



IUB Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies

Policy Guidelines

Frequency of Publication

Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies (PJES) is an open-access peer-reviewed journal published on a quarterly basis. PJES is committed to publishing high-quality studies in economics and its sub fields. It is indexed in reputed indexations, both nationally and internationally. PJES follows the guidelines and policies of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and HEC guidelines and policies for publishing the quality research.

Timeline of publication

There are four issues for which volume of the PJES that are published quarterly. The first issue of each volume is published on 31st March, second issue is published on 30th June, third issue is published on 30th September and the fourth issue is published on 31st December each year.

Authorship of the Paper

Authorship credit in PJES is given to only persons who made substantial contributions to the work reported in the manuscript (such as technical help, writing and editing assistance, general support). It is responsibility of corresponding author to ensure that any person(s) who do not meet the criteria for authorship must not be listed as an author. Any person who has not substantially contributed to the manuscript but provided some support should be acknowledged in the "Acknowledgements" section after their written permission to be named as been obtained.

Changes in authorship

Any changes in authorship prior to or after publication must be agreed upon by all authors, including those being added or removed. It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to obtain confirmation from all co-authors and to provide the completed Authorship Change Request form to the editorial management. If a change in authorship is necessary after publication of the article, this will be amended via a post-publication notice. Any changes in authorship must comply with our criteria for authorship, and requests for significant changes to the authorship list after the article has been accepted, may be rejected if clear reasons and evidence of author contributions cannot be provided.

Originality and plagiarism policy

Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies (PJES) is published by Department of Economics, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan has membership of Turnitin a database to help the editors verify the originality of submitted manuscripts. All submitted manuscripts are scanned with Turnitin to calculate the similarity index or plagiarism.

Definition of PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is when an author attempts to pass off someone else work as his or her own. Duplicate publication, sometimes called self-plagiarism, occurs when an author reuses substantial parts of his or her

own published work without providing the appropriate references. This can range from getting an identical paper published in multiple journals, to salami-slicing, where authors add small amounts of new data to a previous paper.

Plagiarism Policy of PJES

1. Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies (PJES) is committed to promote and disseminate the original research work relating to the field of economic sciences.
2. Plagiarism comes in several forms for that reason, Plagiarism in any form cannot be tolerated by PJES at any stage as it shows unethical publishing behavior.
3. All selected manuscripts will be screened for plagiarism by using Turnitin software.
4. The manuscript in which the plagiarism is detected are handled based on the extent of the plagiarism. A manuscript with less than 19% similarity index can be accepted for publication.
5. If the manuscript has plagiarism < 15%, the manuscript will be given an ID and the manuscript is sent to review process.
6. If the manuscript has plagiarism 15-30%, the manuscript will be given an ID and the manuscript is sent back to author for content revision.
7. If the plagiarism is detected more than 30%, it is found that the authors are very unlikely to revise the manuscript and submit the revised version. However, authors are welcome to do the required revisions and submit the manuscript as a new submission.

In the case of suspected plagiarism in a published article:

1. A specific process is followed to manage a case of plagiarism. The PJES follows the guidelines contained in the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) flowcharts (<http://publicationethics.org/resources/flowcharts>).
2. The person who advised us of the situation is informed about the process to be followed.
3. The articles are compared to check the degree of copying.
4. All Editors of the PJES are informed and asked for their comments.
5. The corresponding author of the article in question is contacted with documentary evidence of the case of plagiarism and is asked for a response.
6. If the authors are found guilty of plagiarism:
 - i. The editor of the journal in which the original plagiarized article was published, and the authors of the plagiarized article are informed.
 - ii. The PJES publishes an official retraction of the paper.
 - iii. The online version of the PJES article is withdrawn from the OJS host site, and
 - iv. The PJES will not publish any article by any of the authors concerned for a period of 5 years.

Peer review policy

Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies (PJES) follows a double-blind peer-review process. Where the reviewers are not shared any details of the authors such as their names or affiliations and review reports are also shared anonymously with authors.

