ETHIOPIAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH and NUTRITION (EJPHN)

Instructions for Authors

Aims and scope
The Ethiopian Journal of Public Health and Nutrition is the official journal of the Ethiopian Public Health Institute of Ethiopia. Covering all aspects of public health, traditional and modern medicines, health system, knowledge translation, laboratory quality, nutrition, food science and technology. The Journal provides a basic forum for the reporting, discussion and development of scientifically credible knowledge related to public health and nutrition. Investigators are encouraged to submit papers in the disciplines of nutritionally related biochemistry, biotechnology, microbiology, parasitology, virology, phytochemistry, genetics, immunology, metabolism, molecular and cell biology, neurobiology, physiology, and toxicology. Researchers are also encouraged to submit their research works in priority health programs including prevention and control of infectious communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria, TB and other vector borne diseases; prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, epidemiology of diseases; hygiene and environmental health; health policy; Integrated Disease Surveillance (IDSR) and Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM); and operational researches in health.

Journal Details

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EPHI, Patriots Street, P.O.BOX 1242 OR 5654,Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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Frequency: 2 issues a year

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION
Use of word processing software
It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

How to submit
Manuscripts in hard copy(two paper copies) and electronic version should be directed to the appropriate Office:
Address: EPHI, Patriots Street, P.O.BOX 1242 OR 5654,Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
As an alternative, the manuscript and other required documents should be uploaded through the EJPHN web-site:
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Editor-in-Chief

Once the manuscript has reached our Editor, normally the corresponding author will be informed by email within a week. When the review process (between 1 and 4 months) is completed, we will send by email a note of acceptance or non-acceptance for publication of the manuscript.

Peer Review
Manuscripts are assessed for originality, scientific quality, environmental health significance, clarity of presentation, and conciseness. Scientific quality and health significance have a higher weight than the other criteria.

Proofs
Proofs will be sent via email as a WORD file formatted in EJPHN style with ‘tracking’ activated so that all changes made to the manuscript by the author are clearly visible. Please also highlight all changes in yellow to ensure all edits are picked up. The edited proofs must be emailed within 5 days of receipt.

Types of papers published by The Ethiopian Journal of Public Health and Nutrition: There are 12 submission categories:

Research Articles, Brief Articles, Research Brief Articles, Systematic Reviews and meta-analyses, Commentaries and Viewpoint, Viewpoints and short review articles, Meeting Reports, Rapid Communication, Letters to the Editor, Case Report, Editorials, Meeting Proceedings, Opinion Editorials.

1. Research Articles report the results of original public health research in up to 3500 words in the text, a structured abstract, up to 4 tables + figures, and no more than 35 references. The text must have an introduction and separate sections for Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion.

2. Brief Articles present preliminary findings or novel findings in up to 1200 words in the main text, a structured (except if justified otherwise in the cover letter) abstract, up to 1 table or figure, and no more than 12 references.
3. **Research Brief** Articles must have an introduction and separate sections for the Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion. Some policy-focused Brief Articles which are short essays and do not report study results do not require the “method, results, discussion, public health implications” format subheadings.

4. **Systematic Reviews and meta-analyses**, including quantitative, meta-narrative, and qualitative reviews, have clearly formulated questions and use systematic and explicit methods to identify, select, and critically appraise relevant research, and to collect and analyze data from the studies that are included in the reviews. The recommended text word limit is up to 4000 words. Statistical methods (meta-analysis) may or may not be used to analyze and summarize the results of the included studies. EJPHN recommends using these headings—Title, Abstract, Methods, Results, Discussion, Funding—in an expanded research article format, with flexibility when needed for clear assessment and presentation. References, tables, and figures ought to be pertinent to the topic at hand.

5. **Evidence-based policy briefs.** These are documents which bring together global evidence from systematic reviews and local evidence to inform deliberations about health policies and programs. A Policy brief must have an abstract with an objective, methods, results and conclusion section with word count of 250. The body text must have a brief introduction, the problem (to be addressed by the policy brief), policy options (to address the problem) and implementation consideration section with a word count of 5000.

6. **Commentaries and Viewpoint** of an editorial nature may be submitted to the journal. In these communications, usual manuscript subdivisions do not apply and a summary statement is not needed; however, a very brief reference list may be included (max. 500 words).

7. **Viewpoints and short review articles**, including institutional reviews of recent developments, are generally upon invitation but authors interested in submitting a proposal are welcome to contact the editors. These articles also undergo peer review. Their length should not exceed 3000 words and should have an abstract of up to 250 words. A limit of 50 references is recommended.

8. **Meeting Reports** are brief summaries of scientific meetings in the field of public health, traditional medicine, food science and technology, nutrition and metabolism. Authors should write to the Editor inquiring about potential interest before submitting the paper (max. 1,500 words).

9. **Rapid Communication** (1000-3000 words including tables, figures and references). Papers representing concise and original studies of scientific importance are considered. In the cover letter the author should justify the request for Rapid Communication. The review process is 10 days, authors are allowed one revision if accepted, and the final version of the paper appears in the next available issue of the journal.

