Open Access Policy

Contents

1. Purpose

The Open Access Policy of the journal is designed to promote unrestricted access to scholarly knowledge and ensure that research outputs are freely available to the global academic community. The journal believes that open access enhances visibility, accessibility, and impact of published research, contributing to the advancement of science, education, and innovation worldwide.

2. Definition of Open Access

Open Access (OA) means that all articles published in the journal are freely and permanently available online immediately after publication, without subscription fees or access barriers. Users are allowed to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of articles, or use them for any other lawful purpose, provided proper attribution to the original work is given.

3. Licensing and Copyright

- All articles in the journal are published under the formal license given by Ministry of Higher Education Afghanistan.
- Users must provide appropriate credit, link to the license (where necessary), and indicate if changes were made.
- Authors grant the journal a non-exclusive right to publish, distribute, and archive the article in print and electronic forms.

4. Author Rights

- Authors retain full copyright ownership of their published articles.
- Authors may freely:
    - Deposit the published version (PDF) in institutional or personal repositories.
    - Share their article on academic social networks such as Research Gate, Academia.edu, or ORCID.
    - Use their work for teaching, presentations, and future research purposes.
- The journal encourages authors to share their research widely to enhance accessibility and citation impact.

5. Access and Availability

- All articles are available on the journal's official website immediately upon publication without any embargo period.
- Readers do not need to register, subscribe, or pay fees to access any published content.
- The journal's website ensures permanent online availability and preservation of all published materials through reliable digital archiving systems or institutional repositories.

6. Archiving and Digital Preservation

To ensure long-term accessibility of its content, the journal implements secure and sustainable digital archiving practices, including:

- Storing all articles in multiple online repositories and backup servers.
- Using persistent identifiers such as DOI (Digital Object Identifier) for permanent article tracking.
- Partnering with institutional or national libraries for long-term preservation.
- Maintaining metadata and citation indexing for academic discoverability.

7. Reuse and Distribution

- Readers, researchers, educators, and institutions are encouraged to reuse and distribute the content of the journal for scholarly, educational, and non-commercial purposes.
- Redistribution of published materials should include a proper citation of the source and acknowledgment of the authors and journal.

- Any modifications or derivative works must be clearly indicated as such.

8. Open Access and Publication Ethics

The journal's commitment to open access is consistent with its Publishing Ethics Policy.
Even though access is free, academic quality and ethical integrity are strictly maintained through:

- Rigorous peer review processes.
- Adherence to research ethics and anti-plagiarism standards.
- Transparent editorial and publication procedures.

Open access does not compromise quality; rather, it enhances accountability and global dissemination of authentic research.

9. Funding and Article Processing Charges (APCs)

- The journal maintains a transparent policy regarding any publication or processing fees.
- If Article Processing Charges (APCs) or submission fees are required, they are clearly stated on the journal's website before submission.

10. Benefits of Open Access Publishing

The journal adopts an open access model because it:

- Increases global visibility and readership of published work.
- Encourages interdisciplinary collaboration and wider dissemination.
- Promotes equity in access to scientific knowledge regardless of geography or economic status.
- Supports academic transparency, innovation, and societal impact of research findings.

By removing access barriers, open access ensures that valuable research can contribute to education, healthcare, policymaking, and sustainable development.

11. Compliance with Institutional and Funder Policies

- The journal's open access policy complies with mandates of international research funders and institutions that require public accessibility of research outputs.
- Authors can deposit their accepted manuscripts or published versions in repositories as per funder requirements.
- Proper acknowledgment of the original publication in the journal must always be included.

12. Indexing and Discoverability

- Open access articles are indexed in major international databases and repositories to ensure global discoverability.
- The journal aims to be listed in recognized indexing platforms such as Google Scholar, DOAJ, Scopus, CrossRef, and PubMed Central, depending on its discipline.
- Metadata for each article is openly shared to facilitate academic search and citation tracking.

13. Data Sharing and Open Science

- The journal encourages authors to share their research data, supplementary materials, and methodologies openly whenever possible.
- Datasets associated with published articles should be made available in recognized open repositories, with proper citation and ethical considerations.
- This practice enhances reproducibility, transparency, and collaborative progress in science.

14. Policy Review and Updates

This Open Access Policy is reviewed as needed to ensure alignment with international best practices and technological developments in open publishing.
Any updates or revisions will be communicated clearly on the journal's website.