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SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING PRACTICES OF SOCIAL SCIENTISTS IN ICSSR FUNDED RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS– A STUDY

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Abstract: The present study attempts to examine the scholarly publication practices of the social scientists working in 24 ICSSR-funded research institutions in India. The study aims to identify the awareness, different sources, components, types of peer review methods, factors, metrics levels and use of open resources and Creative Commons related to scholarly publications practices during their research. A structured questionnaire was distributed for the collection of data to all research scholars, faculty members, research staff and project staff working in ICSSR-funded research institution in India and received 356 responses. The data was coded in excel and imported into SPSS software and analyzed. Simple statistical techniques such as average, weighted mean, percentage and chi square test are used for interpretation of the data. The result reveals that respondents prefer to publish in both print and electronic media.Majority of the respondents preferred to publish by considering reputation of the journal' and Journal Impact factors to publish at National and international journals.Large number of respondents (85.67%) preferred National level collaborations. Respondents opinioned that 'Increase the Visibility & Impact of research' (mean value 2.87) is the important factor considering to publish their scholarly content in Open Access.Only 27.25% of the respondents are aware about creative commons licensing.

Keywords: Scholarly publication, ICSSR Funded Research Institutions, Open Access resources, creative Commons, Peer review method, Publication Collaborations, open access resources and plagiarism software.

1.0 Introduction

Publishing research output is significant for communicating research findings, and knowledge addition to a particular discipline. Research publications indicate the research capabilities of a researcher, and the quality and quantity of research also determine the strength of research performance of a discipline, an institution or a country.

A Scholarly publication must present a new insight into the subject of research; contain a specified format for further use and evaluation, and should be published in authentic channels such as journals, conference proceedings, books, etc. The publication channels accept or reject the publication based on the peer review of the manuscripts before publication.

Digital technologies enable academicians torapidly disseminatetheir research findings for greater accessibility to other researchers. Technology is also seen as an enabler of speedier and rigorous peer review processes, formatting, transparency in citations, and evaluating the manuscripts for their originality of content. Together, these elements ensure that published works retain scholarly integrity and contribute meaningfully to the expanding corpus of academic knowledge.Research is sometimes carried out in collaboration with other scholars to bring interdisciplinary perspectives and to improve the visibility and impact of scholarly work.

Scholars should therefore be aware of the various publication patterns across disciplines, types of peer reviews followed in order to strengthen their research work.

The emergence of Open Access has changed the face of Scholarly communication. Open Access has led to changes in copyright and Licensing. To cater to the Open Access publications, OA Licensing have emerged. Licensing systems such as Creative Commons (CC) provided more flexibility to the researchers to access the publications with few or no restrictions. This also helped in cutting down on financial, geographical barriers and facilitated access to social science knowledge. Creative Commons offers flexible copyright options that allow authors to retain rights while permitting wider dissemination, reuse, and adaptation of scholarly work. Open Access and Creative Commonshas redefined publication practices and contributed toincreased visibility, societal impact, and academic prestige.

The present study focuses on the scholarly publication practices of social researchers working in the 24 ICSSR-funded research institutions in India. This study attempts to identify the awareness and use of open resources, the peer review process, preference for publications, and awareness ofmetrics of scholarly publications.

2.0 ICSSR-FundedResearchInstitutions

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) supports funding to 24 research institutes along with the state governments. It supports social science research schools/ centres or institutions or universities in the disciplines of economics, law, security studies, sociology, anthropology, geography, political sciences, population studies, gender studies, exclusion studies, and strategic and Sanskrit studies, etc. ICSSR had givena grant-in-aid to 24 research institutions for the generation of empirical and theoretical knowledge in social sciences to engagein research activities of policies of state and central bodies to maintain as think tanks in social sciences research in India. The present study focuses on the research publication activities by researchers working in the 24 research institutions in India.

3.0 Review of Literature

Worldwide, research is in progress regarding the scholarly publication practices in social sciences and humanities. Studies mainly focused on the use of OA Resources in social sciences, Peer review practices, Impact factor and other metrics considered by social scientists for publication, research collaborations, and obstacles in scholarly publishing. Some relevant studies are reviewed and discussed.

