

RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE CHALLENGES OF HIGH IMPACT RESEARCH PUBLISHING IN AFRICA: A CASE OF NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT - The dissemination of research findings in reputable journals is a pride for academics as it offers global visibility on online platforms. The purpose of the research is to examine the challenges academics faced in publishing in high-impact factor journals in Nigeria and the strategies to promote high-impact factor journals. We elicit data from 151 academics from tertiary institutions in Nigeria using Google Forms an online survey comprised of structured and unstructured questionnaires, and data were analyzed using tables, simple percentages, and bar-chart. The research findings show that is impossible to determine the impact factor of all journals and that too much emphasis on impact factors could trigger unethical practices in publishing. The study further shows that high-impact journals have rigorous and thorough peer review processes which make renowned scholars publish their articles due to their high impact. Thus, the articles to be published must be original, indigenous, scientific and of relevance to human development and not just copied and pasted articles. There is a need for funding journal publications and continuous training of academics on the dynamics of publishing quality journal papers. The study concludes that putting in place competent and reputed international scholars and enforcement of the ethics of publication will enhance the standards of Nigerian journals and must be easily accessible online.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Academic publishing has become a pathway through which academics and researchers disseminate research findings to large audiences within and beyond the university. When researchers investigate a phenomenon or do research to unearth and identify facts and opinion that is relevant to solving an identified problem, there is a need to ensure that such knowledge is shared with relevant stakeholders who will put it to use. Beyond the dissemination of research findings, university communities also use academic publishing as a metric for research standardization and staff promotion [1]. Universities are saddled with the task of production, purchase, and consumption of academic articles, and such tasks are carried out by different people and departments of the academic community. Besides from that, Universities leverage academic publishing as a pathway to providing support for researchers in terms of appointment, promotion, funds distribution, and vis-à-vis reinforcing the teaching and research mission of the university [2].

However, Journal publications are part of the means to encourage scholarship and research dissemination in academia. What use is research if it cannot be disseminated; and what use is academia without research? The Ivory Tower is structured to provide solutions to societal problems, and a major way through this is through research. Within academia, research publications are means to promotions; and this has resulted in the “publish or perish” syndrome. The implication is stagnancy without publications. It is worthy of mention here that there are different classes of journals and publications expected from the academia from diverse groups of journals ranging from local, international, and high impact or index factor journals. It is the pride of every member of academia to publish in highly indexed journals due to the recognition it receives. [3] recognize that publishing in a high-impact factor journal can make a whole lot of difference in one’s academic career. The volume and regularity of citations attest to the reliability and stature of the papers and the publications that published them. Scholars therefore highly value high-impact publications. Since they only publish the finest in the field, they are more challenging to break into.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Therefore, there is a need for an adequate measure for journal ratings resulting in the use of the journal impact factor. The journal impact factor was introduced by Eugene Garfield in 1955 for the rating of journals by Librarians when decisions on journal subscriptions are to be taken. To help standardize the quality of academic papers, the journal impact factor (JIF), defined as the quantitative measurement of journal article quality, has become increasingly popular as a surrogate measure of scientific quality [4]. Succeeding in having work published in journals with high impact can earn scholarly respect, make a professional reputation, and go a long way towards helping a researcher to establish a healthy

career [5]. In addition, because of being publicly accessible to all readers, works published in open-access journals gain more recognition on a worldwide level. Open-access publications are widely acknowledged to have the advantage of being freely available to all readers, including policymakers, which increases the possibility that readers will mention them [6].

According to [7] the impact factor has recently been used in academic evaluation and is an objective measure that allows journals on the same subject to be compared. This made [8] to explain the impact factor of a journal as representing the mean citations that all the articles in the journal have received for two previous years. The indication is that the higher the journal impact factor, the higher the reputation among the scientists. Highlighting this point, [9] noted that the impact factor of a journal is a measure of the position of a journal amongst other journals of the same classification and is measured by the average number of citations in the preceding two years of each published paper that is the frequency of paper citations in other publications. Thus, over time, however, the impact factor has become a recognized and prominent bibliometric measure in the rating of journals; and is calculated as the total number of citations that a journal receives in a particular year, to the number of articles published within two immediate past years, divided by the total number of cited articles that were published by that journal within the two previous years [10].