The virtue of double-blind peer-review system is that it ensures the manuscripts evaluation is purely based on quality of the content. It enables reviewers to assess the manuscripts in an unbiased manner and let them look if the content is original, valid and has some significance.

Generally, the manuscripts are scientifically reviewed by at least two experts. They assess if the submitted article is sound, comprehensive and have no replication of other published works. If reviewers recommend the manuscript as suitable for publication in review reports editorial team reaches a final decision.

Article processing/publication fee

Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies (PJES) is an open access journal that provides free to access the articles online. Journal does not charge any kind of fee for manuscript submission, processing, and publication. Therefore, authors do not pay any Article Publication Fee (APF), Article Processing Charges (APC). Authors also do not pay any charges to cover the costs of desk review, peer review, management, and professional production of the article (s) in any format and dissemination of published manuscripts to archives and/or databases. All the expenses are born by the department of Economics, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan.

There are no fee for rejected manuscripts, submission surcharge, and no fee based on the length of the content of an article, figures, or supplementary data.

Disclosure and conflicts of interest

Editorial committee is responsible to avoid any conflict of interest in the research publications that may affect the interpretation of results and assessment by the reviewers. In case of any potential conflict of interest, author (s) shall provide a clear statement about bearing the responsibility. They shall disclose the possible conflicts of interests that can influence the decision about publication of manuscript.

Manuscripts will not be considered by the editorial board for review if competing interests arise from the collaborative or competitive connections of any of the author (s) or relevant institutions. It is desired that all contributors shall disclose conflicting interests while submitting the manuscript. If there is any such revelation after the research is published, corrections or expression of interest and retraction will be issued where needed.

Corrections and Retractions of Research Articles

Corrections of Research Articles

If there is any error reported by the authors after the publishing of the manuscript, it must be reported to the editorial team through the corresponding author with a description of all the details of the error and the required correction. Corrections required by authors (**corrigenda**) and corrections for the publisher's errors (**errata**) are made without any charges to the author (s). Any corrections that may affect the research outcomes, their interpretation, and/or implications are considered only after a thorough review by the editors.

Retraction of Research Articles

A Retraction is a declaration that an article should not be regarded as part of the scientific literature published by PJES. It aims to correct the literature and alert the readers about unreliable, seriously flawed, or erroneous content, data, findings, and/or conclusions. Such content may be due to research misconduct or mistakes. Editors at PJES, through the retraction policy, commit to correcting the literature and ensuring research integrity rather than punishing the authors.

Retraction Policy

PJES adheres to the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) retraction guidelines. The editorial committee will issue a retraction notice if there is clear evidence about a published article that:

1. The findings of the research are **faulty or unreliable**, either due to a major error in calculation, data collection, or experimental conduct,
2. The results are based on the **fabrication or falsification** of data, figures, and/or literature.
3. It constitutes severe **plagiarism** or higher plagiarism than the maximum limit as required in PJES policy for Plagiarism and Screening.
4. The findings have been previously published elsewhere without proper attribution to previous sources or disclosure to the editor, permission to republish, or justification (i.e. cases of **redundant or multiple publications**).
5. It contains any material or uses data without explicit authorization.
6. The **copyright policy** of PJES has been infringed.
7. The research has adopted, reported, or suggested some **harmful or unethical** practices.
8. It has been published solely based on a compromised or **manipulated peer review** process.
9. The author(s) have failed to disclose a **major conflict of interest** that, in the view of the editor, would have unduly affected interpretations of the work or recommendations by editors and peer reviewers.
10. The content of the article has legal issues like libel, breach of privacy, illegality, etc.

Applicability of Retraction

Retraction policy for the published manuscripts is applicable if there is a substantial undermining of the research conduct in terms of ethics, errors in analysis, and/or reporting of the study. The article will be marked as retracted in the issue where it was originally published. However, the retraction statement will be linked in both directions with the PDF version of the article. This statement typically includes assent or dissent from the author about the misconduct or error. That must be signed and submitted by the author(s) to the editor of PJES.