Flialka S (2021)[1] studied a co-authored collaboration in their paper titled "Involving Ukrainian early career researchers in publishing practices and their attitudes to scholarly communication". The study results show that the researchers collaborated within the same institutions with 55.7% followed by other Institutions (22.7%, and foreign colleagues with 10.4% in the first three positions, respectively.

Abdullah- Al et al (2020)[2] studied "Awareness and Use of Open Access Resources in Higher Education and Scholarly Research: Faculties versus Students Perspectives". The results indicate that DOAJ and DOAB were frequentlyused OA repositories by the respondents.

Nicholas D et al. (2020)[3] studied the attitudes and practices of early career researchers from 7 countries and found that the majority of them use citation-based metrics. “Chinese are the most metric used nation”, the study finds.

Chinnadurai and M. Tamizhchelvan (2019)[4] conducted a study on "Open Access Resources for Social Science: A Quantitative Study". The study finds that databases such as DOAB, DOAJ, and Open DOAR contain a larger number of open-access resources in social science subjects as compared to science & technology and medical science.

Lemke, Mehrazer, Mazarakis, and Peters (2019)[5] studied the use of metrics in social sciences scholars and found that Citation number, Impact factor, and H-index are the first three metrics used by scholars.

Neville and Crampsie (2019)[6] study reveals that peer review, followed by publisher and reputation of the journals, are the top three factors considered for publication of an article in a journal.

Nobes and Harris (2019)[7] conducted a study to know the experiences and attitudes of researchers to OA publishing, particularly on Creative Commons licenses in low- and middle-income countries. The study results reveal that only 20% of the respondents are aware of Creative Commons, and found that 60% were familiar. The most popular was the CC-BY-NC-ND license, followed by CC-BY with 22% and in second place and CC-BY-NC with 15% stood in the third place.

In the study of ***Babu B R*** (2019)[8] found that h-index, along with the Journal Impact Factor, was considered by researchers while publishing their scholarly writings.

Kulczycki Emanuel et al. (2018)[9]conducted a study on publication patterns in social sciences and humanities in non-English speaking, 8 European countries. They found that scholars preferred Journal articles in the first place, followed by book chapters and monographs.

Maxwell C et al. (2018)[10]surveyed 382 social science academicians in Universities in Nigeria, and the study reveals that social scientists preferred to publish in Conference Proceedings and Seminars, Theses and Dissertations, and Journals.

Narayan, B et al. (2018)[11] carried out a study on "scholarly communication practices in Humanities and Social sciences: A study of researchers' attitudes and awareness of open access" in the University of Australia. It found that 'Reputation of the journal' and impact factors are the most prioritised factors when choosing a journal for publication. It also reveals that 25.8% of the researchers use Google citations, followed by h-Index and Academia, and Research Gate.

Rowley and Sbaffi (2018)[12] studied "Academic attitudes towards peer review in scholarly journals and the effect of role and discipline", and their study reveals that the respondents feel comfortable with the double-blind peer review process for scholarly works, irrespective position as an author, reviewer, or editor

Xu, Nicholas, Zeng, Su and Watkinson (2018)[13] studyreveals that indexing WOS journals and High Impact factors are considered criteria to publish an article in a journal from the study on early career researchers' attitudes and behaviors on scholarly communication in China.

Abrizah, Kharman Shah, and Nicholas (2017)[14]found that early career researchers are choosing peer-reviewed journals, followed by indexed journals (WOS/ Scopus) as revealed in their study on "Malaysian early career researchers on the ethics of scholarly publishing".

De Santo and Nichols (2017)[15] surveyed to determine the familiarity of scholarly metrics among the faculty,andtheresults reveal that they use Google Scholar, JCR, and SJR to find the information.

Olmos-Penuelaet al. (2014)[16] Their survey results reveal that 39.3% areGovernmentcollaborations, 13.2% are at the Regionallevel,9.9% are at the central level,9.8 % at the local level,and 6.4% are international level collaborations out of 574 respondents in Social Science & Humanities subjects.