Furthermore, impact factor journals promote the author by providing readers with a visual representation of the scale of the review [11]. It also has a high level of impact accessibility and is ready to use [12]. Similarly, it can be used to provide a rough approximation of the prestige of journals in which individuals have been published, according to [8] (this is best done in conjunction with other considerations such as peer review, productivity, and subject specialty citation rates). In market research, the impact factor provides quantitative evidence for editors and publishers to position their journals against competitors, particularly those in the same subject category. It also gives librarians and researchers a tool for organizing library journal collections by giving them access to a database [13].

Nevertheless, despite the advantages associated with publishing in these high-impact journals, certain challenges are bedeviling the efforts of researchers in developing countries. According to research, there are numerous variables that contribute to the persistent gaps and inequities between developed and developing nations in the scholarly publishing industry. The continued dominance of English-language journals throughout the years is one of the explanations, and claims [14] and [15]. To [16], accessing tertiary-level scientific and high-quality research training is challenging. Accordingly, [17] reported that there are insufficient skilled human resources as well as poor collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and industry players, which may be caused by the migration of trained professionals from less-developed to more-developed settings [18]. Similarly, [19] noted that the prejudice caused by the developed world's research agenda and the uneven adoption of new scientific techniques in the former are the results of the underrepresentation of research from the developing world.

Furthermore, according to data, sub-Saharan African nations participate in international education research initiatives at significantly different rates. In addition to the [20] study, the Southern partners' function is essentially limited to data collection, while Northern partners play a leading role in data analysis and the consequences of academic publications. Further, these researchers noted that the issue is made worse by growing pressure to publish research findings quickly in journals published in the North, while fierce competition for funding severely restricts the time and options available to create fair cooperation frameworks. This confirms the findings of [21], who found that funding from foreign organizations and partnerships including African experts in education research in the North favoured very few. The bibliometric datasets in the African Education Research Database revealed unequal relationships that can have an impact on the advancement and visibility of African scholars. [21] claim that South Africa was not included in database searches since it did not face the same issues as other nations in the region about the scope and visibility of publications. This is supported by [22] study donors were dictating the direction of scientific research, severely undermining the idea of independence in the field. Therefore, developing countries need to participate more in the creation and exchange of knowledge since it is believed that better access to research can aid a country in achieving its development objectives [23].

[24] emphasized the high cost of article publication fees, which are primarily in US dollars, in comparison to his small pay as a lecturer. He also noted that publishing in such journals without funding support could be difficult for academics in Africa. The cost of processing fees and journal subscriptions is a barrier for African researchers, students, and other stakeholders, which is supported by a research report by [25], which highlighted some issues facing African scholars in publishing in high-impact journals. This is true despite the radical shift in academic publications moving to both digital and hard copy formats. Notably, [26] stressed that the high cost of article processing charges is a huge challenge for publishing research outputs in high-impact medical journals, for researchers from low and medium-income countries, as most of the research is not funded. In the same vein, [27] explained that the issue is not that research is not being carried out but that the quality of the research work matters a lot. Therefore, while some researchers might be busy churning out research studies, they may not be accepted for publication in highly rated journals due to poor quality of research outputs, in terms of writing styles, inappropriate research designs, and questionable statistical analysis. Thus, [28] argues that Open Access to journals may not be a blessing after all due to the cost of publishing research reports. This situation might be a disadvantage to those researchers who cannot afford such costs and in cases where the desire to publish in such journals is topmost for the researcher, the cost of the research might be reduced to save money for publication. This is likely to affect the quality of research. [28] also identified the peer review process as a possible challenge in publishing reports in highly rated journals cited [29] maintained that the peer review process is not completely reliable but often

biased, time-consuming, and sometimes with insulting review comments. The peer review process often results in the rejection of some good research reports if the peer reviewer is not well-versed in the field being reviewed.

