with its editorial style. A comprehensive template detailing all article formatting aspects will be available on the IRJACS website under the 'Author Guidelines' section. This template will be provided in both MS Word and LaTeX formats.

Review Process

The peer review process is one of the most fundamental components of the publication process. The credibility and reputation of a journal mainly depend on the integrity of the peer review process and the trust of authors.

Being an HEC-recognized/accredited journal, IRJACS follows the peer review guidelines of HEC in true letter and spirit. All papers submitted to IRJACS undergo a rigorous internal and external review by experts in the relevant area of interest:

Internal/Desk Review

Each paper goes through an internal / desk review by a relevant editorial board member to determine whether it is appropriately formatted and follows the publication ethics. The board member would also consider whether basic research protocols have been followed in research design/analysis and Contribution to the literature. Papers not meeting the basic requirements

14

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem



are not sent out for external review.

External Review

IRJACS follows a double-blind review process after a paper is screened through the internal review. Authors are requested not to include their personal information in the text of the paper. If authors display personal information, another file is uploaded after the author's information is removed and sent to reviewers. Authors/s are further indicated not to post their papers on any website to prevent their identity to the potential reviewers. At the same time, reviewers are also expected to refuse if they come to know about the identification of the author(s) of a paper referred to them for peer review.

A reviewer proforma is also attached with each review request, which helps the reviewer in the review process. Each reviewer is given a timeline of 4–5 weeks for review. A reminder is sent if the reviewer fails to comply with the timeline. External reviewers generally comment and suggest originality, quality ofpresentation

Sr No	Steps Of the Review Process	Estimated Time
1	Submission of paper	-
2	First internal/desk review	2 weeks
3	External Review	4-5 weeks
4	Sharing of review reports to the author for minor/major revision	1 week
5	Submission of the revised paper	2 week
6	Second internal review(to assess whether the reviewer's suggestions have been incorporated satisfactorily	2 week
7	Acceptance of paper(on successful submission of revisedpaper)	1 week
8	Submission of publication charges	1 week
9	Publication of issues	Last week of June & December

Note: Authors are requested to revise the paper carefully following the reviewers' suggestions to avoid unnecessary delay in the review process.

15

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan

Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem



Resubmission of paper (after peer review)

Nearly every published paper goes through at least one revision. Authors are directed to revise the paper carefully following the reviewers' suggestions to avoid needless interruption in the review process. The revised paper and the reply/response to the review report should be submitted within two weeks. Author(s) should be very careful regarding accuracy and completeness following the reviewers' suggested points to avoid further review and delay (further revision can be recommended if editors find that reviewers' suggestions have not been incorporated satisfactorily).

Appeal/Complaint Process

The Editorial Board of IRJACS is committed to providing quality editorial services to its contributors and believes in building and maintaining trust and respect for all contributors, readers, and practitioners. IRJACS believes in improving its services by responding to appeals and rectifying its mistakes against:

- Objection to publications causing harm to any party
- Infringing ethical boundaries in any manner and
- Rejection of research paper

Authors/readers can submit their appeal directly to the editor at editor@irjacs.com. The appeal must provide detailed justification (harm, ethical issues, or response to editor/reviewer comments). The editor would look after the matter independently and forward it to some appropriate IRJACS editorial board member. Finally, after going through the whole complaint/justification, the board member can recommend acceptance of the appeal, further review, or uphold the original decision (if any).

Language Editing

The authors' basic responsibility is to ensure that their research papers are free from spelling,

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OT TILON

^{*} Paper is returned to authors if it does not meet the basic criteria

^{**} Paper is returned to authors if external reviewers find that the research paper has such severe faults that cannot be resolved through a major revision

^{***} Authors are requested for further revision if editors find that reviewers' suggestions have not been incorporated satisfactorily

^{****} The minimum publication time of an issue is 3 months; the issue may be published within the last 3 months of every issue duration.



typing, grammar, and syntax errors. Authors whose native language is not English should get their research paper proofread/edited by an English language expert.