Procter et al. (2010)[17] studied the use of Web 2.0 for collaboration work for research activities among the researchers in the paper titled "Adoption and the use of Web 2.0 for scholarly communications". It is found that 65% of the researchers reported that they have collaborated with different institutions, and solo publications,i.e., without collaboration,are only 17%.

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4.0 Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to examine the scholarly publication practices of social scientists working in 24 ICSSR-funded research institutesin India. The specific objectives of the study are to -

1. Ascertain publication references of respondents in various Print Sources
2. Study the respondents' preferences for publication in Print / Online Journals
3. Identify publication preferences of respondents in subscription-based journals vs. open-access journals
4. Identifythefactors consideredfor publishing scholarly works by the respondents
5. Assess the awareness level of respondents regarding different components and metrics of scholarly publication

6. Investigate the respondents' awareness ofdifferent Peer review methods
7. To know the open access awareness and the factors influencing scholarly publication by social scientists.
8. To understand the awareness of researchers on various kinds of Creative Commons licenses.

5.0 Hypothesis

The following Null Hypothesis was formulated and statistically tested in the study.

H_01: There is no significant difference between the type of Peer review andthe Category* of the respondents

*Note: Respondent Category = Researchers, Faculty and Staff

6.0 Materials and Methods

This study is based onthe data collected from the research scholars, faculty members and research and project staff of the 24 ICSSR-funded research social science institutions across Indiawith the help of a structured questionnaire. Out of the total 773 members, received responses from 356 respondents (response rate 46.05%), comprising research scholars, faculty members and research and project staff. The Data is collected by personal visits, emails and postal support. Responses were analysed, interpreted, and results were presented in the form of tables and figures.

7.0 Data Analysis and Interpretation

7.1 Preference for Print / Online Sources: The scholarswere asked to know the different kinds of attitudes and practices for the publication of their scholarly content.

Table 1 indicates that 78.9% of the respondents prefer to publish their scholarly works in both print and Electronic media, followed by 13.8% who prefer to publish in print publications. Only 5.6% Social scientists preferred to publish in e-publications.

Table 1: PreferencesforScholarlyPublishing Works in Print/Online Sources

Source	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Print Publication	49	13.8	13.8	13.8
E-Publication	20	5.6	5.6	19.4
Both	281	78.9	78.9	98.3
No response	6	1.7	1.7	1.7
Total	356	100.0	100.0	100.0

7.2 Preference for Subscription-based Vs. Open Access Journals

Table 2 reveals that 74.72% respondents are willing to publish their research in both Subscription-based and OA Journals.On a comparative note, it is to be observed that social scientists prefer subscription-based journals (60.96%) more compared to OA journals (51.12%).

Table 2: Preferences for Scholarly Publishing in Subscription-based Vs. Open Access Journals

Type of Journals	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Subscription-based journals	217	60.96
Open Access Journals	182	51.12
Both	266	74.72
N=356		

7.3 Publication preferences of different types of sources

Table 3: Publication Preferences of Social Scientists in various sources

Source	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Rank	Std. Deviation
Books	329	1	5	4.05	2	.949
Book Chapters	336	1	5	3.96	3	.908
Journal Articles	350	2	5	4.79	1	.520
Seminar/ Conference Proceedings	331	1	5	3.77	5	.995
Newspaper Reports	331	1	5	3.40	7	1.098
Working Papers	331	1	5	3.79	4	1.040
Monographs	320	1	5	3.40	7	1.135
Short Communications	309	1	5	2.94	11	1.193
Book Reviews	318	1	5	3.22	10	1.227
Editorials	316	1	5	3.33	9	1.255
Featured Articles	323	1	5	3.49	6	1.237
Opinion/ Commentaries	321	1	5	3.32	8	1.175
Insights/ Perspectives	321	1	5	3.32	8	1.234
Valid N (listwise)	289					

Table 3 shows that respondents gave first priority to 'Journal articles' (Mean 4.79) and ranked 'books' (4.05) and 'book chapter' (3.96) in second and third positions. Working papers(Mean 3.79) and seminar/conference proceedings (Mean 3.77) were given the fourth and fifth preferences by the respondents. However, book review and short communications was given the least preference by the respondents.