It could also be said that in most tertiary institutions in Africa, there is weak internet connectivity, unpredictable power supplies, inadequate institutional computer networks, and poorer personal digital devices are frequent factors that affect one's capacity to read online access articles. [25].s research provides additional evidence that education research in Sub-Saharan Africa faces visibility challenges because it continues to get below-average scholarly involvement as indicated by citation statistics. The researchers concluded that colonial legacies and a preponderance of early career faculty members with large teaching loads continue to have an impact on the visibility of academic scholarship from Sub-Saharan Africa. [30] described how his article was denied six times until it was finally accepted the seventh time because of the training he had taken, and he suggested that prospective authors become familiar with the journals' main goals and meticulously follow the rules for reporting research. Additionally, the reviewer's assessment of the article shouldn't deter authors. In addition, asking more seasoned colleagues for guidance on the writing process is not inappropriate.

The fairness and accuracy of the h-index and the citation index as assessment tools have come under scrutiny by researchers. [10] informed that the use of the impact factor as an average measure makes it susceptible to outlier effects within the distributions of journal citations. Similarly, using the impact factor as an indication of quality for journals and authors could be misleading and could encourage unacceptable and unethical practices as authors devise several means of achieving high citations. [31] has identified four notable factors that could discourage the use of impact factors in academic evaluation. First, that impact factor does not bring out the impact of individual articles, so, in assessing the importance of articles, preference is given to those published in high-impact factor journals even though they have fewer citations than highly cited articles that are published in low-impact factor journals. Secondly, in calculating the impact factor, self-citations are not taken into consideration. Thirdly, in most cases, review articles are more highly cited. Finally, Tandon noted that the impact factor is dependent on the scope of the field involved, emphasizing that a field with a wide scope would attract more citations than a field with a smaller scope.

Similarly, [8] noted that the impact factor of a journal does not necessarily represent specific journal articles; impact factors are highly contingent upon the number of references for each article in the field of research; there are language barriers for journals that are not written in English; there are cases of selective self-citation of journals which occur when researchers intentionally cite other articles from the same journal; access to impact factor databases is costly; citation errors; frequent citation of longer articles; irrespective of the quality of articles in journals that are not easily accessible to readers, their chances of achieving a high impact factor is low; impact factors are more about the display of journal popularity, than they are of the journal's true reputation, thereby forcing authors to desire to publish therein, to the neglect of domestic journals.

In the context of Nigeria [32] [cited in 33] lamented the decline in scholarly publications in Nigeria since the 1980s. This decline is attributed to the global pattern of information generation and dissemination, which has resulted in the underrepresentation of research output from developing nations. The study by [34] criticized the practice of researchers engaging in unethical practices by undermining standards to combat the "publish or perish syndrome" which permeates the academic environment in the Nigerian university education sector. According to [35], more than 22.0% of the Nigerian researchers they surveyed admitted to at least one unethical conduct, which might have included fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism. Also, acknowledging inadequate knowledge of research ethics was a predictor of admission of wrongdoing. As a result of the above, publishing in high-impact factor journals will be a big challenge. According to [36] the popularity of for-profit journals in Nigeria is attributable to some university promotion committees' preference for overseas publications, regardless of their quality is a major challenge to academics. Literature has highlighted the challenges in publishing in high-impact journals by researchers in Africa despite its advantages, there is a need to examine academics' understanding of high-impact factors and the challenges they face in publishing in high-impact factors and then suggest strategies to mitigate the challenges.

2.1 Research Objectives

- 1) Examine the Concept of the Impact of Journals and Publications in Nigeria
- 2) Examine the advantages of High Impact Journals and Publications
- 3) Examine the disadvantages of High Impact Journals and Publications
- 4) Identify strategies needed in promoting High Impact Journals and Publications in Africa

2.2 Research Questions

- 1) What is the concept of impact journals and publications in Nigeria?
- 2) What are the advantages of impact journals and publications on academics in Nigeria?
- 3) What are the disadvantages of impact journals and publications among academics in Nigeria?
- 4) What strategies can be identified in promoting high-impact journals and publications in Africa?

