

# Should we have to submit a letter to editor only in those journals which previously published our letter?

Dear Editor,

We have read the article where the author described their experience of the various journal for publishing letter to the editor (LTE). We condone the authors about the response from the journals about the LTE publication policy and their biases with/without any reason. We would like to share a few of our experiences for various journals regarding LTE submission and publication.<sup>[1]</sup>

**LTE not cited:** a majority of the journal respond promptly to the LTE if it is a reply to some article published in the same journal. They send the LTE manuscript to the original author for review, and if the author agrees with the LTE manuscript opinion, they accept it for publication. Sometimes, original author also replies to LTE. The reply and the author's response are published together in the same issue. One of our LTE (reply) was accepted for publication in one of the Scopus-indexed Q1 journal. After its acceptance, the original authors also wrote their response to our LTE where they mentioned our article along with our first author's name *et al.*, but they did not cite our LTE. We requested the journal to give the citation to our LTE in response, but they did not honor our request. Hence, we lost a citation in a reply to our article.

**Processing charge was demanded during revision submission:** We submitted one LTE as a reply to one medicine and surgery journal Scopus indexed Q2 journal. After 2-3 months, they reviewed our LTE and suggested some corrections as a part of the revision. When we were submitting the revised LTE, they asked for Article Processing Charge (APC) which is more than \$1000. Normally, any LTE that is a reply/comment to any published article of that journal does not have APC. During the first submission, they did not ask for APC, but during the revision submission, they asked for APC. We were unwilling to pay that amount. So, we decided to withdraw the LTE from that journal, which was submitted to another journal and accepted within 15 days of submission.<sup>[2,3]</sup>

**LTE type removed from the journal:** We have submitted one LTE on the current issue in one Indian multidisciplinary journal

for publication. Around 6 months after submission, they did not review the LTE. After 6 months, they suggested revision with some minor points. We revised the manuscript, but during the submission, the LTE article type was missing from the journal's submission site. We requested the journal about the article type missing, but they did not respond. We selected the article type as editorial along with the mail about the article type, but they rejected it. If the journal did not want to publish LTE, why did they suggest a revision of LTE? They should have directly rejected the LTE, but here journal gave a revision but removed the LTE article type from the portal.

**Free LTE publications have paid withdrawal policy:** We had submitted one LTE on current issue in one specialty journal for publication. Until 3 months, there was no response from the journal about the review process. After 3 months, we submitted a withdrawal request to the journal. Immediately, mail was received from the editor and publisher about the withdrawal fee payment, which was around \$500. In that journal, all types of articles have \$100 APC except LTE, which is free from APC. Moreover, when we submitted the withdrawal request, they demanded payment, which is around 5 times higher than regular APC. They also sent their review efforts log when we asked for withdrawal. So, due to the high withdrawal charge, we reverted our withdrawal request and asked for their decision (accepted, rejected, or revision). Still, after one month of the revert request, we are awaiting Editor's final comments.

**Publisher asked APC for a free LTE article:** We have submitted one LTE as our viewpoint in a Scopus-indexed Q3 journal, which they have accepted for publication in a week. As per author guidelines, LTE is free from APC, whereas other articles need more than \$1500 APC. After forwarding our LTE to publisher by editor for publication, publisher were asked to pay open access fees (>\$1500). We have corresponded with the publisher serially, but they did not respond. At the end, we emailed the journal editor to look into the matter. The editor investigated the matter and instructed the publisher to publish the LTE without APC. The same thing again happened with our one more LTE in the same journal. That time we suggested to the editor, to make a policy of APC free whenever they are sending any LTE to the publisher for publication. So, other authors do not have to face the trouble.

As of now, we conclude LTE is a good way to present our opinions or comments on specific issues or topics. When original research is not possible for some idea or future prospect due to various factors like limited resources or lack of expertise, thoughts and opinions will be published in form of LTE.<sup>[4]</sup> Journals are inviting LTE, not only to increase journal's cite score but also to encourage the other authors to take some ideas for

research from LTE.<sup>[5]</sup> Various experiences of LTE publication from several journals make us more conscious to submit the LTE only in those journals, which publish our LTE without any hurdles or APC.

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Nil.

### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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