Reviewer's Proforma Article Title: The following table is intended to assist the honourable reviewer of the article. The editorial committee of the IRJACS will make the final decision for publication based on the score obtained by the article. Strongly Agree 3 Disagree 2 Strongly S. No Disagree 0 **Quality Statements** Agree 4 The manuscript deals with a significant topic. 1 2 The content of the manuscript is original. The author included the appropriate background or 3 literature review. 4 The author's writing style is clear. The study is conceptually sound and theoretically grounded, and sources are appropriately cited in the required format. 5 The analysis of data is sound and appropriate. The conclusion and/or implications flow from the study 7 This work will inform and educate specialized scholars and araduate students. **Final Comprehensive Assessment:** Approved for publication (with minor changes): a. Approved with conditions (with major changes): b. Rejected / not suitable for publication: c. **Other comments / Suggestions:**

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan

Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem

Contact: +923157041014

17



Honorable Reviewer's Name and Address:				
Email:	Phone / Mobile:			
Signature & Stamp:	Dated:			

Copyrights and Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism Policy

IRJACS adheres strictly to the Plagiarism Policy in accordance with the guidelines set by the HEC. The similarity index on Turnitin must be below 19 percent, with no single source contributing more than 5 percent to the overall similarity score..

Copyrights/License Policy

The authors retain copyright under the CC BY licence. However, the author must sign a form agreeing to publish their article under the CC BY licence. IRJACS is licensed under a <u>Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License</u>. This work is licensed under a <u>Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License</u>.

Authorship policy

Authorship credits may only be given to those who have made substantial.

Contribution to constructing the article.

The article's corresponding author is responsible for crediting the co-authors who are significantly involved in the work. Also, the corresponding author should ensure that all the co-authors have approved the final submission and ready-to-publish version of the article.

Others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research should be acknowledged for their Contribution in an "Acknowledgement" section.

Changes in Authorship

The authors are fully responsible for providing the authors' names upon submitting the article to the journal. Once the article is accepted for publication, any addition, deletion, or rearrangement of the authors' names will not be entertained unless the journal addition.

18

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan

 $\label{eq:principle contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem} Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem$



approves. To request such a change, the corresponding author must provide the journal's editor with (a) the reason for the change in the author list and (b) written confirmation (email, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement, along with the confirmation from the author being added or removed. Only in exceptional circumstances and with considerable reason/s will the editor consider the authors' addition, deletion, or rearrangement after the manuscript has been accepted. While the editor believes the request, the processing of the manuscript for publication will be put on hold. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, the editor may not entertain any requests.

Order of Authors

It is the responsibility of the authors to have a mutual agreement on the order of the authors before submitting the article to the journal. Any such disagreements must be ruled out before the submission.

Guest Authorship

The "guest" author makes no significant contributions to the study and does not qualify for authorship. The IRJACS journal does not allow guest authorship to appear in the articles.

Anonymous Authorship

Because authorship should be transparent and require public accountability, using pseudonyms or anonymising scientific reports is inappropriate. In sporadic cases, a journal editor may publish anonymous content when the author claims that attaching their name to the document could cause severe hardship (e.g., a threat to personal safety or loss of employment).

Acknowledgement

In the Acknowledgments section, authors may wish to include the names and contributions of those whose involvement in a study did not qualify them for authorship (because of the journal policy) but have contributed to the article in some way.

Contributors

The "Ghost" and/or "Guest" author phenomenon has been common in the traditional listing of research papers. This has raised inappropriate authorship practices in which some individuals did not have actual input in the experiment. For this, the journal highly recommends that only authors who have made a significant scientific contribution to the research in the manuscript be listed individually in the submitted manuscript (including students and lab technicians).

19

Address: Faizi Educational Research Center, Sayyam Officer City, Multan

 $\label{eq:principle contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem} Principle Contact: Dr Muhammad Naeem$



Duplicate Submission

Articles found to have been published elsewhere or under consideration for publishing elsewhere. In case the author(s) have used their own previously published work (orwork that is currently under review), they are asked to cite the previous work and indicate how their submitted manuscript offers novel contributions and adds value differently (from the prior work).

Citation Manipulation

Submitted manuscripts that are found to include citations to increase the number of citations to a given author's work or to articles published in a particular journal will be considered as a "citation manipulation"-containing material.

Corrections and Retraction Policy

Authors who discover errors in published articles should have the corresponding author contact the journal's editorial office with a detailed description of the necessary correction. Corrigenda (corrections of author's errors) and errata (corrections of publisher's errors) will be published at no charge to the authors. The editors will review requests for corrections that affect the interpretation or conclusions of a published article.

An article may be retracted when the integrity of the published work is substantially undermined owing to errors in the study's conduct, analysis, and/or reporting. Violating publication or research ethics may also result in a study's retraction. The original article is marked as retracted, but a PDF version remains available to readers, and the retraction statement is bi-directionally linked to the original published paper. Retraction statements will typically include a statement of consent or dissent from the authors.

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