In some cases, the editorial board reserves the right to remove the published articles from the journal's online issues and platforms. Some of such exceptions may be if.

1. The content is proved to be unlawful, defamatory, and trespasses on a third party's intellectual property, privacy, or any other legal rights.
2. An order requiring the removal of the article, or its content is issued or is likely to be issued by the court or legal authorities of the state.
3. Content if acted upon by the end-users of research outcomes is found to pose immediate or serious risks to health.

It must be noted that the metadata and bibliographic data of the manuscript will be retained by PJES. This data will be attached with the removal statement and an explanation of the reason (s) for removal. However, the removal may be temporary or permanent.

Contribution of each author with details

PJES follows authorship contribution policy as per [Committee Of Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) guidelines. Here is a brief of the contributions expected by each author.

Author

The author is referred to the creator or originator of an idea or the individual or individuals who develop and bring to fruition the article that disseminates intellectual or creative works. Author is has significant privileges, responsibilities, and legal rights as per academic standards. It also forms the basis for rewards and career advancement. Authors are accountable for following all the guidelines and policies of PJES. At a minimum, authors should guarantee that they have participated in creating the work as presented and that they have not violated any other author's legal rights (e.g., copyright) in the process.

Co-author

A co-author will be a person who has made a significant contribution to the manuscript submitted at PJES. They also share responsibility and accountability for the results. Declaring a person as co-author means that he/she has.

- Made a significant contribution to the work reported. That could be in the conception, study design, execution, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation, or in all these areas.
- Drafted or written, substantially revised or critically reviewed the article.
- Agreed on the submission for potential publication to the PJES.
- Reviewed and agreed on all versions of the article before submission, during revision, the final version accepted for publication, and any significant changes introduced at the proofing stage.

Corresponding Author

If there are more than one author who submits an article to PJES. It is required to choose one person to be the corresponding author. This person will handle all correspondence about the article and sign the publishing agreement on behalf of all the authors. The corresponding author is also responsible for liaising with co-authors regarding any editorial queries, and to act on behalf of all co-authors in any communication about the article through submission, peer review, production, and after publication. The corresponding author is required to ensure that all the authors' contact details are correct. Authors must all agree on the order in which their names will appear in the article.

Guidelines for Reviewers

Reviewers bear the responsibility for objectivity, professionalism, impartiality and confidentiality of the assessment of content quality.

Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies follows a double-blind peer review process. Where the identities of authors and reviewers are hidden from each other. Its purpose is to improve the quality of content and of the scientific material under review that is ultimately published. Conscientious review is a time consuming effort but is essential to assure the quality of scientific journals. The PJES is very grateful for the time and effort reviewers invest in this process. PJES adheres to the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) guidelines and strive to ensure that review process is fair, unbiased and timely. Decisions to accept a manuscript for publication depend on importance of investigated issue, originality, clarity, validity, and relevance of the work to the scope of the PJES. Therefore, reviewers have major role decision on whether to accept an article for publication.

General Notes

Reviews should be conducted fairly and objectively. Personal criticism of the author is inappropriate. If the research reported in the manuscript is flawed, criticize the science, not the scientist. Personal criticism

is likely to lead an author to ignore useful comments, making your review less useful to your field. Criticisms should be objective, not merely differences of opinion, and intended to help the author improve his or her paper.

- You should decline to review manuscripts in which you have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies, or institutions connected to the papers.
- If your previous or present connection with the author(s) or an author's institution might be construed as creating a conflict of interest, but no actual conflict exists, please include this issue in your confidential comments to the editor. If in doubt, please contact the Editor who requested the review before accepting.
- Respect the confidentiality of the manuscript, which is sent to you in confidence. You should not discuss unpublished manuscripts with colleagues or use the information in your own work. If you feel a colleague is more qualified than you to review the paper, do not pass the manuscript on to that person without first requesting permission to do so from the editor. Your review and your recommendation should also be considered confidential.
- If you choose to remain anonymous, ensure that you avoid comments to the authors that might serve as clues to your identity.