10. **Letters to the Editor** are encouraged if they directly concern articles previously published in this journal or subjects related to the matters discussed. The Editor reserves the right to submit
copies of such letters to the authors of the articles concerned prior to publication in order to
permit them to respond in the same issue of the journal (max. 500 words).

11. Case Report (up to 2500 words including tables, figures, and references). Case Reports
include case studies of 4 or fewer patients that describe a novel situation or add important
insights into mechanisms, diagnosis or treatment of diseases.

12. Editorials are usually invited by the Editor (max. 1,000 words). Please send suggestions to
the Editor.

13. Meeting Proceedings (up to 2500 words including tables, figures and references)
Reports of meeting proceedings are synopses of scientific meetings of interest to the audience
of public health, traditional medicine, food science and technology, nutrition and metabolism.
Authors should e-mail the Editor to solicit potential interest 8 weeks prior to conference.
Collections of abstracts representing the proceedings of organizational meetings are not
subjected to customary peer review. It is the view of the Editorial Board that it is of service to the
nutrition community to present such material as promptly as possible.

14. Opinion Editorials may be commissioned or reformatted as editorials from submitted
papers. They are 1200 words of text-or 1000 words of text with 1 small table or figure-
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analyses of up to 2500 words in the main text, an unstructured abstract, up to 2 table(s)
+figure(s), and no more than 25 references.

Review Process
A peer review system involving two or three reviewers is used to ensure high quality of
manuscripts accepted for publication. The Editor-in-Chief and Editors have the right to decline
formal review of the manuscript when it is deemed that the manuscript is
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2) Lacking technical merit,
3. Plagiarized manuscript as evaluated based on international standards,
4) Did not pass through appropriate ethical review procedures, or
5) Fragmentary and provides marginally incremental results, or
6) Is poorly written.

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It is the journal policy to keep the peer reviewing anonymous. Names of reviewers are only
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authors may indicate names of experts who are not suitable/appropriate for reviewing the paper.

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION
Please note that original articles must contain the following components:
1. Cover letter
2. Title page
3. Abstract
4. Introduction
5. Materials and Methods
6. Results
7. Discussion
8. Acknowledgements
9. Conflict of Interest
10. References
11. Figure legends
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**Title Page**
The title should be limited to 25 words or less and should not contain abbreviations. Title page should include the full title, the surname and initials of each author, plus their main department, institution, city with postal code and country. Addresses may also be given as numbered affiliations.

**Corresponding author**
Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.

**Abstract**
All papers must include a structured abstract not exceeding 250 words including headings, which should not contain references. The structured abstract should be designed to summarize the essential features of the paper in a logical and concise sequence.

For original research: Use a structured abstract that includes subheadings for:
- **Objective** (1-2 sentences),
- **Methods** (3-4 sentences) - this may be divided into Design, Setting, Subjects, Interventions or Measures of Outcome, as appropriate.
- **Results** (3-4 sentences) and **Conclusions** (1-2 sentences).

For review papers, abstracts should be in summary style.

Authors should list at least four keywords or phrases (each containing up to three words).

**Abbreviation and acronyms**
Avoid abbreviations and acronyms as much as possible. Please do not create abbreviations specific to a manuscript in order not to repeat a recurring sentence or expression. When deemed absolutely necessary define them clearly after first use in the text.

**Introduction**
Describe clearly the background to the research conducted and the specific objectives. This should not be a comprehensive review of the literature, however. State the specific objective or hypothesis of the study.

**Materials and Methods**
This section should contain sufficient detail, so that all experimental procedures can be reproduced, and include references. Methods, however, that have been published in detail elsewhere should not be described in detail. Authors should provide the name of the manufacturer and their location for any specifically named medical equipment and instruments, and all drugs should be identified by their pharmaceutical names, and by their trade name if relevant.

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Results are presented in the form of tables or figures as appropriate. The text should explain or elaborate on the tabular data, but numbers should not be repeated within the text. Sufficient data, including significance level (i.e., *P*-value), should be presented to allow readers
to interpret the results of the experiment. Reporting the $P$-value is preferred to the use of the terms significant and highly significant, which are more editorial than quantitative descriptions.

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The discussion should focus on the interpretation and the significance of the findings with concise objective comments that describe their relation to other work in the area. It should not repeat information in the results. The final paragraph should highlight and provide some indication of the direction future research should take. The discussion should be no longer than five pages.

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Concisely summarizes the principal conclusions of the work.

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Separate publications by the same author(s) with commas and those by different authors with semicolons: (Aldridge et al. 2005; Jameson et al. 2006; Levin et al. 2007; Slotkin 2004a, 2004b; Slotkin et al. 2008).
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Print Journal with three authors

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E-journal article


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Manuscripts reporting analytical, biological activity, composition, and related data must include relevant statistical information to support discussion of differences or similarities in data sets. Describe all statistical tests utilized and indicate the probability level \( (P) \) at which differences were considered significant. Where data are presented in the text, state what they represent (e.g. means± SEM). Indicate whether data were transformed before analysis. Specify any statistical computer programs used.

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