Your Voice Matters: Resident Feedback Survey for Quality Improvement of RJRMU

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BACKGROUND

To enhance the quality and relevance of the Resident Journal of Rawalpindi Medical University (RJRMU), we conducted an online survey involving all medical residents at RMU. This initiative aimed to gather valuable feedback on the journal's content, structure, accessibility, and its role in academic and professional development. Resident feedback is crucial in shaping a journal that effectively meets their scholarly needs, promotes research engagement, and reflects the evolving landscape of medical education and practice. By incorporating their insights, we strive to improve the journal's impact, ensuring it serves as a robust platform for knowledge dissemination and academic growth.

METHODOLOGY

To assess and enhance the quality of the Resident Journal of Rawalpindi Medical University (RJRMU), we developed an online survey targeting all medical residents at RMU. The methodology for this survey included three key phases: tool development, dissemination, and data analysis. Tool Development: The survey was designed using a structured questionnaire that focused on key aspects of the journal, including content relevance, readability, accessibility, research support, and overall impact. The questionnaire was developed based on a literature review of best practices in academic publishing and feedback mechanisms. It included both closed-ended and open-ended questions, with a 5-point Likert scale (ranging from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree") used to quantify resident perceptions. Dissemination: The survey was distributed through digital platforms, including official university emails, WhatsApp groups, and RMU's online learning portal, ensuring maximum participation. Residents were given one week to complete the survey, with reminders sent periodically to encourage responses. Participation was voluntary and anonymous to promote honest and unbiased feedback. Data Analysis: Responses were collected and analyzed using quantitative and qualitative methods. Likert scale responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including mean scores and frequency distributions, to identify trends and areas for improvement. Open-ended responses were thematically analyzed to capture qualitative insights and suggestions from residents. The findings were then compiled into a report highlighting strengths, challenges, and actionable recommendations for improving RJRMU. This systematic approach ensured that the feedback gathered was data-driven and representative, allowing for informed decision-making to enhance the journal's quality and impact.

RESULTS

Table.1 provides the analysis of data of RMU residents with respect residency year distribution, department name, publication history & journal quality ratings among respondents. Most respondents are in their 2nd year (29.3%), followed by 4th year (25.7%) and 3rd year (20.7%). 1st-year residents (11.4%) and 5th-year residents (12.9%) make up the smallest groups. Among department distribution; the largest representation comes from Gynecology (16.4%), Surgery (15%), Medicine (12.1%), and Orthopedics (12.1%). Smaller departments include Urology, Nephrology, Neurology, and Nephrology (each 1.4%). When asked about "Have you published in the RJRMU Journal before?"; majority (81.4%) have not published in the RJRMU Journal before, and only 18.6% have prior publications, suggesting limited engagement with the journal. Similarly, when asked about "How would you rate the overall quality of the RJRMU Journal?" Most respondents rated the journal as "Good" (33.6%), "Satisfactory" (30.7%), or "Neutral" (29.3%). Only 2.9% rated it as "Excellent", while 3.6% rated it as "Poor". The majority perception is positive or neutral, with only a small percentage finding it unsatisfactory.

Fig.1 presents Resident Feedback Analysis regarding RJRMU Journal. When asked about "Perception of Scientific Rigor and Evidence-Based Content"; there were Agree (67 respondents,47.9%) and Neutral (70 respondents, 50%) were the most common responses. A very small percentage (2.1%, 3 respondents) strongly disagreed with the journal being rigorous and evidence-based. Majority opinion suggests that

while a significant proportion of residents agree with the journal's credibility, a considerable portion remains neutral, indicating potential room for improvement. When asked about "Satisfaction with the Manuscript Review Process"; there were Satisfied (117 respondents, 83.6%) was the dominant response. Not satisfied (23 respondents, 16.4%) made up a minority. The overwhelming satisfaction suggests that the journal's review process is perceived positively, but some dissatisfaction exists. Most residents find the journal scientifically credible, though a large neutral segment suggests that some are undecided. The review process is largely well-received, but addressing the concerns of the dissatisfied 16.4% could further enhance the journal's reputation.
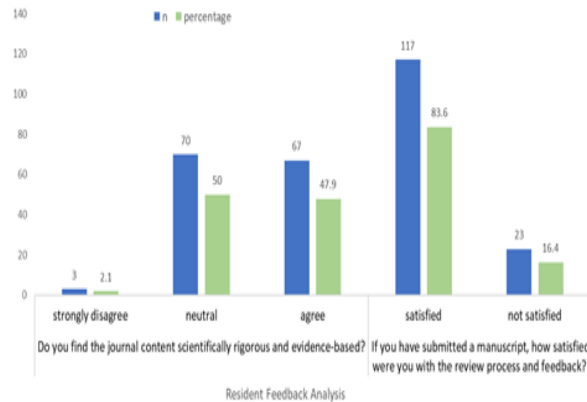

Fig 1. Survey Analysis

Recommendations for Improving the Peer Review and Editorial Process

Ensuring a fast and efficient peer review process is critical to maintaining the journal's relevance and appeal to researchers. Implementing a structured, time-bound review system with a standard timeline of 4–6 weeks for initial reviews and a 2-week window for revisions can help streamline the process. Utilizing online submission and review management platforms will further enhance communication between authors, reviewers, and editors, reducing delays. Additionally, recruiting a diverse pool of reviewers from multiple specialties can help distribute the workload, ensuring prompt and well-rounded feedback. Transparent review policies, such as open peer review or structured review forms, can also enhance credibility and efficiency. Equally important is providing dedicated support for authors in making revisions.

Reviewers and editors should offer constructive and detailed feedback, suggesting specific improvements rather than merely identifying flaws. Introducing a mentorship system where early-career researchers or residents receive guidance from senior academics can help them better interpret feedback and refine their manuscripts. Furthermore, offering editorial assistance or writing workshops, especially for authors with limited academic writing experience, can significantly improve the quality of submissions and support a more inclusive research environment.

Table.1 Analysis of Survey

Year of Residency	n	%
1st year	16	11.4
2nd year	41	29.3
3rd year	29	20.7
4th year	36	25.7
5th year	18	12.9
Department Name	n	%
Anesthesia	8	5.7
Diagnostic radiology	4	3.2
ENT	8	5.7
Gastroenterology	6	4.3
Gyane	23	16.4
Medicine	17	12.1
Nephrology	4	3.2
Neurology	2	1.4
Ophthalmology	3	2.1
Orthopedics	17	12.1
Peads	9	6.4
Plastic surgery	7	5
Psychiatry	9	6.4
Surgery	21	15
Urology	2	1.4
Have you published in the RJRMU Journal before?		
Yes	26	18.6
No	114	81.4
How would you rate the overall quality of the RJRMU Journal?		
poor	5	3.6
satisfactory	43	30.7
neutral	41	29.3
good	47	33.6
excellent	4	2.9

DISCUSSION

Enhancing the peer review process is fundamental to ensuring academic rigor and credibility within RJRMU. Standardizing reviewer training and adopting a double-blind or open peer review system can improve the quality of evaluations, fostering fairness and transparency. Additionally, adhering to international editorial policies, such as COPE guidelines, will strengthen the journal's academic integrity, while periodic reviewer performance assessments will help maintain constructive and timely feedback for authors[1,2]. To expand the journal's reach and relevance, diversifying article submissions is essential. Encouraging contributions from a broad spectrum of medical specialties and actively soliciting papers from international researchers will enhance visibility and credibility beyond national boundaries.

Special issues focused on emerging topics, such as digital health and AI in medicine, can further position the journal as a forward-thinking publication. In terms of strategic growth, initially adopting a high acceptance rate will attract a wider pool of contributors, fostering engagement and interest[3]. As the journal gains traction, a gradual shift toward selective acceptance based on high editorial standards will ensure the publication of rigorously reviewed, high-quality articles, helping the journal achieve indexed status and greater impact.

Moreover, improving the quality of journal writing is crucial for establishing professionalism[4]. Offering writing workshops, editorial support, and guidance on structured abstracts and proper referencing will enhance manuscript clarity and readability. RJRMU's greatest strengths lie in its inclusivity. It provides a unique platform for residents from all specialties to publish their research, fostering interdisciplinary learning and collaboration. The journal is critical in sparking research interest among young scholars, offering them an accessible entry point into academic publishing. As RJRMU continues to evolve, attracting experienced researchers and clinicians to its editorial board will further elevate its standing. By implementing these recommendations, RJRMU can enhance its reputation, increase its impact factor, and establish itself as a reputable and trusted platform for resident research.

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