Comments to Editor

Your Comments to the Editor will be submitted to the Managing Editor and the Editor-in-Chief only. These should include any possible conflicts of interest. Comments and constructive criticism of the manuscript should be placed in the Comments to the Author.

Comments to the Author (s)

Your Comments to the Author (s) will be submitted to the Managing Editor and the Editor-in-Chief. They are also communicated to the author (s) and to the other anonymous reviewers of the manuscript once the editor has made a decision.

Comments should be constructive and designed to enhance the manuscript. You should consider yourself the authors' mentor. Make your comments as complete and detailed as possible. Express your views clearly with supporting arguments and references as necessary. Include clear opinions about the strengths, weaknesses and relevance of the manuscript, its originality and its importance to the field. Specific comments that cite line numbers are most helpful. If you feel unqualified to address certain aspects of the manuscript, please include a statement to identify these areas.

Begin by identifying the major contributions of the paper. What are its major strengths and weaknesses, and its suitability for publication? Please include both general and specific comments bearing on these questions and emphasize your most significant points.

Support your general comments, positive or negative, with specific evidence.

If you wish to make comments directly on the manuscript pdf using the Note tool, you may do so. However, we do not expect you to copy-edit the manuscript. If you do annotate the pdf, please also include a summary of your general comments. You may also upload other documents (e.g., your review

as a document, useful references). The journal editorial assistant will remove your identity from the properties of these documents to maintain your anonymity.

Points to consider in your review include:

- Is the topic of the manuscript appropriate for the PJES? Is the information of significant interest to the broad readership of the PJES?
- Do the title, abstract, key words, introduction, and conclusions accurately and consistently reflect the major point(s) of the paper?
- Is the writing concise, easy to follow, and interesting, without repetition?
- Is the aim clearly stated?
- Are the methods appropriate, scientifically sound, current, and described clearly enough that the work could be repeated by someone else?
- Is the research ethical and have the appropriate approvals/consent been obtained?
- Are appropriate statistical/econometric analyses used? Are they sufficiently justified and explained? Are statements of significance justified?
- When results are stated in the text of the paper, are they supported by data? Can you verify them easily by examining tables and figures? Are any of the results counterintuitive?
- Are all tables and figures necessary, clearly labelled, well designed, and readily interpretable? Is information in the tables and figures redundant? Is it repeated in the text?
- Are the conclusions supported by the data presented?
- Are the references cited the most appropriate to support the manuscript? Are citations provided for all assertions of fact not supported by the data in this paper? Are any key citations missing?
- Consider the length of the manuscript, relative to the content. Should any portions of the paper should be expanded, condensed, combined, or deleted? (Please be specific in your advice, and don't simply advise overall shortening by x%).
- Does the manuscript comply with the Instructions for Authors?
- Please also comment on any possible research or publication misconduct, such as:
 - Does this manuscript report data or conclusions already published or in press? If so, please provide details.
 - Has the author plagiarised another publication?
 - Is there any indication that the data have been fabricated or inappropriately manipulated?
 - Have the authors declared all relevant competing interests?

Open Access Policy

Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies (PJES) is committed to promote the global knowledge exchange by making free availability of research to the public. Therefore, it provides open access to all the published content immediately. Full text of articles is made available in the Archives section of the official website.

Review Policy

Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies (PJES) follows a double-blind peer-review process. Where the reviewers are not shared any details of the authors such as their names or affiliations and review reports are also shared anonymously with authors.

The virtue of double-blind peer-review system is that it ensures the manuscripts evaluation is purely based on quality of the content. It enables reviewers to assess the manuscripts in an unbiased manner and let them look if the content is original, valid and has some significance.

