

Editorial

The prestige of a university is largely vested in the research and development initiatives of the scholars affiliated to that university. Accordingly, the MNJR initiated in 2013 is a testament to the developmental strides of the Maldives National University in leveraging itself as the leader and an exemplary higher education provider in the country. MNJR maintains the status of the longest serving scholarly journal originating from the Maldives that is open for local and international multidisciplinary research.

During the first four years of MNJR, all contributions were single-authored articles and predominantly by local scholars. The recent years have seen a significant proportion of collaborative articles from local as well as overseas scholars, also extending to international research partnership. Over the years, citations to articles published in MNJR has been on the rise, with the current h-index at 5 which signifies increased receptivity of the journal as a reliable voice in scholarly communication.

Scientometrics, or the measure of citations, is one of the most prominent ways of measuring the worth of a publication or a scholar. To date, there is no published scientometric study on the local research context. However, a preliminary tracer study shows at least 160 Maldivian scholars have authored a doctoral thesis within the last three decades, and the data implies an exponential growth in research endeavour by Maldivians. What we do not know are further systematic details about their post-doctoral research output, and it is an area that could benefit from further research. Given the early stage of the evolving research culture in the country, there are not many Maldivian scholars with extensive publications to their name. However, a few authors are known to be attracting a higher citation in the recent years and MNJR takes pride in receiving contributions from such authors.

This current issue of MNJR features contributions from scholars affiliated to the Maldives National University, the University of London, and the University of West England. The MNJR is a multidisciplinary journal and accordingly, this issue covers pertinent areas of teaching & learning, psychological impact of social media, food science specifically on sensory receptivity of bread, impact of modern-day choices in consumption of energy drinks, and also explores linguistics & language use of Dhivehi language.

The editorial team of MNJR takes this opportunity to extend appreciation to the contributing scholars including the authors and reviewers for this issue and extends invitation to the wider scholarly community to submit their research findings to the upcoming volumes of MNJR.

A.Riyaz
Editor