Achieving High Quality Publication from Indonesian Scientists

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In December 2022 Human Resource Director of the Directorate General of Higher Education, Research and Technology of the Indonesian Ministry of Education reported that the number of publications from all Indonesian lecturers and students became the highest in Southeast Asia, surpassing that of Malaysia and Singapore (Putra, 2022). Indeed, Scival report quoted in Sinta webportal, the Indonesian national web portal for research and academic publication data, showed the increasing trend in the number of publications until 2021, despite a drop in 2022 (WCU Analysis, 2023b). This achievement was the results of combined national efforts such as embedding publication as compulsory output of research fundings, providing writing workshop and trainings, pushing for international collaboration, providing incentives for quality publications and improving the quality of nationally accredited journals. World Class University Analysis in Sinta web portal also shows a steady increase in the number of citations with a drop in 2021. However, the report also shows a steady decrease in the score for citation per lecturer per year (WCU Analysis, 2023a). indicating the need to improve the impact of the publications.

Improving the impact published articles, including increasing the number of citations, requires efforts to enhance the quality of the manuscripts. Journal Impact Factor is an indicator for the quality of published article, but others questions the use of this indicator and propose different measures of quality (Law & Leung, 2020) (Ghazavi et al., 2019). The Indonesian National Research and Inovation Board give 10 recommendations to improve the quality of publications from Indonesian scientists, including a recommendation to improve the management of national journals to achieve international standards (Nurmaini, 2021). In line with the recommendation, Journal of Public Health Research and Public Policy (JPH RECODE) strives to improve the quality of its published manuscripts and take several efforts.

First, JPH RECODE will seek for novelty in submitted manuscripts with statement of the gaps in the knowledge clearly expressed. Second, JPH RECODE acknowledges the importance the peer review process in improving the manuscript. A systematic review and meta-analysis of efforts to improve peer review quality in biomedical journals reported that open peer review and review specifically for the statistical section significantly improved the review reports and quality of the manuscripts (Bruce et al., 2016). Poor study design,

unclear aim and poor statistical analysis has indeed become some of the main reason for manuscript rejections (Donev & Masic, 2017) including in JPH RECODE. For manuscripts with exceptional novelty and those with high public health importance, JPH RECODE will provide support for the authors by improving the quality of peer review reports to make it clearer for the authors to make correction, and by giving special emphasis on the statistical analysis and interpretation.

JPH RECODE editors will continue to support authors and reviewers in enhancing the quality of manuscripts to achieve public health impact.

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