Generally, the manuscripts are scientifically reviewed by at least two experts. They assess if the submitted article is sound, comprehensive and have no replication of other published works. If reviewers recommend the manuscript as suitable for publication in review reports editorial team reaches a final decision.

Ethics and Malpractice Policy

Ethical Policy

Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies (PJES) follows rigorous ethical standards for publishing articles. PJES ethics and malpractice statement is conceptualized on [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) guidelines. Author(s) are solely responsible for originality and reliability of the research outcomes and must comply following rules.

- Authors of original research should present an accurate account of the work performed and the results, followed by an objective discussion of the significance of the work.
- The manuscript should contain sufficient detail and references to permit others to replicate the work.
- Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements constitute unethical behaviour and are unacceptable.
- Authors may be asked to provide the raw data of their study together with the manuscript for editorial review and should be prepared to make the data publicly available if practicable, provided that the confidentiality of the participants can be protected and legal rights concerning proprietary data do not preclude their release.
- Data and findings of the research shall be provided only if they are real and reliable.
- Authors should ensure that they have written and submit only entirely original works, and if they have used the work and/or words of others, that this has been appropriately cited.
- Publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the work reported in the manuscript should also be cited.
- Plagiarism takes many forms, from "passing off" another's paper as the author's own, to copying or paraphrasing substantial parts of another's paper (without attribution), to claiming results from

research conducted by others. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behaviour and is unacceptable.

- The contribution of other works shall be acknowledged and referred appropriately. Data sources and supporting evidence must be cited accurately in the text and references section.
- Findings of highlighted research issue must be original.
- Any manuscript shall not be submitted if it is already published or sent for publication in another journal. Submission of a manuscript concurrently to more than one journal is unethical publishing behaviour and unacceptable.
- Only persons should be listed as authors who are able to take public responsibility for the content and
 - i. Made significant contributions to the conception, design, execution, data acquisition, or analysis/interpretation of the study; and
 - ii. Drafted the manuscript or revised it critically for important intellectual content; and
 - iii. Have seen and approved the final version of the paper and agreed to its submission for publication
 - iv. All persons who made substantial contributions to the work reported in the manuscript (such as technical help, writing and editing assistance, general support) but who do not meet the criteria for authorship must not be listed as an author, but should be acknowledged in the "Acknowledgements" section after their written permission to be named as been obtained.
 - v. The corresponding author should ensure that all appropriate coauthors (according to the above definition) and no inappropriate coauthors are included in the author list and verify that all coauthors have seen and approved the final version of the manuscript and agreed to its submission for publication.
 - vi. Information obtained privately (from conversation, correspondence or discussion with third parties) must not be used or reported without explicit, written permission from the source.
 - vii. Authors should not use information obtained in the course of providing confidential services, such as refereeing manuscripts or grant applications, unless they have obtained the explicit written permission of the author(s) of the work involved in these services.
 - viii. There shall be no violation of copy rights in text, tables, graphics and formulas of the manuscript.
 - ix. Authors are obliged to participate in the peer review process and cooperate fully by responding promptly to editors' requests for raw data, clarifications, and proof of ethics approval, patient consents and copyright permissions.
 - x. PJES strictly condemns breach of research ethics and copyright infringement in submitted articles. Authors are responsible for any kind of manifestations of plagiarism in their manuscript and editorial board takes rigorous steps to prevent such violations.
 - xi. The authors are accountable for the accuracy of provided information i.e., facts, personal, geographical, companies, organizational and institutional names etc.
 - xii. The opinions expressed in research articles are by the authors that do not necessarily suggest the viewpoints of the editorial board. Therefore, no obligation is imposed on PJES editorial team in this context.

Handling of Misconduct and Complaints

In cases of alleged or proven scientific misconduct, fraudulent publication or plagiarism, the publisher, in close collaboration with the editors, will take all appropriate measures to clarify the situation and to

amend the article in question. This includes the prompt publication of an erratum, clarification or, in the most severe case, the retraction of the affected work. The publisher, together with the editors, shall take reasonable steps to identify and prevent the publication of papers where research misconduct has occurred, and under no circumstances encourage such misconduct or knowingly allow such misconduct to take place.

