

African Journal of Reproductive Health

Information for Authors

The African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) is a multidisciplinary and international journal that publishes original research, comprehensive review articles, short reports and commentaries on reproductive health in Africa. The journal strives to provide a forum for African authors, as well as others working in Africa, to share findings on all aspects of reproductive health and to disseminate innovative, relevant and useful information on reproductive health throughout the continent.

The AJRH will publish manuscripts written in English or French. AJRH will ensure that abstracts of all published papers are translated into English or French, and that both language versions accompany the manuscript.

Type of Articles

AJRH publish original research, review articles, short reports and commentaries. A cover page should accompany each manuscript and should include:

1. the **Title** and sub-title (running title -- no more than 5 words);
2. the name(s) of the author(s);
3. the affiliation(s) of the author(s);
4. Abstract;
5. three to six **Keywords** for indexing and retrieval purposes; and
6. Corresponding author's email address and telephone number.

Original Research — The journal welcomes articles reporting on original research, including both quantitative and qualitative studies. The subject matter should be organized under appropriate headings and sub-headings such as: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Acknowledgements.

Maximum length should be 4,000 words and the Figures and/or Tables should not exceed five (5) e.g., 2 figures and 3 tables. Where any Table occupies a full page, no more than 4 tables and/or figures should be included.

Review Articles — Comprehensive review articles on all aspects of reproductive health in Africa will also be considered for publication in the journal.

Reviews should provide a thorough overview of the topic and should incorporate the most current research. The length of review articles and the organizational headings and sub-headings used are at the author's discretion.

Short Reports — Brief descriptions of preliminary research findings or interesting case studies will be considered for publication as short reports. The length and organization of short reports are left to the author's discretion.

Commentaries — Commentaries or editorials on any aspect of reproductive health in Africa will be considered for publication in the journal. Opinion pieces need not reference previous research, but rather reflect the opinions of the author(s).

Plagiarism Policy

Definition

Plagiarism is the intentional use of other people's work or words without giving them credit.

Types

Direct Plagiarism: Word-for-word copying of a portion of another person works without citation or acknowledgment.

Self-Plagiarism: aka auto-plagiarism, happens when an author reuses significant portions of previously published work without attribution or citing the initial source. Or a student provides the same assignment in different classes without the permission of earlier professors.

Mosaic Plagiarism: When an author uses statements from a source without using quotation marks or finds synonyms to replace the source statement while maintaining the general sentence structure. Aka "patchwriting,"

Accidental Plagiarism: Occurs when an author fails to cite their sources or misquotes or unintentionally paraphrases their origin by using the same words or groups of words, and sentence structure without citation.

Policy and Implementation

The AJRH expects all authors submitting manuscripts to abide by ethical standard and refrain from plagiarism, in any form. Our Editors will

investigate every suspected case of plagiarism before and after the publication of the manuscript.

When the text plagiarized is minor (less than 25% of the text), the author(s) will be given an opportunity to make the necessary corrections. When the piracy is extensive (greater than 25% of the text) the author(s) will be provided a chance to explain within two weeks. If no response from the author(s) after the deadline period, the manuscript will be rejected, and the authors will be barred for three years from submitting a manuscript to the journal. When an already published manuscript is found to be plagiarized, the article will be retracted from the AJRH and any third party websites where the paper is listed and indexed.

Code of Publishing Conduct Policy

The AJRH has adopted the best practice guidelines on the Code of Conduct for Journal Editors recommended by the Committee on Publication Ethics and published at the following link:

https://publicationethics.org/files/Code_of_conduct_for_journal_editors_Mar11.pdf

Submission of Manuscripts

Format — All manuscripts should be typed on A4 paper size with 1.25 inches margin on all sides. The preferred font for entire text is Times New Romans. The AJRH abhors the stigmatization of people with a medical diagnosis, individuals with a disability, and the socioeconomically disadvantaged groups such as the homeless. Authors are required to use the people-first language when referring to these individuals. Additional information on the issue can be accessed at:

<https://ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh/article/view/1703>

Ethical Clearance — Consistent with the ethical standards of the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards, authors submitting the findings of research investigation that involve human subjects, must include a statement in the Methodology Section to the fact that the protocol was approved by the Institution Review Board or the Human Experimentation and Ethics Committee.

