

ISSN 2308-5959

MALDIVES NATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH

Volume 1 Number 1

The Postgraduate Research Centre

The Maldives National University

MALDIVES NATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH

A double-blind refereed journal of the Maldives National University

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Composed using InDesign 5.5 ME by Ms Aishath Ali in Funa Radheef and Plantin 10.5 points.

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Editorial Policy and Notes for Contributors

The Maldives National Journal of Research

The Maldives National Journal of Research (MNJR) is a research journal of the Maldives National University published by the Postgraduate Research Centre. MNJR is a multidisciplinary journal of research in all disciplines relevant to the Maldives. Although in the coming years, it is expected that this journal will evolve into specialist journals in various disciplines, the first one is generalist in nature. The journal publishes research articles, literature reviews, book reviews, comments, opinion and perspectives.

Objectives. The justification for publishing a journal arises from the need to create and disseminate knowledge — an objective enshrined in the MNU Act. It is unlikely that our staff and students are able to access international journals of repute for publishing their research and studies. The journal will be available both on paper and in digital form. Paper-based journals still have a permanence rarely achieved by digital editions. The objectives of the journal are:

1. to promote research and scholarly enquiry,
2. to provide a vehicle for publication of student and staff research,
3. to report opinion and commentary on social, economic and political developments of the country,
4. to publish position papers, criticisms on papers published in the journal or issues of general interest to the university or the nation,
5. to review books, magazines, articles, movies and other artistic, or scholarly creations, and
6. to contribute to the progress in education and learning.

Frequency. Initially annually, and thereafter biennially (in July and December) in both digital and printed versions.

Size. Approximately 175 x 250 mm (printed version).

Pages. 100 (printed version).

Criteria for publication. MNJR primarily publishes papers describing original research. Papers must contain new results to be published. Further, submission of an article to MNJR implies that it has not been published or submitted elsewhere. However, conference papers may be included in an article provided that significantly more details on the subject are incorporated. MNJR accepts papers written only in Dhivehi and English. It is the responsibility of the author(s) to ensure that the articles are free from grammar and other errors. Important criteria in the selection process for publication are quality of argument and execution, clarity in presentation and educational significance. Articles must not be more than 20 pages as they appear in A4 paper one and a half spaced. All submissions must include an abstract of not more than 200 words except submissions to Opinions

and Perspectives. All graphics must be in 300 dpi resolution. Manuscripts should be submitted by a single corresponding author.

Papers that, in the opinion of the reviewer or editor, fall short of the above standards will be rejected.

Submissions. The emailed version must be written in Microsoft Word or in Rich Text Format, one and a half spaced. As articles will be reviewed, all information identifying the author(s) should be highlighted so that review copies can have this information removed as necessary and sent to referees.

All submissions should be emailed to mizna.mohamed@mnu.edu.mv.

Referencing style. MNJR uses the referencing and style conventions of the American Psychological Association.

Peer Review. MNJR intends to have all manuscripts reviewed by two referees, whenever possible by peers with the exception of submissions to sections dealing with Opinions, Perspectives and Comments. The Editor selects two reviewers from the Editorial Committee. The process is double-blind. The reviewers are identified to the author and vice-versa only after the review process is over. If the article falls outside the expertise of the Editorial Committee, guest reviewers with specific expertise may be consulted.

Content. *Research Reports* contain original research that advances our understanding in the given field. *Review Articles* are critical evaluations of material that has been already published. The writer may define and clarify the problem, and take a position on an issue. *Opinions, Perspectives and Comments* provides a forum for discussion and debate about previously published material or important current issues, innovations and policy perspectives in clearly written commentaries. No abstract is required nor the submission is peer reviewed.

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Editorial

The Maldives National University has been conducting research, in some form or other, since it was formed 40 years ago. Much of this research remains in reports and documents generally unavailable to the public. Wider dissemination of research through publications has been constrained by cost, social demand, and more importantly, by the staff promotion system— a legacy of the general public administrative service to which all staff belonged to. However, several journals had been published in MNU in the past. Apart from the Occasional Papers, two important ones were *Fanaaru* and the *Journal of Health Science*. The former was a journal published by the Faculty of Education and the latter by the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The Maldives National University Act of 2011 requires the university to carry out research and investigations, and to disseminate the results of these endeavours for the benefit of the national and international communities. A staff appraisal and promotion system is passing through the different university committees which values research and publications as much as that of longer established universities. With the improvements in technology, it is very affordable to publish journals of very high quality with very little cost. Additionally, since the number of postgraduate courses has been increasing year after year, the demand, amount and quality of research within MNU are now unprecedented. At the same time, publication access to international journals is more competitive now, in part, due to the large number of tertiary students pursuing higher qualifications.

Although this first journal, since the university status, is published by the Postgraduate Research Centre, I hope that other journals from different Faculties and divisions of the university will be published in the near future.

Publication is not without purpose. It is not merely to add to the body of the existing knowledge of our own and wider environment. Research and publications must be aimed to improve the lives and livelihood of our and world citizens.

I would like to thank all researchers who contributed to this first issue, the consultant editors and reviewers who so generously gave their time to read through the submissions and Dr Mizna Mohamed for assisting me in editing an article. Finally, I wish to thank Ms Aishath Ali for the layout of this issue.

H HAMEED
Editor