
Editorial

COVID 19 pandemic has taken innumerable toll on humanity. Academia is no exception. Many brilliant academicians have fallen victim to this dreadful virus. Laboratory scientific research, field survey, and many other academic activities came to standstill. It has also adversely affected the mental health of everyone due to prolong isolation, limited healthcare and infrastructure. The pandemic has imposed restrictions on in-person (face to face) work, laboratory access and field research. Many field projects were forced to shut down or paused. Many research institutions have redirected its focus to COVID 19 research. These are challenging times. Wistfully, one can only hope for a new dawn of post pandemic “return to work”, “return to class”.

Education has gone online in order to adapt to the new normal. Work from office has been replaced by work at home. Seminar and conferences have switched to online mode. Zoom, Google meet, Microsoft team, WhatsApp etc have become very popular platform for learning and intellectual interactions.

Ironically, COVID 19 crisis has opened up tremendous opportunities for research publication. It has resulted in an unprecedented research worldwide. According to one source, 2329 Journals published by Elsevier publisher received 2,70,000 manuscripts, or 50% between February and May 2020 as compared with the same period in 2019¹. Bulk of these papers, no doubt, related to the novel corona virus.

The scope and magnitude of scientific research and knowledge have attained an unprecedented level of advancement nowadays. The current pandemic has demonstrated this fact that by “January 5, 2020, just weeks after the first cases of illness were reported, the genetic sequence, which identified the pathogen as the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, was released, providing information essential for identifying and developing treatments, vaccines and diagnostics. As of May 3, 2020, 1133, COVID-19 studies, including 148 related to hydroxychloroquine, 13 to remdesivir, 50 to vaccines, and 100 to diagnostic testing, were registered on Clinical Trials gov”². This trend of scientific advancement is only expected to grow in leaps and bounds in the days to come. As Neil Armstrong pointed out, “Research is creating new knowledge”. This inquisitive mind is a boon to humanity.

One positive impact this pandemic had on the academic community is that it has provided an opportunity for researchers and scholars to introspect and produce higher quality of research outputs.

In this challenging time, the Fazl Ali College Journal is delighted to come up with the Ninth Volume of

¹Flaminio Squazzoni, Giangiacomo Bravo et.al “Only second-class tickets for women in the COVID-19 race. A study on manuscript submissions and reviews in 2329 Elsevier journals”. For more, See <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3712813>

²Debra L. Weiner, Vivek Balasubramaniam "COVID-19 impact on research, lessons learned from COVID-19 research, implications for pediatric research". For more, see <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41390-020-1006-3>

its annual publication. Ever since its launch in 2010 with the twin objectives in focus, *viz.*, to contribute human knowledge in social transformation; and to encourage local researchers, scholars, and academicians in sharing of knowledge; the Journal has unceasingly endeavoured to improve its quality and output.

As a multidisciplinary journal, it welcomes article from all disciplines. There is no common theme to restrict any scientific researcher. The Journal does not encourage one-size-fits-all approach. In the same manner, the current volume has contributions from different fields ranging from women issues, political, economic, literature and other social issues. We are pleased to receive papers from various walks of life probing pertinent issues.

The Editorial board is grateful to all the authors for contributing to the pool of knowledge for posterity, and to the reviewers for their sincere efforts to improve the quality and content of the papers.