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"Reads are Many, but Citations are Less": What are the Research Metrics of Indian Clinical Psychology?

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ABSTRACT

The clinical psychology training of our country is based on the scientist-practitioner model. Hence research is part and parcel of our practice. This study explores research usage metrics of clinical psychology faculty across RCI recognized institutions in India. Further, it delves to understand whether we cite and quote our research vis-à-vis the research usage metrics of our peers in state-run non-profit institutions of the U.S. It uses one online social platform of ResearchGate for data collection. In a purposive non-random sampling using inclusion and exclusion criteria, two samples (N=78) consisting of research profiles of clinical psychology faculty members were taken -- from India (n=38) and the other from the U.S. (n=38). Results depict the scores on various usage metrics of ResearchGate of the Indian sample. Significant differences emerge in all research usage metrics between the two samples. Focus on the citations depicts abysmal numbers with the available reads. Reasons are explored for the research metric differences observed. Directions and suggestions to uplift our scientific reputation are provided.

Keywords: *Research, Usage, Metrics, US, ResearchGate, Research Interest*

INTRODUCTION

Much scholarly information is available using the internet and social websites today (Mas-Bleda et al., 2014). The online mode of sharing research brings many usage metrics available.

One of the largest academics, social networks is ResearchGate (Mathews, 2016). It is a European private social networking virtual platform connecting researchers and their research across the globe. The website hosts researchers of all disciplines to share information openly and intends to bring science outside the laboratory or field. A researcher's scientific collaboration is obtained through various usage metrics of their publications, citations, questions, answers, projects, and recommendations of another peer's work. ResearchGate generates total "interest" garnered and the other usage metrics of the items posted by the author. It has an author-level metric score called the R.G. score. This score reflects an author's work as received by their peers in ResearchGate (ResearchGate, n.d.-a).

The authors of the present study had assessed a small purposive sample of clinical psychology (C.P.) researchers who had a high number of reads but with lesser than 7 % citations (Iyer & Manickam, in press). This paper is an attempt to explore the research metrics of Indian CP researchers in detail. Secondly, an assessment of "us" citing enough of "our" research, was needed. In the Indian context, decades back, the issue of low citation was put forward by Andrade and Choudhury (1994) on the research citing and awareness of psychiatric research in one of the leading Indian journals on psychiatry. Again, a similar article revisited how poor citing of our "own" research becomes a barrier to the impact factor of the Indian psychiatry journals. Unawareness and pure disdain were explored for insufficient citations (D'cruz & Andrade, 2021).

The following research questions guided our study.

Research Questions

The research question that we wanted to assess is as follows:

1. What are the research metrics for Indian researchers of C.P. from India and the U.S.?
2. What is the pattern of research metrics between the Indian and U.S. C.P.s?

METHOD

Data was obtained through a non-random and purposive strategy. There are two sets of samples, one the Indian CP researchers and the other the U.S. CP.

Indian Sample of C.P.

Firstly, through the list of approved Institutions imparting M.Phil. training in clinical psychology across India (RCI; Rehabilitation Council of India, 2021). Apart from the list, the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) is included as an institution of national importance. Secondly, a manual search of the institutions registered in the ResearchGate was conducted. From the institutions' profiles, the members belonging to clinical psychology departments or clinical psychology members in the department of psychiatry were noted. Thirdly only faculty members of C.P. were included. Lastly, extraction of researcher metrics was conducted, followed by an analysis of the usage metrics. The researchers' inclusion criteria were as follows: 1. The profiles should have a R.G. score of more than 5.00 or equal and above ten publications. 2. Publications by C.P.s working in government or private institutions under RCI-approved training centres or institutes of national importance. 3. Online data on research metrics in ResearchGate only. The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA; Page et al., 2020) was utilized to review the researcher's profile in ResearchGate. The format of the PRISMA flow diagram has been modified as per the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Figure 1 was generated using software (Welson, 2009).