7.4 Awareness of Components of Scholarly Publication

Table 4: Awareness of various components of scholarly publication

Components of Scholarly Communication	N	Aware Number (Score)	Moderate Number (Score)	Not aware Number (Score)	Total Score	Weighted Mean	Rank
Journal Impact Factor	346	287 (861)	36 (72)	23 (23)	956	2.76	3
Journal/ Author level metrics	333	167 (501)	63 (126)	103 (103)	730	2.19	8
Peer Review	343	290 (870)	31 (62)	22 (22)	954	2.78	2
Open Access Publishing	330	224 (672)	66 (132)	40 (40)	844	2.56	6
Article Processing Charges	333	195 (585)	57 (114)	81 (81)	780	2.34	7
IPR & Copyright	339	269 (807)	38 (76)	32 (32)	915	2.70	5
Creative Commons	322	124 (372)	83 (166)	115 (115)	653	2.03	9
Publication Ethics	341	277 (831)	29 (58)	35 (35)	924	2.71	4
Plagiarism	342	297 (891)	25 (50)	20 (20)	961	2.81	1

Table No. 4 shows the respondents' awareness of various components of scholarly communications, and the results reveal that respondents are aware of plagiarism, ranking it in first position with a mean score of 2.81. This is followed by 'Peer process (Mean 2.78) in second position, and 'Journal impact factor' (Mean 2.76) in third position. Awareness of 'Publication ethics was placed in fourth position with a Mean value of 2.71, and 'IPR & Copyright' in the fifth position (Mean 2.70). However, it's observed from Table 4 that the awareness of Creative Commons (Mean 2.03) and Author level metrics (Mean 2.19) is lower and ranked in the last two positions by the respondents. These findings point towards a strong need for conducting training programmes with a focus on IPR & Copyright, Open Access Publishing, Journal and Author Level Metrics, and Creative Commons Licensing.

7.5 Factors considered for Publishing Scholarly Content

Table 5 depicts the analysis of factors considered by the researchers for publishing their scholarly work.

Table 5: Factors considered by social scientists for publishing scholarly works

	5	4	3	2	1	Total score	Weighted Mean	Rank
Journal Impact Factor	185 (925)	100 (400)	35 (105)	12 (24)	6 (6)	1460	4.32	2
Peer review method employed	165 (825)	127 (508)	32 (96)	11 (22)	4 (4)	1455	4.29	3
Open access	108 (540)	111 (444)	75 (225)	21 (42)	6 (6)	1257	3.92	5
Licensing & copyright	111 (555)	101 (404)	64 (192)	32 (64)	11 (11)	1226	3.84	6
The reputation of the journal	219 (1095)	86 (344)	24 (72)	6 (12)	3 (3)	1526	4.51	1
Circulation of the journal	150 (750)	120 (480)	41 (123)	13 (26)	7 (7)	1386	4.19	4

From Table 5 above,it is evident that the respondents ranked 'reputation of the journal' in the first place, followed by 'Journal Impact factor'(Mean 4.32) and 'Peer review method employed' (Mean 4.29) in second and third positions. However, it is noticed that open access and Licensing &copyright are given the least consideration while publishing their scholarly works. This may be because respondents' awareness levels about Licensing & Copyright and Open Access are lower.

