

Common problems observed in manuscripts submitted by health and biomedical sciences researchers

Habteyes Hailu Tola^{1*}

¹College of Health Sciences, Salale University, Fitcha, Ethiopia

BACKGROUND

Quality manuscript writing is an essential element of effective scientific communication. However, health and biomedical sciences research work lacks clarity and understandability (1). Particularly manuscripts submitted by junior and non-English speaking researchers are severing from several problems that obstruct their effective scientific communication (2,3). The main problems encountered in manuscripts submitted by health and biomedical sciences researchers include erroneous language usage; lack of presenting ideas chronologically; non-adherence to journal formatting and guidelines; lack of maintaining ethical standards; poor finding presentation and interpretation; and negligence in revision and proofreading (4,5). Addressing these problems is crucial for producing evidence that is clear and accessible to the scientific community and policymakers. However, most of the manuscripts submitted by the authors are poorly written and do not adhere to the format and guidelines of the journal. Therefore, this commentary covers the main flaws noticed in manuscripts submitted by researchers in health and biomedical sciences.

Language usage and grammatical errors

One of the most significant problems in scientific writing is the use of complex sentences and jargon words, which can hinder the understandability of a scientific paper (5). Researchers frequently struggle to select common and simple words in scientific writing. They are also struggling to construct brief, clear, and grammatically correct sentences (5). Moreover, researchers use excessive technical language in scientific writing which significantly affects the understandability of the paper's message, particularly among none subject specialist audiences (6). Clear and precise language usage is vital for ensuring that research findings are accessible and understandable to a broader audience (7,8). However, the majority of researchers are not presenting their research work clearly and understandably.

Results presentation and interpretation

Presenting and interpreting the findings of the study in a clear, attractive, and accurate manner is essential for effective scientific communication. However, the interpretation of the measure of association is frequently wrong, which can mislead readers and compromise the study's impact. Researchers often struggle to effectively summarize and present key findings informatively and concisely. Misinterpretation

Flow of idea

The lack of chronological sequence throughout the manuscript is another main problem encountered in the manuscripts (9). Sentences and paragraphs in the manuscript should follow each other chronologically to convey the intended message. A lack of this sequence in presenting ideas and findings of the research work can lead to confusion making it difficult for readers to follow the research narrative. Studies indicate that poor presentation in chronological sequence is the main problem in most of submitted manuscripts (10). Researchers often struggle with presenting their ideas effectively in chronological fashion, which can reduce the readability of their manuscripts.

Adherence to guidelines

Non-adherence to journal style and submission guidelines are the main problems observed in the manuscript. It can lead to delays in the review process or immediate rejection of the manuscript. Researchers are not adhering to the formatting style and guidelines of the journals, which can be a significant obstacle to the scientific publication process (11). Thus, the submitted manuscripts should meet journal-specific formatting, submission guidelines, and ethical standards to facilitate successful publication.

Ethical standards

Maintaining ethical standards and research integrity is another critical problem in scientific communication. Plagiarism, falsification of data, and inadequate citation of sources are the main problems encountered in the manuscripts submitted to health and biomedical sciences journals (12). These problems significantly compromise the credibility of the scientific evidence. Lack of adherence to good publication ethics is also the main problem observed in the manuscripts. The majority of submitting authors frequently fail to request submission confirmation from all contributors. In addition, the authorship contributions are often not genuine, as small surveys and qualitative studies tend to have an excessive number of authors who may not have made meaningful contributions. The importance of ethical reporting and the need for transparency in disclosing conflicts of interest and adhering to ethical research practices is underlined in the American Psychological Association (13). Therefore, to maintain the integrity of scientific communication, all aspects of the research should be conducted and reported ethically.

of findings or failure to present them clearly can lead to wrong conclusions and undermine the validity of the findings (14). Visualization and careful interpretation of key findings in figures are necessary to convey the research findings clearly and attractively. However, the majority of figures in the manuscripts are presented in poor resolution, which decreases their clarity

Revision and proofreading

Revision of the manuscript iteratively before and during the peer review process is often neglected or rushed by both authors and reviewers, which leads to several errors across the manuscript. Moreover, most of the authors often fail to meet the resubmission deadline for revised manuscripts, which delays the publication process. Although proofreading is an important opportunity to correct errors missed during revision, researchers often perform it carelessly (15), leading to errors in the final published article. A detailed revision of the manuscript during the peer review process is necessary to correct problems related to grammar, spelling, and formatting. It is also important to confirm that the findings align with the research objectives, and that the key findings are sufficiently interpreted and discussed. Careful proofreading and iterative revisions

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Citation: Tola HH. Common problems observed in manuscripts submitted by health and biomedical sciences researchers. *HAJHBS.* 2024, 1(1): 7-8: DOI:

Edited by Derara Girma Tufa

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The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of HAJHBS, and Salale University, College of Health Sciences.

Accepted: August 23, 2024 | Revised September 25, 2024 | Published October 31, 2024

are vital for enhancing the quality of the manuscript and increasing the likelihood of successful publication.

CONCLUSION

The quality of a research manuscript is essential for effective dissemination of scientific knowledge. Clear and precise language, logical presentation of ideas, adherence to journal formatting and guidelines, and upholding ethical principles are integral components of a high-quality manuscript. Presenting results in an organized and engaging manner, as well as revising and proofreading thoroughly are also crucial for ensuring the clarity and understandability of the paper. By adhering to these scientific writing standards and following epidemiologic study reporting checklists, researchers can significantly enhance the readability, impact, and credibility of their work.

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