All manuscripts should be in their final form when submitted and should be in triplicate.

Authors may mail documents to the journal's editorial office at the following address:

The Editor

African Journal of Reproductive Health, Women's Health and Action Research Centre, Igue-Iheya Village, Benin-Lagos Express Road P. O. Box 10231, Ugbowo, Benin City, Nigeria.

Additionally, manuscripts are accepted via e-mail at: wharc@hyperia.com or online at the publisher's webpage:

africanjournalofreproductiveH@gmail.com

No faxed submissions will be accepted. A cover letter must accompany the manuscript should certify that the article has not been previously published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. All authors are advised to submit an electronic copy along with a hard copy of their manuscript, as this will spare remarkable time in the reviewing and typesetting processes.

Abstract — Articles and short reports should be accompanied by an abstract of not more than 150 words. The abstract should be unstructured in one paragraph and this should provide a concise description of the objectives of the study, methods used and major findings and conclusion.

Body — The body of manuscripts reporting on original research should be organized under appropriate headings and sub-headings such as Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, conclusion and references. Authors of review articles and short reports are requested to organize the body of their manuscripts using headings and sub-headings appropriate to the material and discipline represented.

Tables and figures: Use 9 points font size all through. Data in Tables MUST be provided in the cells inside Tables and aligned to the left. The Tables should be in single line paragraphing and 0l spacing. An example is shown in Table 1

Table 1: Distribution of educational status

Educational level	Number (%)
Non-literate	3,043 (61.5)
Completed primary	986 (19.9)
Completed secondary	585 (11.8)

The use of TABS and spacing between lines using line should be avoided. Attempts should be made to

stretched. Any Table that can fit into half column of a page must not be stretched into entire width of page. Table must be in usual format. Authors must not use spaces to create demarcation between lines inside table. Coloured tables and figures may be reprinted in black and white unless the authors indicate they want them in coloured print. In which case, the cost will be borne by the author.

Figures: Images should preferably be reduced to a width of about half of A4 size paper (with 1.25 inches margins) with very clear text (if any) of about 9-12 points. Larger images are acceptable provided that the sizes are justifiable and if there is need to reduce the sizes, any text will not be less than 9 points in size when reduced. As much as possible, figures labels should be such that they should not be less than 9 points in size when reduced to a width of about 2.5 inches. All images (picture) must be of high-resolution and of sufficient quality for both archival and print purposes. Images in which colors are not realistic, text is illegible, or images are pixelated will be rejected. Unless the authors are prepared to pay for the printing of the pages of the journal with colored images in their articles in colors, all images should be presented in black and white or gray format.

Acknowledgements should be included on a separate sheet of paper and should not exceed 100 words. Funding sources should be noted here

Citing of References inside text: Use numbers in superscript. The number should appear before the punctuation mark (e.g. Previous reports justify the need for this work⁵⁻⁸.) and not after a comma or period.

References — References should be numbered in the order in which they occur in the text. These numbers should be inserted above the line on each occasion a reference is cited (e.g., . . . as noted in other studies.1-4). Numbered references should appear at the end of the article and should include the names and initials of all authors. The format of references should be as published by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors in the British Medical Journal 1988, volume 296, pages 401-405.

The following are sample references for an article published in a journal and for a book:

- Nichols D, Ladipo OA, Paxman JM and Otolorin EO. Sexual behaviour, contraceptive practice, and reproductive health among Nigerian adolescents. *Stud Fam Plann* 1986; 17(2): 100-6.
- Oppong C. Responsible fatherhood and birth planning. In: Oppong C (Ed.). *Sex Roles, Population, and Development in West Africa*. New Hampshire: Heinemann, 1987, 165-78.

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