

Publish in Indian journals

About 50 billion rupees is being spent annually on research and development in our country. But due to the malpractices by administrators and higher authorities of research institutes and universities of India, the top-class research findings are being sent for publication in foreign journals. Thus Indian citizens do not get any benefit from this research which only goes to the developed countries.

Currently, preference for promotions and other monetary benefits is being given to research workers on the basis

of their publications in foreign journals. Thus Indian research workers are compelled to send their work for publication in foreign journals for personal benefits. It is a sort of corruption in the sense that public money is being used for personal benefits rather than for the benefit of the whole country or the state where the research is carried out. Such research work is draining our country both economically and technically.

The research workers should be promoted on the basis of their work published in Indian research journals only,

so that good research papers may be published in Indian journals, which will lead to all-round development of our country.

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Science – Big, small and beautiful

The editorial 'Big science, small science' (ref. 1) is timely as well as forthrightly accurate. It seems tragic that human endeavours in creativity and search for truth, when they get organized and structured, seem to lose their core strengths.

I am reminded here of a Sufi friend's parable. Satan and his friend on a walk notice a piece of paper on the sidewalk. Satan picks it up, reads it, pauses for a moment, smilingly puts it in his pocket and resumes his walking. The friend is curious and asks Satan what it is all about. 'Oh! Nothing I read the Truth on the piece of paper' says Satan. The friend is puzzled, 'Shouldn't it worry you that with Truth discovered, you will have no place?' he remarks. Satan's reply is classic on the value of structure and organization. He says 'Oh! No problem. I will organize and put Truth on a structure!' The rest is the history of mankind's problems with organized religions and movements based on Truth discovered by prophets! – a history not too glorious for the bloodshed, tyranny, bigotry and intolerance perpetrated in the name of Truth.

It is worrisome that science, a hallmark of the human mind and spirit to seek truth, without any trappings, appears to be facing a similar crisis in structure and organization, this time

around, driven by considerations of its economic potential by centres of power, commercial as well as political. Painful has been the recent history of science operating under political ideologies, where science had to subserve the ideological dogmas of totalitarian systems, which had to crumble under their own follies of curbing individuality and not recognizing the value of irreverence to authority and dogma of any kind, economic, political or social.

The overwhelming momentum of the engines of free economies which result in scams such as the recent UTI episode are but symptoms. The mindless dismantling and demoralization of trained technical and scientific manpower in several economies to the dictates of stock markets, is yet another equally painful symptom. For good science to flourish, it has to stay free and unfettered by ideologies, political, economic (or spiritual). If one were to examine the evolution of big science, it becomes clearly evident that the promotion of big science is most often by patrons in the political or economic sectors to subserve their own agenda. (Thank heavens, patronage from spiritual sources has thus far not occurred, one can imagine its comic and tragic consequences.) In terms of outcome, such patronage might have produced results as prod-

ucts, services, innovations and improvements in man's condition. No quarrel with such productive association for utilization of the efforts of real science for value to mankind. The crucial and often ignored point is that such structures have rarely nurtured the kind of creativity and originality in minds, so critical for epochal understanding of nature in which man is situated and functions. This requires small and free entities and has to be handled with understanding and deference for inquiry most often not associated with visible and ready market value. In support of such an ideology, reference to the following may be considered.

Let us take examples of science's contribution over the last century to human health. One can state, argue and provide proof in the form of published scientific papers that most of the modern miracles of medicine, be it critical care of a patient in a modern intensive care unit, coronary bypass surgery or differential diagnosis of a large number of life-threatening diseases using the awesome diagnostic armamentarium at our disposal, have evolved and become possible not because scientists performed in big teams supported by big money provided by big companies or bigger and mightier governments. There is documented proof in the literature