7.6 Type of Journals Preferred for Scholarly Publishing

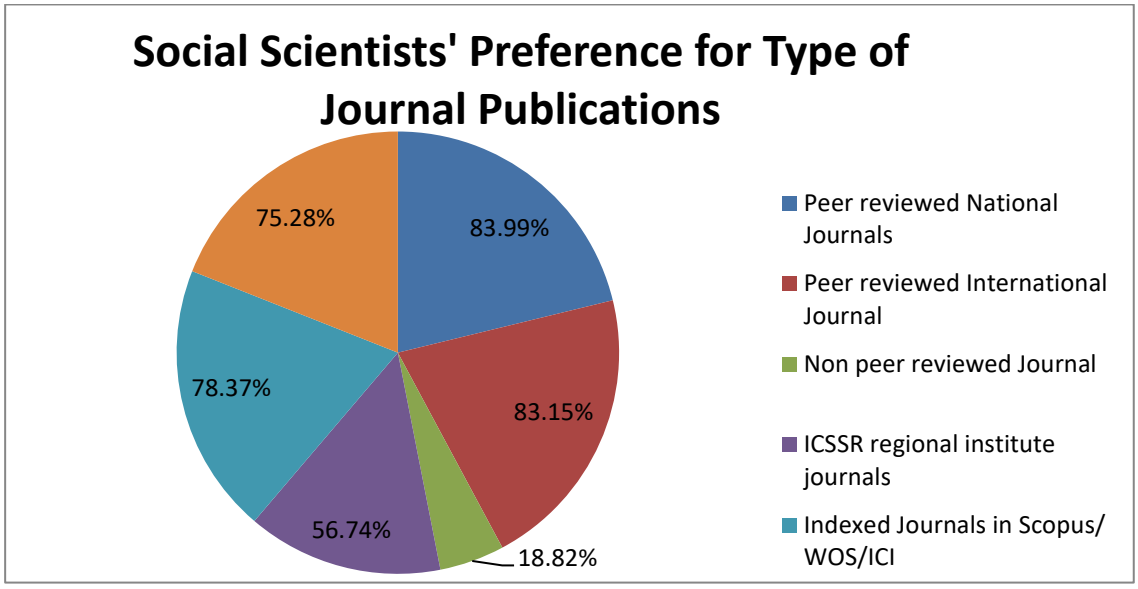

Figure 1: Respondents' Preference for Type of Journal Publications

Figure 1 reveals that most respondents (83.99%) prefer to publish in 'Peer-reviewed National Journals', followed by 83.15% who prefer 'peer-reviewed international journals. Publishing in'Scopus/ Web of Science/ ICI Indexed Journals' is chosen by 78.37% respondents and is placed in the third position. Apart from peer-reviewed journals, it is noticed that a considerable percentage (75.28%) preferred UGC Care-listed journals, 56.74% preferred ICSSR regional institute journals. However, it's found that a very smallpercentage of respondents (18.82%)have opted for publishing in the 'Non peer-reviewed Journals'.There may be several reasons for this – speed of publication, scope of the journal, etc. Sometimes, non-peer-reviewed journals may have wider readership and visibility.

7.7 Respondents' Awareness of Metrics

Table 6: Respondents' awareness of the metrics

Metric	5 n (%)	4 n (%)	3 n (%)	2 n (%)	1 n (%)	Total Score	N	Weighted Mean	Rank
JCR Impact factor	66 (20.4)	87 (26.93)	65 (20.12)	52 (16.10)	53 (16.41)	1030	323	3.19	3
Scimago (SJR)	71 (22.05)	69 (21.43)	62 (19.25)	67 (20.81)	53 (16.46)	1004	322	3.12	4
Cite Score	83 (25.15)	95 (28.79)	56 (16.97)	54 (16.36)	42 (12.73)	1113	330	3.37	1
Hindex	85 (26.32)	78 (24.15)	53 (16.41)	50 (15.48)	57 (17.65)	1053	323	3.26	2
Eigen Factor (EF)	17 (5.38)	37 (11.71)	58 (18.35)	82 (25.95)	122 (38.61)	693	316	2.19	5

Table 6 reveals that Respondents' awareness about 'cite score' (Mean 3.37) is high, and therefore it is ranked in the first position. It is followed by 'H-index' (Mean 3.26) and 'JCR Impact factor' (Mean 3.19), and are positioned at second and third ranks respectively.

7.8 Respondents' Preferences for Research Collaborations

Table 7 depicts the Respondents' preferences for Research Collaborations.

Table 7: Preference for Research Collaborations with Institutions

	Yes	Percentage (%)	Rank
Collaborations Within the RegionalInstitute	286	80.34	4
Collaboration with researchers of ICSSR Institutions,	302	84.83	2
State-level Institute collaborations	280	78.65	5
National Level collaborations	305	85.67	1
International-level collaborations	294	82.58	3
N=356			

From Table No.7, it is clear that the respondents prefer research collaborations at the national level (85.67%), followed by research collaboration within ICSSR Institutions (84.83%) and International Level collaborations (82.58%).

