

Reporting of Research Findings

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Why do you need a report?

Documentation

Dissemination

Mandatory

Types of scientific writing

- **Proposal**
- **Research Report**
- **Journal Article**
- **Letter/ Short Communication**
- **Review Article**
- **Chapter/ Book**

Writing for journals: Some basics

- **Do not change design**
- **Focus your message**
- **State your limitations**
- **Curtail your expectations**
- **Be ready to accept criticism**
- **Be prepared to modify your article several times**

Writing style

- Use the language potential to the extent possible
- Revise, may be several times
- Read and Learn from good work
- Use active voice
- Briefer the better

Make the paragraph the unit of composition

Use consistent tense and spelling through out

Format of reporting research findings to a journal

Title

- Better to indicate the study design in the title such as cross sectional survey, case control study etc.
- Follow the guidelines from the journal regarding number of words
- Short title
- Usually required by most journals to be included in the top of each page of the article

Abstract

- **An informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found**
- **Usually structured abstract with a limit of 200-300 words**
- **Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion (IMRD format)**
- **Strictly follow the guidelines from the journal**
- **Submission may be sent back to the corresponding author if the guidelines are not followed**
- **Usually only the abstract is read by the journal editor to make a decision to reject or to send for peer review**
- **All abbreviations should be expanded when first used in the text**
- **Use a standard writing style**
- **Use either the American or British English based on the journal requirements**

Keywords

- **Keywords capture the essence of your paper**
- **They make your paper searchable**
- **They ensure more citations for your paper**
- **Include your methodology**
- **Avoid single keyword**
- **Focus on the main topic**
- **Avoid overlapping keywords used in the title**
- **Follow the journal guidelines**
- **Perform keyword search before submitting**

Introduction

- Scientific background, why the research topic is important
- Comprehensive review of literature and gaps in literature. Recent systematic reviews/meta analysis will be useful references. Look at the cross references in them to find the original studies. Use recent literature
- Rationale for your investigation, usually to fill the gaps in literature
- Objectives: major and minor

Methods

- **Study design**
- **Setting:** Locations, relevant dates (ethics approval, periods of recruitment, registration) exposure, follow up and data collection
- **Participants:** Eligibility criteria, sources and methods of selection of participants
- **Variables:** clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, confounders, diagnostic criteria/ case definition
- **Data sources/measurements.** Give sources of data and detailed methods of assessment
- **Bias:** Describe any efforts to address potential bias
- **Sample Size:** Describe sample size estimation
- **Quantitative variables:** How these variables were handled
- **Statistical methods:** methods to control for confounding. Any analysis for sub groups and interactions. How missing data were handled. Any sensitivity analysis?

Results

Participants

- Report the numbers at each stage of the study, numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed numbers.
- Reasons for no-participation at each stage
- Use of a flow diagram will be useful

Descriptive data

- Characteristics of the study participants and exposure details
- Number of participants with missing data for each variable

Outcome data

- Report number of outcome measures

Main Results

Unadjusted estimates and adjusted estimates including 95% confidence intervals

Other analysis: Any other analysis may be reported

Discussion

Key Results

- Summary of key results related to the objectives

Interpretation

- Interpret each of the major study findings and relate to previous findings. Implications of these findings can also be discussed

Generalizability

- Discuss the external validity of the study findings

Limitations

Consider sources of potential bias, direction and magnitude of potential bias.

Conclusions and recommendations

Conclude the report with the major findings of the study

Recommendations should emerge from your own data

Limit the number of recommendations

References

- Journal guidelines need to be strictly followed
- If referencing software is used make sure the accuracy of the references
- Limit the number of references as per the journal guidelines
- Make sure that the citations in the text actually match with the references included.

Other Items to be reported

- **Funding**
- Report all sources of funding. If there are guidelines for reporting by the funding agency, follow that.
- Role of funding agency may be stated

Conflicts of interests

- Report if there is any conflicts of interests. Use the form for reporting conflicts of interests by the concerned journal

Author Contributions

- This has become mandatory for most journals now

Ethics approval

- Approval from all participating institutions and Health ministry screening committee approval if any foreign researchers are involved or if there is international funding

Make it Brief

- The examination of visual acuity in the subjects did not yield any negative results
- High BMI was much more prevalent among females than in males, though in both sexes, the proportion of normal BMI was negligible
- Subjects had 6/6 vision
- Most people had high BMI; the proportion with high BMI was higher among females compared to males

Use the active voice whenever possible.

- All subjects were subjected to blood pressure measurement
- We checked the blood pressure in all subjects
- The interview schedule was administered by trained investigators by visiting the houses of participants
- Trained investigators administered the interview schedule by visiting the houses of participants.

Thank you