

Letter to the Editor

Promoting altruistic behavior in authors

JK-Practitioner2024;29(4):81

Existing scientific literature reveals that health professionals publish in scientific journals for various reasons such as fame, academic promotion, financial benefit, and to get an invitation as an expert in medical conferences [1]. There is less information about the altruistic behavior of authors in medical publishing. The French philosopher *Auguste Comte* coined the term altruism as selfless concern for the well-being of others [2]. In short, altruism may be read as '*devotion to the public good*' [2]. From the authors' perspective, altruism in medical publishing may be regarded as selfless concern, either intentional or voluntary actions that aim to nurture the welfare of the public and contribute beneficial knowledge to young researchers in the medical field in the absence of any external reward [2]. The altruistic researcher may have curiosity about diseases encountered in day to day work, the discovery of new emerging diseases, build upon previous work of research, an evidence-based approach towards disease, valuable guidance to budding professionals through ethical publication practices. The following factors are important for the altruistic behavior of authors such as being a role model (innovations, health policy matters), sharing real stories (editorials, letters, commentaries, perspective), promoting acceptance (safeguarding research integrity), condemn for moral reasons, create a supportive community, get your coworkers involved as co-authors, sacrificing time and money, putting yourself at risk and not expecting reciprocity.

Thorakkal Shamim BDS, MDS
Assistant Dental Surgeon
Department of Dentistry, Government General Hospital,
Manjeri, India

References

1. Bajwa SJ, Sawhney C. Preparing manuscript: Scientific writing for publication. *Indian J Anaesth.* 2016; 60:674-8.
2. Feldman MD. Altruism and Medical Practice. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2017; 32:719-20.

Author Affiliations

Thorakkal Shamim BDS, MDS, Assistant Dental Surgeon, Department of Dentistry, Government General Hospital, Manjeri, India. **Correspondence:** Dr. Thorakkal Shamim, Shangrila, Parappanangadi, 676303, Kerala, India. Email shamu3duad@gmail.com, Ph: +919895447351. **Indexed:** EMBASE, SCOPUS, IndMED, ESBCO, Google Scholar besides other national and International Databases. **Cite this article as:** Shamim T. Promoting altruistic behavior in authors. *JK Pract* 2024;29(4):00-00. Full-length article is available at jkpractitioner.com one month after publication. **Keywords:** Altruistic behavior, authors, journal