7.9 Respondents' Preferred Software for Similarity Checking

Table 8: PreferredSoftware for SimilarityChecking

	Response	Percentage (%)	Rank
Urkund	139	39.04	2
Turnitin	202	56.74	1
Iauthenticate	69	19.38	5
Duplichecker	79	22.19	4
Plagiarism detector	113	31.74	3
N=356			

Table No.8 indicates that more than half (56.74%) of the respondents prefer Turnitin software, and 39.04% respondents preferred'Urkund'. The 'plagiarismdetector'is preferred by 31.74% respondents. The least priority was given to the IAuthenticate software for checking the similarity of scholarly content by the respondents.

7.10 Respondents' Awareness of Types of Peer Review

Table 9: Awareness about types of Peer review process

Type of Peer Review	N	5 No. (%)	4 No. (%)	3 No. (%)	2 No. (%)	1 No. (%)	Total score	Weighted Mean	Rank
Single Blind Peer Review	328	121 (36.89)	112 (34.15)	38 (11.59)	29 (8.84)	28 (8.54)	1253	3.82	2
Double Blind Peer Review	334	148 (44.31)	97 (29.04)	39 (11.68)	26 (7.78)	24 (7.19)	1321	3.96	1
Open Peer Review	323	87 (26.93)	100 (30.96)	69 (21.36)	33 (10.22)	34 (10.53)	1142	3.54	3
Collaborative Peer Review	313	49 (15.65)	85 (27.16)	80 (25.56)	48 (15.34)	51 (16.29)	972	3.11	4

Third Party Peer Review	311	50 (16.08)	76 (24.44)	90 (28.94)	47 (15.11)	48 (15.43)	966	3.11	4
Post Publication Peer Review	310	37 (11.94)	66 (21.29)	92 (29.68)	63 (20.32)	52 (16.77)	903	2.91	5
Cascading Peer Review	310	19 (6.13)	51 (16.45)	66 (21.29)	66 (21.29)	108 (34.84)	737	2.38	6

Table No. 9 elicits respondents' awarenessof the peer review process. It is clear from the table that Double-Blind Peer Review (Mean 3.96) is ranked in the first place, followed by Single blind Peer Review in the second rank. The respondents preferred'Open Peer Review', with a mean value of 3.54 is ranked in the third position.'Collaborative Peer Review' and 'Third-Party Peer Review 'received the same mean values (3.11 each) and are ranked in the fourth position. However, respondents were less aware of the cascading peer review and gave it the last preference.

7.11 Respondents' Awareness of Open Access Repositories

Table 10: Awareness of Open Access Repositories

	3	2	1	N	Total Score	Weighted Mean	Rank
DOAJ	194 (582)	49 (98)	85 (85)	328	765	2.33	3
DOAB	151 (453)	72 (144)	95 (95)	318	692	2.18	5
DOAR	136 (408)	77 (154)	101 (101)	314	663	2.11	6
Journals Free	162 (486)	63 (126)	92 (92)	317	704	2.22	4
PLOS	109 (327)	63 (126)	136 (136)	308	589	1.91	9
ArXiv (Statistics)	77 (231)	60 (120)	168 (168)	305	519	1.70	12
Repec (Economics)	129 (387)	49 (98)	140 (140)	318	625	1.97	7
AgEcon (Agricultural Economics)	109 (327)	59 (118)	145 (145)	313	590	1.88	10
Philpapers	73 (219)	63 (126)	172 (172)	308	517	1.68	13
SSRN	213 (639)	43 (86)	65 (65)	321	790	2.46	2
NTDLD	110 (330)	68 (136)	134 (134)	312	600	1.92	8
Open Aire	65 (195)	66 (132)	177 (177)	308	504	1.64	14
Subject Repositories	91 (273)	64 (128)	157 (157)	312	558	1.79	11
Sodhganga	252 (756)	28 (56)	46 (46)	326	858	2.63	1

As can be seen from Table 10, respondentsplaced'Sodhganga' (Mean 2.63)in the first position,followed by SSRN (Mean 2.46) and DOAJ (Mean 2.33)in second and third ranks. This indicates that the respondents use Shodhganga for open-access Theses and dissertations, Social Science Research Network (SSRN), and the

Directory of Open Access Journals are more popular among social scientists of ICSSR.