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed the descriptive survey design to examine the challenges of academics in Nigeria in publishing in high-impact journals. This will help to establish their perception as well as know the advantages, and disadvantages of publishing in high-impact journals and how to promote publication in high-impact journals in Nigeria. In this study, data were collected through the filling of questionnaires on Google forms by lecturers in Nigerian tertiary institutions. A cloud-based data management tool called Google Form is used to create web-based surveys. The participants can access it whenever they choose, online from anywhere in the globe, for free. There are numerous alternatives for recording data from multiple answers, including checkboxes, scales, grids, and multiple-choice questions. Results can be recorded using Google Forms as soon as participants have done filling out the form. The findings of the online survey method (Google Forms) are therefore guaranteed because they are produced as diagrams that cannot be changed. The data from the respondents' Excel sheet can be changed, but the result diagrams do not update to reflect the changes. The resulting diagrams are more confident, as a result, it only shows the actual data filled in by the respondents [37].

The development of the structured and unstructured questionnaires was aided using Google Forms, which also made it much easier to collect responses from respondents. The COVID-19 pandemic expanded the use of internet platforms for commerce, government, and teaching and learning, making web-based tools like Google Form an important and quick method of data collection. Due to several inherent restrictions such as high cost, paper waste, long travel distances, and time consumption for both researchers and respondents. There is the reliability of web-based surveys over in-person, over-the-phone, and email survey methods. With instructions on the goals of the study and what is expected of the respondents, the produced Google Forms link was provided to the participants' various educational platforms via WhatsApp as well as to their email connections for wider involvement for two months.

The questionnaire meant for the participants was divided into three sections. Section A sought information on the social and demographic characteristics of respondents such as their age, gender, educational qualifications, rank, and the number of local and international publications, while section B elicited information on the concepts of the impacts of journals and publications taking into consideration its advantages and disadvantages as well as the accessibility of such journals to Nigerians. Section C was designed to enable the respondents to identify strategies for promoting high-impact journals in Nigerian tertiary institutions.

Ethical consideration for the study was adhered to in conducting the research. The researchers informed the respondents about study objectives and data management and their expected role in the research which enabled them to give the researcher their informed consent. Above all, confidentiality was assured, and the use of pseudonyms where necessary. Exactly 151 respondents filled out the questionnaire and about 70.7 percent of them were males while 29.3 percent were female. The educational qualifications of the respondents consist of Ph.D. (68.9%) and Masters (31.1%). The rank of the respondents includes Lecturer (40.4%), Senior Lecturer (19.2%), Chief Lecturer (17.2%), Professor (13.2%) while, Associate Professor, and Chief Lecturer (5.2% and 4.7% respectively). All the respondents are Nigerians. The study used descriptive statistics to answer research questions using tables, simple percentages, and bar-chart to analyse the data gathered. It is hoped that this study could be a wake-up call to policymakers, and stakeholders in the education sector to allocate enough resources to improve teaching and learning schools that would promote scholarship that will make academics publish in high-impact journals and the local journals to attain such height.

4.0 RESEARCH FINDING

4.1 *Concept of publications impact factor in Nigeria*

The outcomes presented in Fig 1 showed that 21.19% strongly agreed, 43.71% agreed, 27.81% disagreed and 7.28% strongly disagreed that the journal impact factor is not a measure of the frequency with which the average article in a journal has been previously cited in a year. Those in opposition to this idea outweigh the supporters, which shows that a better way of describing journal impact factors that would accommodate both previous and current years is required. For instance, 22.52% strongly agreed, 55.63% agreed, 20.53% disagreed and 1.32% strongly disagreed that the journal Impact factor is the average number of times previously published articles are cited in the current year. Furthermore, there is 9.27%, 35.76%, 41.06%, and 13.91% strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed respectively that the journal impacts factor is a threatening measure to scholars' publication capacity. It is obvious that a higher percentage did not see it as a threat because it does not present any risk to publishers. It was also observed that 31.13%, 34.44%, 25.83%, and 8.61% strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed respectively that the higher the reputation of authors, the higher the impact factor of a journal, while 14.57%, 24.5%, 43.71%, and 13.91% strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed respectively that all high impact factor journals have open access. Although some believe that both the subscribed and open-access journals have an Impact factor, others support that not all open-access journals have an impact factor. The report also revealed that 18.89%, 33.77%, 42.38%, and 7.95% strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed respectively that journals are low in impact factors because they are not easily accessible. It was also seen that 4.64%, 18.54%, 45.7%, and 31.13% strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed respectively that it is easy to publish an article in high-impact journals, while 28.48%, 49%, 22.52%, and 0% strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed respectively that the impact factor of a journal can be determined by the quality of the editorial team.

