

EDITORIAL

Journey

Every journey has a purpose, a starting point, and a destination. The journey of the Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry is like a never-ending journey in life.

Approximately 30-40 years ago, the distribution of employees working in the field of mental health in Turkey was worse than it is now. Outside the three major cities, mental health workers had a higher burden, but their visibility and recognition levels were low. The aim and starting point of the Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry was to eliminate this deficiency, and its name was chosen accordingly. The journal was open for studies from all our colleagues and those working within the framework of behavioral sciences. This situation can be clearly seen when the studies and authors included in the journal are reviewed.

The journey of the Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry started in Sivas, in the middle of Anatolia. Its first issue was published in 2000. Later, I briefly describe the functioning and important aspects of the journal's ongoing journey.

In the early days, articles were being submitted to the Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry either on paper or on a CD. In the years that followed, we first started to receive submissions by e-mail and then through an online submission system. After an assessment of their compliance with the rules and scope of the journal submissions were assigned to at least 2 of our reviewers. All papers went through a technical review before the peer review process in order to provide our reviewers with documents that were easier to review which meant that they could focus on the quality of content. Our research assistant physicians at that time undertook the task of bringing the envelopes to the post office. In the following years, after these changes were made, the articles were sent to our reviewers by e-mail, and the evaluations were also received by e-mail.

One of the most important features in the functioning of the Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry was to send the evaluations of our reviewers to the authors of the articles that were not accepted. In this communication, we paid attention to using the expressions such as “reviewer evaluation” instead of “reviewer criticism” and “refusal to be published” instead of “rejection.” From the feedback we received, we learned that the authors benefited a lot from the reviewer feedback and that the interaction with the journal was “like a school” for them. Some of our authors thanked us for these reviews, even though their articles were not accepted. There was a close collaboration with the authors of the articles that were deemed appropriate to be accepted after they were edited.

In the annual evaluations of journals regularly conducted by TUBITAK/ULAKBIM, these “editorial processes” of our journal have been praised twice.

The Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry fundamentally evaluated whether the topics of the articles were suitable for the journal; it did not take into account who the authors were, their titles, and which discipline they were from. Because of objective evaluations, studies in which our reviewers took part as authors could not be accepted. In this context, we have had authors from disciplines such as adult psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, psychiatric nursing, psychology, social work, and family medicine.

Another feature of the Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry was that it was author friendly. We made it author friendly by using Turkish correctly and by interacting with authors in a fast and supportive way.

During both the evaluation of articles and the final editing process, the authors were always supported, and we acted very quickly. We have received feedback stating that it differs from other journals in the correct use of Turkish. Some of our authors stated that they did not find a mechanical editor, but a “fast and supportive human editor.”

The publication policy of the Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry was to reach everyone concerned. Therefore, we sent our journal free of charge to our authors; reviewers; all adult, child, and adolescent psychiatry departments; and libraries that wish and anyone who wishes to receive the journal.

Another issue with our editorial policy was that studies conducted online were not evaluated. This has scientific grounds such as the selection of the sample in the method of the studies and the fact that the sample does not represent the universe. An article on this topic was published in our December 2020 issue.

Another important issue regarding the editorial policy concerns the review articles. Review articles provide important information and comments on a topic and are the most advanced stage for an author. However, in Turkey, plagiarism can be common with review. To prevent this, we set out a condition that the review author (s) should have worked on that subject and should have at least three publications on that subject. To write a review, it is not enough to convey some information on the subject, it is also necessary to make comments based on the knowledge and experience on that subject.

Because of lack of financial support after 2011, the Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry started to collect an article processing charge as of 2013. This situation did not affect our journal's publication policy at all. Statistics show that our acceptance rate was below 25%, and this rate is not considered high.

For a scientific journal to be accepted by scientific community, the indices in which it is covered by is important. The Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry started to be indexed by the Turkish Medical Index in the middle of its first year of publication and by the Science Citation Index-Expanded in 2008 which promoted international submissions.

The journey I summarized above started from an Anatolian city, in an amateur setup but a professional product was produced as a result of it. I would like to thank our editorial board, reviewers, authors and readers for their contributions in this.

The journey of a journal is endless, and our journal needs to be institutionalized to continue this journey with firm steps. Our journal, which turns 21 years, has passed its childhood and has become an adult. With the transfer of the franchise, I believe our journal's journey will sail to wider horizons with the new team.

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