7.12 Factors Influencing Respondents' Decision to Publish in Open Access

Table 11: Factors Influencing Researchers to Publish in Open Access

Factors	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	Rank
Increase the Visibility & Impact	337	1	3	2.87	1
For the Benefit of the Public	333	1	3	2.83	2
Increases opportunities	328	1	3	2.79	3
For collaborations	325	1	3	2.66	5
Transparency and Reuse	318	1	3	2.65	6
For Critical reflections	326	1	3	2.75	4
For Increasing Institutional ranking	320	1	3	2.55	7
Valid N (listwise)	306				

Table 11 shows that the respondents ranked the factor 'Increase the Visibility & Impact' in the first place with a mean value of 2.87, followed by 'For the Benefit of Public (Mean 2.83)' and 'Increases opportunities' (Mean 2.79) in the second and third positions, respectively. However, therespondentsgavethe last rank with a mean valueof 2.55 to the factor 'For Increasing Institutional ranking.'

7.13 Respondents' Awareness about Creative Commons Licenses

Table 12: Awareness about Creative Commons licenses

	Yes Number (%)	No Number (%)
Creative Commons License (N=356)	97 (27.25)	259 (72.75)

From Table 12, it is evident that awareness of the respondents about CC Licenses is Low (27.25%). The majority(72.75%) of respondents admitted that they are not aware of Creative Commons Licensing. Those respondents who responded 'Yes' were further asked to rate their awareness of six different types of CC licenses. Results are presented in Table 13.

Table 13: Awareness about Types of Creative Commons Licenses

Type of Creative Commons license	Awareness (No.)	Percentage (%)	Rank
CC-BY	64	65.98	1
CC-BY-SA	53	54.64	3
CC-BY-NC	54	55.67	2
CC-BY-ND	50	51.57	4
CC-BY-NC-SA	42	43.30	6
CC-BY-ND	43	44.33	5
N=97			

Table No.13 shows that out of the 97 respondents who said they are aware of the CC Licenses, 65.98% of themare aware of 'CC-BY', followed by 55.67% of respondents voting for 'CC-BY-NC', and 55.64% for 'CC-BY-SA' licenses. Just above 50% respondents (51.57%) are aware of CC-BY-ND. However,less than 50% of

them know about 'CC-BY-NC-SA' (43.30%) and CC-BY-ND (44.33%).

7.14 Hypothesis Testing

The following Null Hypothesis was formulated and tested using the chi-square test.
H_01: There is no significant difference between the type of Peer review and the Category* of the respondents
*Note: Respondent Category = Researchers, Faculty and Staff

Table 11: Chi-square values for awareness about 'type of Peer Review' by 'Category of the Respondents'

Type of Peer Review	**Chi-Square Values**	**P-Value**	**df**	**Result for Null Hypothesis**
Single blind peer review	0.000	60.168	24	Rejected
Double blind peer review	0.000	63.123	24	Rejected
Open peer review	0.100	33.18	24	Accepted
Collaborative peer review	0.308	26.92	24	Accepted
Third-party peer review	0.025	39.355	24	Rejected
Post publication peer review	0.273	27.691	24	Accepted
Cascading peer review	0.287	27.388	24	Accepted

From the table, it is evident that for the first three methods, the hypothesis was rejected, which means that there is a significant difference between awareness levels by category of the respondents. For all other types of peer review, the hypothesis was accepted, which indicates that irrespective of the designation, awareness levels are the same.