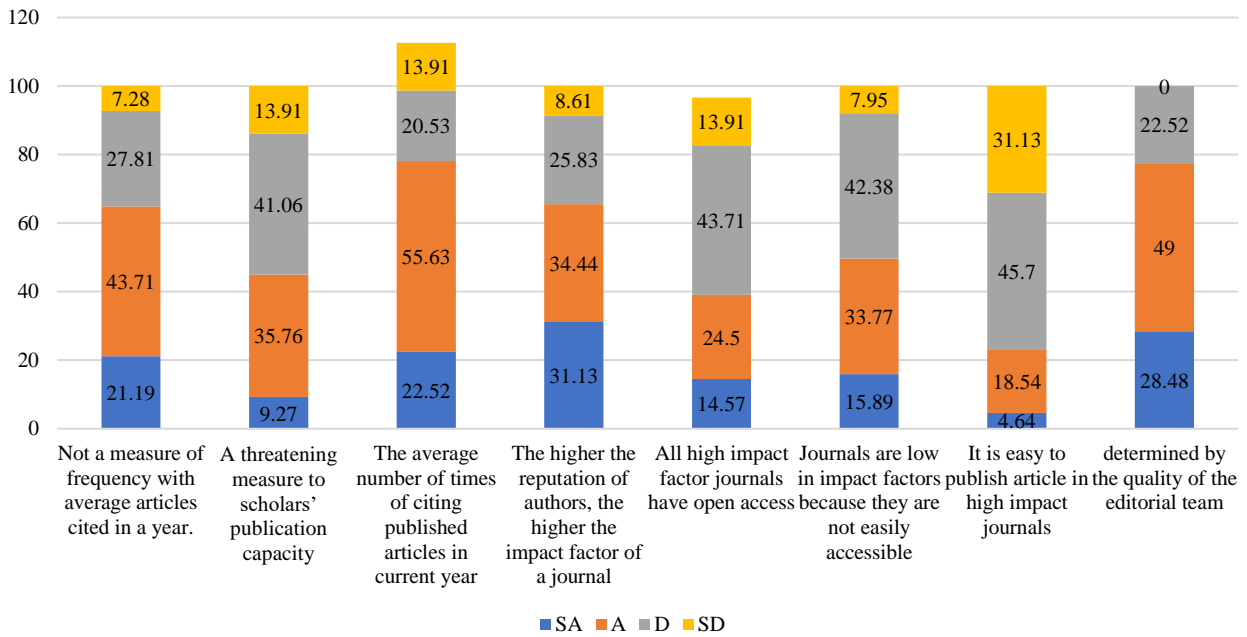


Figure 1. Concept of publications impact factor in Nigeria

4.2 The Advantages of the publications in impact factor on academics in Nigeria

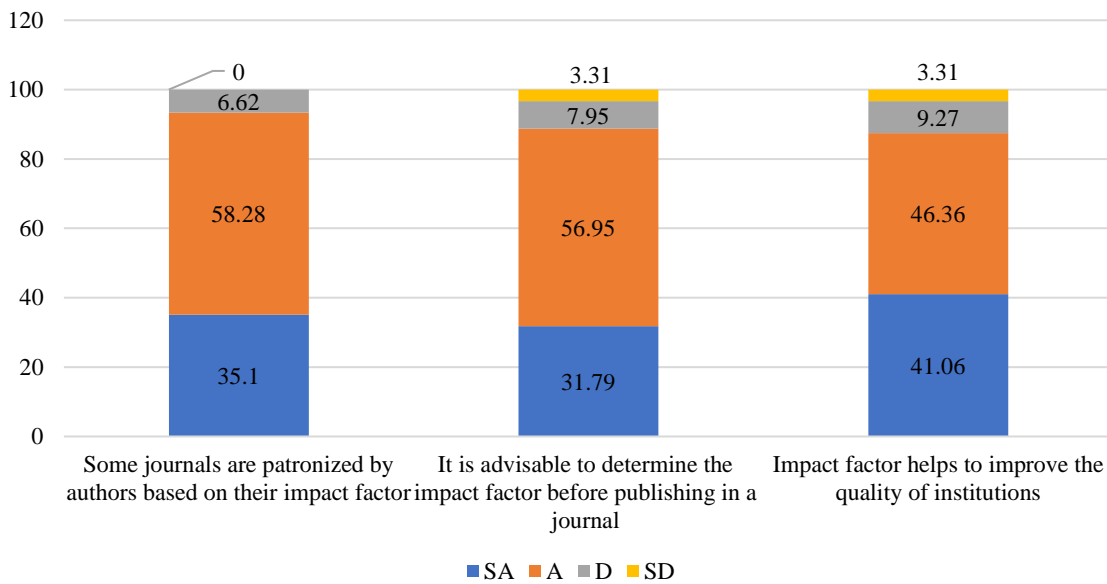


Figure 2. Advantages of the publication's impact factor on academics in Nigeria

The results in Fig 2 showed that 93.38% of the academics in Nigeria support that journals are patronized by authors based on their impact factor while 6.62% think otherwise. Hence, 88.74% agreed and 11.26% disagreed that it is advisable for a researcher to determine the impact factor before publishing in a journal. In addition, 87.42% believe that the Impact factor helps to improve the quality of institutions while 12.58% think the contrary.

4.3 Disadvantages of Publications' Impact Factor Among Academics in Nigeria

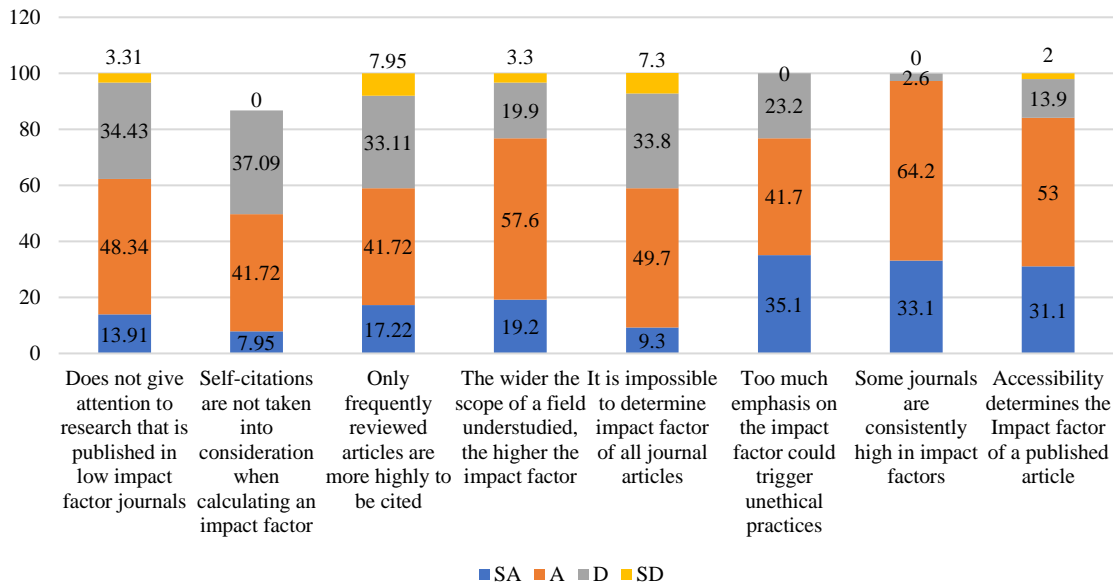


Figure 3. Disadvantages of publications impact factor among academics in Nigeria

The results presented in Fig 3 showed that 13.91% strongly agreed, 48.34% agreed, 34.44% disagreed and 3.31% strongly disagreed that impact factor does not give attention to research published in low-impact factor journals. It also showed that 7.95% strongly agreed, 41.72% agreed, 37.09% disagreed and 0% strongly disagreed that self-citations are not taken into consideration when calculating an impact factor. It is also evident that 17.22% strongly agreed, 41.72% agreed, 33.11% disagreed, and 7.95% strongly disagreed that only frequently reviewed articles are more highly to be cited. The outcome also revealed that 19.2% strongly agreed, 57.6% agreed, 19.9% disagreed and 3.3% strongly disagreed that the wider the scope of a field understudied, the higher the impact factor. As shown, 9.3% strongly agreed, 49.7% agreed, 33.8% disagreed and 7.3% strongly disagreed that it is impossible to determine the impact factor of all journal articles. It was also seen that 35.1% strongly agreed, 41.7% agreed, 23.2% disagreed and 0% strongly disagreed that too much emphasis on the impact factor could trigger unethical practices. It was shown that 33.1% strongly agreed, 64.2% agreed, 13.9% disagreed and 0% strongly disagreed that some journals are consistently high in impact factors, and 31.1% strongly agreed, 53% agreed, 13.9% disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed that accessibility is a variable that determines the impact factor of a published article.