Privacy Policy

Information provided at Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies (PJES) site by authors such as names, email addresses and contact etc. is used for this journal only. No information at any level is ever used for any purpose other than already mentioned and shared with any other party as per journal's privacy policy.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Editorial committee is responsible to avoid any conflict of interest in the research publications that may affect the interpretation of results and assessment by the reviewers. In case of any potential conflict of interest, author (s) shall provide a clear statement about bearing the responsibility. They shall disclose the possible conflicts of interests that can influence the decision about publication of manuscript.

Manuscripts will not be considered by the editorial board for review if competing interests arise from the collaborative or competitive connections of any of the author (s) or relevant institutions. It is desired that all contributors shall disclose conflicting interests while submitting the manuscript. If there is any such revelation after the research is published, corrections or expression of interest and retraction will be issued where needed.

Archiving Policy

As Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies (PJES) policy author (s) are entitled to hold the copyrights and self-archiving rights. They are allowed and encouraged to deposit their scientific research in institutional repositories and other archives.

PJES urges to share the knowledge at maximum by making the publications accessible from several digital and academic repositories around the world. Journal digitally maintains archive to preserve scholarly content for long-term availability to the community. PJES has made sure that published research is archived in compliance with standards of known repositories. So that their digital record keepers can collect and update the journal's content.

Licensing Policy

All the articles editorially accepted for publication by Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies (PJES) are licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\)](#). Submitting a manuscript to PJES, author has to certify that he/ she is authorized by other contributor (s) and co-author (s) to enter the publication process.

He/ She shall assure on behalf of all author (s) that:

1. The manuscript is original, it has not been published in any other journal before, is not under consideration for any other journal and does not violate any existing copyrights or any other rights of third party.

2. I/we have full authority to enter into this agreement for granting the rights to PJES as sole author (s) of the article without breaching any other obligation.
3. The manuscript does not contain any unlawful and libelous content or anything that would breach the agreement (s) of confidence, commitment, and secrecy.
4. I/we certify that due care has been taken to ensure the reliability of the article. All purported statements and information are facts to the best of my/our knowledge and the currently accepted standards of scientific knowledge. Therefore, any of the proposed methods or instructions will not, if followed accurately, cause any damage or loss to the user (s).

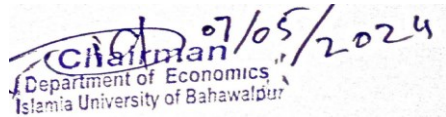
Copyright Policy

By submitting an article to the editor, the author (s) will automatically grant editors the rights to edit and post the content of the articles on the official website of Pakistan Journal of Economic Studies (PJES) if accepted.

Author (s) retain the copyrights and will grant PJES the non-exclusive rights of first publication of manuscript electronically and in print form and to identify PJES as the original publisher under

[Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 International License](#). It will allow others to share the content with explicit indication of the authorship and its initial publication in PJES. Under these licensing terms, the author (s) confirm that all the content of published manuscript will be distributed in the public domain and other researchers may use it exclusively for non-profit scientific purpose (s) with the obligatory acknowledgment of authorship.

Author (s) reserves unconditional rights to copy and reproduce the published work for teaching, use it in other research and redistribute, share or place the copy of the article to any other medium or format, even commercially only if PJES is explicitly acknowledged as the original publisher. However, author (s) cannot apply any legal or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything that is already permitted under the license terms.



Dr. Abid Rashid Gill

Editor-in-Chief

Incharge Department of Economics, IUB.

Email: abid.rashid@iub.edu.pk

Ph: +92-062-9255491, +923104467563



Vice Chancellor
The Islamia University
of Bahawalpur.

Professor Dr. Naveed Akhtar

Patron-in-Chief,

Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur