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Editorial

Scopus and Web of Sciences have captured the imagination of the academia as never before. This has ensured mainstreaming of 'quality' in research publications. The University Grants Commission, which is the apex body of Higher Education in India mandated with the task of ensuring quality in higher education, has come up with the list of approved journals.

Quality of research publication and hierarchisation of research publication on the basis of indexing and impact factor have its own advantage and disadvantages. No doubt, indexation and hierarchisation of journals on the basis of their quality and citations have improved quality of publication. However, in some other way, it is an anachronism in the sense that research by its very nature needs to be contributing something new to the body of knowledge. Whether a research publication fulfils this criterion only on the basis of its accession and indexing to reputed consortium controlled by Print Capitalism or genuinely does so irrespective of its accession and indexation also needs to be thought of. The larger issue that has emerged in this mad scramble for quality publication is the silent suffering and death of many of the old reputed journals which had their in-house publication by old research institutes or old universities and their department. This point needs to be highlighted in greater details.

In old days, Asiatic Society of Bengal was publishing its own journal *JASB*. It is now coming out in new series. There are many universities and museums which had their own research publications. The Indian Museum had its own *Bulletin*. Odisha State Museum has its own Publication called Orissa Historical research Journal. These journals contributed immensely to our knowledge. These publications suffered some lacunae, such formatting, citation, foot-noting and end noting but they carried significant discoveries of inscriptions, icons and sites. These journals provided huge body of new data.

On the other hand the indexed journals today focus more on grand narrative, social and cultural formations. In the process new discoveries, reporting of a new inscription, images, a archaeological sites never find space in the indexed journals which focus on theories. In the process, it pushed to background these significant aspects of historical research which old journals of universities, museum and oriental institutes were performing. To a discernible observer, it is quite visible that 'quality journals' has to do more with indexation controlled by print capitalist than with the quality of research and its significance to various levels of audience, such local, sub-regional, regional, national and global. In the name of developing a metrics, a universal yardstick has been developed by print capitalists ignoring that social sciences produce knowledge for different levels of audience.

Another outcome of salience of quality is the possible languishing of book publication. Journals had its origin in natural sciences. But these journals

were largely the labours of editors. Peer reviews of the journal *Nature* started only in 1973. It was editors who went through manuscripts and decided the publication worth of a journal. Double Blind Peer review is good but very often their reviews fail to see the argument of the author and are very often negative. In natural sciences, book publication is secondary while in social sciences and Humanities book publication is considered to be an ultimate barometer of your intellectual labour and creativity. With the privileging of journals over book and book chapter publication, publication of books will suffer in the long run.

However, the above ruse is not to justify shabby publication but to bring to fore the oligopolistic business of world publication with its own certification system. A research publication must contribute something new; it must bring to fore new data, evidence; should make a new argument; must be neatly formatted and every contributor must adhere to these ethical considerations. The indexing journals adhere to these principles but their business standards includes some and exclude many. In the process, production of local knowledge would suffer.

Kanpur Historiographer comes up with the second issue of Ninth Volume of its publication for its readers. This issue contains eight articles on diverse range of topic. However, identity, communal politics of partition time predominate the volume. The first article Shikha Pande's article on the micro region of Baiswara in Awadh tries to capture the dynamics of changes and continuity by emphasizing on the changing political relations between various power elites. It uses the travel account of Sleeman to understand the power dynamics in 19th century Baiswara.

New trends in international politics including terrorism & unilateralism by Dr. Hari Mohan Sharma charts a new theme in this volume which is not organically linked with previous essays. The last article on Brahmananda Shivayogi reveals new horizons of his teachings I hope this volume receives positive feedbacks from the readers.

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**Book relwase on 28.12.2022. authored by Aditya narayan Singh
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Members of Editorial Board with scholars at Sher Shah's tomb and Hasan Shah's tomb at Sasaram 29.12.2022