5.0 DISCUSSION

Journal publishing is a tool used in academia to promote knowledge and the sharing of findings. The "publish or perish" syndrome has developed because research publications in academia are a method of advancement. It is important to note that distinct types of journals and publications, including local, international, and high-impact or index factor journals, are anticipated by the academic community. Every academic takes great delight in publishing in highly indexed journals because of the recognition it receives. Universities must consider several aspects to successfully publish academic works, including the impact, accessibility, price, and quality of the journal or article[1]. The impact factor, which has recently been employed in academic evaluation, is an impartial metric that enables journals on the same subject to be compared, according to [7].

Furthermore, by giving readers a visual depiction of the scope of the review, it promotes the author [11]. It is also highly accessible, ready to use, and has a high level of effect [12]. [8] also claim that it can be used to generate a general estimation of the prestige of journals in which people have published. Thousands of academic publications are now competing for the attention of scholars even though there is pressure to publish or perish. [31] pointed out that the impact factor has been abused since it has strayed from its initial purpose of helping librarians manage library journal collections to the evaluation of the worth of specific articles or authors. Similarly, to this, using the impact factor as a barometer of a journal's or author's quality may be deceptive and encourage undesirable and unethical behaviour as authors develop various strategies for getting lots of citations.

The above is in tandem with respondent responses on the challenges of impact factor journals in Nigeria. The study reveals that is impossible to determine the impact factor of all journals and that too much emphasis on impact factors could trigger unethical practices in publishing. In their response to the high impact factors accessible to Nigerians, the respondents noted that a high number of these journals are available and accessible to them in their teaching and learning notably, Elsevier, Springer, Taylor, and Francis among many others in various disciplines. The study also showed that academics in Nigeria support writers choosing journals based on their impact factor because it raises the standard of

institutions. According to the study, there must be a more accurate manner to describe journal impact factors that consider both past and present years.

Respondents noted that the strengths of a high-impact journal include the quality of the editorial board and peer reviewers as well as easy online access. In addition, these journals are indexed in Scopus, LISA, LISTA, EBSCO, Google Scholar, and OCLC among others which have strength all over the world, but it is expensive to publish in them. Also, journal articles published have quality content and detailed empirical information, and any article that does not meet the standard or aims and objectives of the journal is outrightly rejected. As a result, it publishes highly reputable research and has a rigorous and thorough peer review process which makes renowned scholars publish their articles due to its high impact and increase visibility.

The respondent's responses varied on how to promote high-impact journals in Nigeria but the major one is that any Nigerian journal should have a good quality peer review mechanism and must set an international standard pertaining to article publications and such journals must be available online. Also, the editorial board members must be competent and reputed scholars from different countries and enforce the ethics of publication. In addition, articles to be published must be original, indigenous, scientific and of relevance to human development and not just copied and pasted (plagiarism). Similarly, respondents believe that the Government should fund the publication and all tertiary institutions should be encouraged to register their journals in Google Scholar and other bodies to make them high-impact journals. The respondents advised that researchers in Nigeria should conduct real-life problem-solving studies and collaborate with experts in the field within and outside Nigeria. Also, there should be a publication of genuine research output in high-impact journals and citation of Nigerian/African by Nigerians and Africans.

Thus, publishing articles in high-impact journals requires the production of a high-quality scientific paper and high high-quality research that utilizes the appropriate methodology [38]. According to [39] research scholars should make sure that their publications are transparent, truthful, accurate, thorough, balanced, and free of selective or misleading reporting. Journal editors are responsible for ensuring the integrity of the research literature and must follow specific guidelines for doing so. According to [40], academics should maintain research integrity by making sure that their publications are transparent, truthful, accurate, comprehensive, and balanced and that they do not contain any misleading, cherry-picked, or ambiguous information. Journal editors and publishers are also equally responsible for preserving the integrity of the research literature. Therefore, researchers must maximize the advantages of publishing, uphold publishing standards, produce high-calibre publications, draw in the appropriate readership, and ensure that their publications will ultimately have an impact on worldwide awareness.

For universities to achieve the goals of academic publishing, factors like the impact, affordability, quality, and access of the journal or published article are considered [1]. Despite this fact, the pressure to publish or perish has led to the proliferation of thousands of academic journals competing for the attention of researchers. However, [41] affirms that despite the need for academics to publish research works, published scientific results should be scrutinised by true experts in the field and given scores for quality and quantity according to established rules. Contrarily, what is called peer review in practice is usually performed by committees with general competence rather than with the specialist's insight that is needed to assess primary research data [41]

Although universities are at the forefront of providing support for researchers to publish in high-impact journals, a one-size-fits-all approach is not enough. There is a need to personalize, adapt and tailor services that speak to the needs, expectations, and specialization of researchers [42] It is important for researchers to be aware of the scope, vision, and mission of a journal before submitting an article. As universities support research in terms of resources, such researchers are saddled with the task of engaging in collaborations in terms of training, writing, and peer mentoring for early career academics. In addition to these, providing an opportunity for writing retreats creates supportive environments for enabling the career growth of researchers through publishing and engagement with the larger academic community [43].

Researchers in Nigeria should establish, support, and enhance their regional journals with a strong editorial board, a quality peer review system, and guidelines for expert collaboration. Such publications should also be indexed. The South African Department of Higher Education and Technology, which maintains an annual directory of accepted journals in all fields where researchers can publish their work, is a good model for Nigeria to follow. Through seminars and conferences, tertiary institutions should raise awareness to assist researchers and provide them with the financial means to produce high-quality data that is both reliable and complies with worldwide publishing standards.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The findings from the research show that publishing in high-impact journals is the pride of researchers and their institutions as it enhances the visibility of the researcher. Similarly, the journals have a thorough and rigorous peer review mechanism and an effective editorial board among other criteria that makes them reliable. There is a consensus among the respondents that due to much emphasis on the "publish or perish" syndrome institutions may trigger unethical practices in publishing. This supports earlier research by [44] that unethical authorship has led to shallow research outputs of some Nigerian academics because of the non-input of unethical authors. The study also reveals that it is impossible to determine the impact factor of all journals and that these journals are available and accessible by Nigerian academics in their teaching and learning. The study concludes that putting in place competent and reputed international scholars and enforcement of the ethics

of publication will enhance the standards of Nigerian journals and must be easily accessible online. The findings of the study have implications for academics and the quality of articles and journals published in the country.

The study suggests increased funding of university-based journals by TETFund and such journals must have a functional website and such journals must be indexed in Scopus, Google Scholar, etc. In addition, unethical publishing practices must be disallowed and any article to be published must be subjected to a similarity index. Tertiary institutions should impose standards, uphold the ethics of research and publishing, check the quality of journals the institution subscribes to, and recognize academic staff who publishes in impact journals as a means of inspiring others. There should be regular training on best practices for journal publication. All faculty or departmental publications must have knowledgeable and capable editors from different countries who will promptly respond to questions and enforce the ethics of publications. To maintain the standard of the journal, the editors must also assure thorough and strict peer review, authors adhering to the editorial policy of the journal, and reviewers' recommendations.

This study adds to the existing knowledge of the challenges of impact factor publishing in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The study highlights the advantages and disadvantages of impact factor publishing and its effects on the assessment of lecturers in institutions and the unethical practices that may occur due to pressure to publish. It is believed that this study would enlighten school administrators and professional bodies and appropriate enforceable publishing policy that would promote Nigerian journals globally. Also, this study offers researchers a useful resource on how to solve the problems of publishing in high-impact factors by engaging in research that would solve human development and societal issues. This study is limited to data gathered from some academics in Nigeria and the results of the study are limited to the study participants which limits the research of the findings to Nigeria. Thus, the findings must be considered within the context of the study.

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