8.0 Discussion

In spite of the rapid developments in online media of publication, survey reveals that social scientists prefer print compared to online for publication of their scholarly works (Table 1).
Several earlier research studies in Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) disciplines have found that books and monographs were the most preferred media for publication in SSH disciplines (Bonaccorsi, 2018)[18]. Some research studies established that book publishing and journal publishing supplement each other rather than represent alternatives in the SSH (Sivertsen, 2016[19]; Verleysen and Engels, 2012[20]; Verleysen and Ossenblok, 2017[21]; Verleysen and Weeren, 2016)[22]. The scientific disciplines are characterized by discoveries and breakthrough inventions, and hence preferred journal as a medium of publication for speedier dissemination of information. Social sciences and humanities traditionally opted for books and monographs as a medium of publication, as they are found suitable for lengthy explanations and narrations. However, the evolution and expansion of research social science disciplines such as Communication studies, economics, Political Science, Sociology, etc. have brought a visible change, and social scientists started opting for journal publications. More emphasis is being given to interdisciplinary research. These changes coupled with advantages of publishing in the digital environment have brought a transformation and social scientists started preferring publishing in journals rather than books and monographs. Present study also reveals that social scientists working in ICSSR-funded research institutions prefer to publish their works as journal articles followed by books and book chapters.
Results of this study also show that respondents consider the reputation of the journal for publishing their scholarly work. Apart from this, they placed the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) as the second most preferred criterion considered for publication. However, their awareness about cite score and h-index is more compared to JIF. Hence there is a need to impart awareness programmes to the social scientists regarding the various metrics and in turn how they can contribute to the improvement of Impact of their publications.

9.0 Findings and Conclusion

Important findings of the study are-

1. While the majority of respondents preferred to publish both in Print and Electronic media, there is an increase in the respondents who preferred to publish as e-publications (19.4%) as compared to Print publications (13.8%).
2. The respondents ranked 'Journal articles' in the first place, followed by 'books' and 'book chapters' for publishing their scholarly works.
3. Study reveals that respondents' awareness of Open Access and Creative Commons Licensing is very less.
4. Social scientists consider factors like 'reputation of the journal', followed by 'Journal Impact factor' and 'Peer review method employed' for choosing medium of publication of their scholarly work.
5. Majority of the respondents (83.99%) preferred to publish in 'Peer-reviewed National Journals', followed by 'Peer-reviewed International Journals' (83.15%) and 'Scopus/ Web of Science/ ICI Indexed Journals' with 78.37% and least 18.82% preferred to publish in the 'Non-peer-reviewed Journals'. Preference for non-peer-reviewed journals may be due to wider circulation of the journal, academic compulsions for speedier communication of their works.
6. Social researchers are aware of the metrics such as 'cite score' (Mean 3.37), followed by 'H-index' (Mean 3.26) and 'JCR Impact factor'(Mean 3.19).
7. Majority of the respondents prefer research collaborations at the national level (85.67%), followed by collaboration within ICSSR Institutions (84.83%) and International Level collaborations (82.58%).
8. More than half of the respondents (56.74%) prefer Turnitin software, followed by 'Urkund'(39.04%) for similarity check before publishing their scholarly works.
9. Respondents are aware of'Double-Blind Peer Review (Mean 3.96) ', 'Single blind Peer Review' (3.83), and 'Open Peer Review'(3.54). Awareness of other types of peer review methods is less.
10. Regarding awareness of the Open Access Repositories, respondents placed 'Sodhganga' (Mean 2.63)in the first position, followed by SSRN (Mean 2.46) and DOAJ (Mean 2.33)in second and third positions.
11. Respondents preferred factors for publishing are 'Increase the Visibility & Impact of research' with a mean value (2.87), followed by 'For the Benefit of Public (Mean 2.83) and 'Increased opportunities'(Mean 2.79).
12. Findings reveal that just over three-fourths of the respondents (27.25%) have knowledge of CC licensing, and among them, only half of know about the four types of CC licenses.

Research is an important and continuousactivity in research institutions to find and add to the existing knowledge, for better understanding and advancement of subject disciplines. Social science researchers focus on socio-economic, political and other aspects that lead to the development of a society. Hence, the social scholars publish their content by observing, understanding the social movements and trends. From the findings of the study among ICSSR funded research institutions it reveals that there is a need of orientation and training programmes and workshops to be conducted on various author and journal level metrics, various kind of peer reviews, awareness on various scholarly components for publications, different types of creative commons for encouraging to publishing in open access platforms and need to encourage scholars to publish at international level of collaborations in all the social fields.

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