

**JOURNAL OF INDIAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (IPHA)**  
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## INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AUTHORS

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The text of original articles amounting to up to 3500 words (excluding Abstract, references and Tables) should be divided into sections with the headings Abstract, Key-words, IMRAD format (Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion), References, Tables and Figure legends.

**Abstract:** It should be structured, not more than 300 words, briefly mentioning background, objectives, methods, results, conclusion, and 5-8 key words.

**Introduction:** State the purpose and summarize the rationale for the study or observation.

**Materials and Methods:** Describe your selection of the observational or experimental participants (healthy people, patients or laboratory animals, including controls) clearly, including inclusion and exclusion criteria and a description of the source population. Describe the method of calculating sample size. Identify the methods, apparatus (give the manufacturer's name and address in parentheses), and procedures in sufficient detail to allow other workers to reproduce the results. Identify precisely all drugs and chemicals used, including generic name(s), dose(s), and route(s) of administration. When data are summarized in the Results section, specify the statistical methods used to analyze them. Specify the computer software used. Whenever possible quantify findings and present them with appropriate indicators of measurement error or uncertainty (such as confidence intervals). For all P values include the exact value and not less than 0.05 or 0.001. Mean differences in continuous variables, proportions in categorical variables and relative risks including odds ratios and hazard ratios should be accompanied by their confidence intervals. A statement on ethics committee permission and ethical practices must be included in all research articles under the 'Materials and Methods' section.

**Results:** Present results in a logical sequence in the text, tables, and illustrations, giving the main or most important findings first. Do not repeat in the text all the data in the tables or illustrations; emphasize or summarize only important observations. When data are summarized in the Results section, give numeric results not only as derivatives (for example, percentages) but also as the absolute numbers from which the derivatives were calculated, and specify the statistical methods used to analyze them. Restrict tables and figures to those needed to explain the argument of the paper and to assess its support. Restrict the number of figures and tables below six. Use graphs as an alternative to tables with many entries; do not duplicate data in graphs and tables.

**Discussion & Conclusion:** Include summary of key findings (primary outcome measures, secondary outcome measures, results as they relate to a prior hypothesis); Strengths and limitations of the study (study question, study design, data collection, analysis and interpretation); Interpretation and implications in the context of the totality of evidence (is there a systematic review to refer to, if not, could one be reasonably done here and now?, what this study adds to the available evidence, effects on patient care and health policy, possible mechanisms); Controversies raised by this study; and Future research directions (for this particular research collaboration, underlying mechanisms, clinical research).

Do not repeat in detail data or other material given in the Introduction or the Results section. In particular, contributors should avoid making statements on economic benefits and costs unless their manuscript includes economic data and analyses. Avoid claiming priority and alluding to work that has not been completed. New hypotheses may be stated if

needed, however they should be clearly labelled as such. Preferably number of references should be less than 60.

### **REVIEW ARTICLE**

The prescribed word count is up to 4000 words excluding tables, references and abstract. The manuscript may have about 90 references. The manuscript should have an unstructured summary (250 words) representing an accurate summary of the article. The section titles would depend upon the topic reviewed. Authors submitting review article should include a section describing the methods used for locating, selecting, extracting, and synthesizing data. These methods should also be summarized in the abstract. Restrict the maximum number of tables and or/figures to six.

The journal expects the contributors to give post-publication updates on the subject of review. The update should be brief, covering the advances in the field after the publication of the article and should be sent as a letter to editor, as and when major development occurs in the field.

### **SHORT COMMUNICATION / BRIEF REPORT**

Short communication should contain interesting observations/ brief reports of original studies presenting the authors' views on a topic of current interest. Short Communication should be limited to 1,500 words with unstructured summary not exceeding 150 words, no more than four tables and/or figures, and no more than 25 references. Short communication could be authored by up to six authors. Ethical consideration as per original article should be followed.

### **CASE STUDIES**

New, interesting and intriguing case studies can be reported. They should be unique and have demonstrated methods to overcome any public health challenge by use of novel tools and techniques and provide a learning point for the readers. Case studies with public health significance or implications will be given priority. These communications could be of up to 1000 words (excluding Abstract and references) and should have the following headings: Abstract (unstructured summary not exceeding 150 words), Key-words, Introduction, Case report, Discussion, Reference, Tables and Legends in that order.

The manuscript could be of up to 1000 words (excluding references and abstract) and could be supported with up to 15 references.

### **EDUCATION FORUM**

Education forum articles are usually solicited by editorial board. They should review, discuss and deliberate on recent advances in public health practice and research. The focus should be on methodological issues related to tools and techniques in public health research, operational issues of practice of public health and scaling up of interventions. The manuscript could be of up to 1500 words (excluding references and abstract) and could be supported with up to 15 references. An unstructured summary not exceeding 150 words should be provided.

### **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

These should be short and decisive observations. They should preferably be related to articles previously published in the Journal or views expressed in the journal. They should not be

preliminary observations that need a later paper for validation. The letter could have up to 750 words and 10 references. It could be generally authored by not more than six authors.

### **OTHERS**

Editorial, Guest Editorial (no summary/abstract needed) and Commentary (with unstructured summary of about 100-150 words) are solicited by the editorial board.

### **REFERENCES**

All references should be compiled at the end of the article in the Vancouver style. References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text (not in alphabetic order). Identify references in text, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals in superscript with square bracket after the punctuation marks. References cited only in tables or figure legends should be numbered in accordance with the sequence established by the first identification in the text of the particular table or figure.

### **TABLES**

Tables should be self-explanatory and should not duplicate textual material. Tables with more than 10 columns and 25 rows are not acceptable. Number tables, in Arabic numerals, consecutively in the order of their first citation in the text and supply a brief title for each. Place explanatory matter in footnotes, not in the heading. Explain in footnotes all non-standard abbreviations that are used in each table. Obtain permission for all fully borrowed, adapted, and modified tables and provide a credit line in the footnote. For footnotes use the following symbols, in this sequence: \*, †, ‡, §, ||, ¶, \*\*, ††, ‡‡. Tables with their legends should be provided at the end of the text after the references. The tables along with their number should be cited at the relevant place in the text.

### **ILLUSTRATIONS (FIGURES)**

Provide the images in JPEG/JPG format. The file size should be within 4 MB. Figures should be numbered consecutively according to the order in which they have been first cited in the text. Labels, numbers, and symbols should be clear and of uniform size. The lettering for figures should be large enough to be legible after reduction to fit the width of a printed column. Symbols, arrows, or letters used in photomicrographs should contrast with the background and should be marked neatly with transfer type or by tissue overlay and not by pen. Titles and detailed explanations belong in the legends for illustrations not on the illustrations themselves. When graphs, scatter-grams or histograms are submitted the numerical data on which they are based should also be supplied. The photographs and figures should be trimmed to remove all the unwanted areas. If photographs of individuals are used, their pictures must be accompanied by written permission to use the photograph. If a figure has been published elsewhere, acknowledge the original source and submit written permission from the copyright holder to reproduce the material. A credit line should appear in the legend for such.

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