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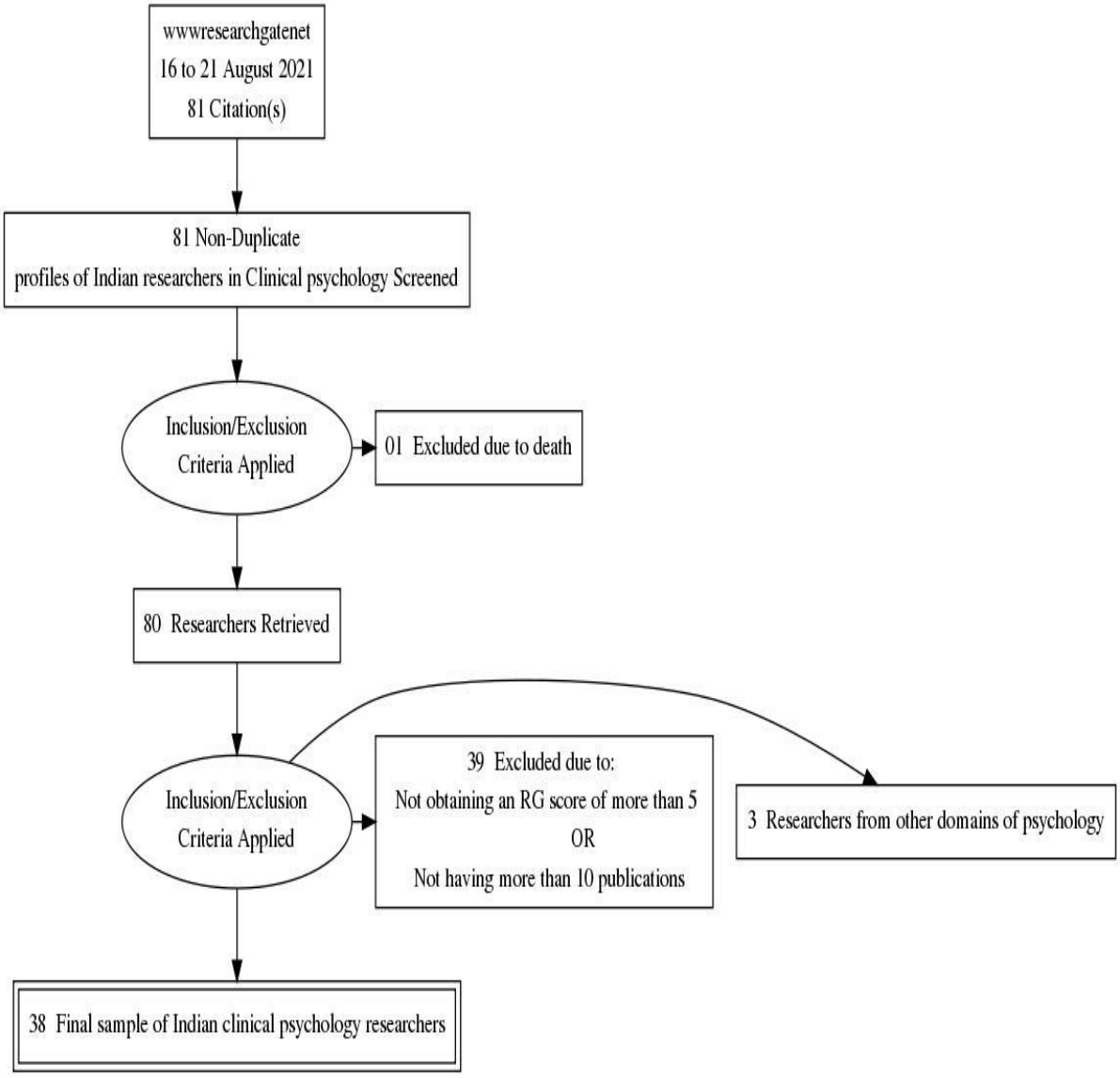
As the algorithms of the metrics for each profile change each week (ResearchGate, n.d.-b), the third week (16--21) of August 2021 was considered for the data collection.

U.S. Sample of C.P.

The U.S. sample of C.P.s are from the top ten best-ranked public, non-profit institutions running APA accredited clinical psychology programs of 2020 (Morse et al., 2021; U.S. News, n.d.). From the list of top ten universities, the first 38 profiles were sequentially recruited to match the number from the Indian sample of C.P.s. Only the faculty members of C.P. departments who had a profile registered with ResearchGate were recruited. A similar protocol of extraction of researcher metrics was conducted as for the Indian sample of C.P.s. The third week (16--21) of October 2021 was considered for the data collection.

Figure 1: PRISMA flow diagram on the Indian sample



Note. The flow diagram depicts the recruitment of the sample from the database of www.researchgate.com.

Data Analysis

The data were recorded and analyzed using SPSS (version 23.0; IBM Corp, 2015). Descriptive statistics were computed for the data obtained.

RESULTS

The results obtained could be classified into three inter-linked sections based on the research questions raised:

a) Descriptive statistics on usage metrics of Indian and U.S. researchers of C.P.

b) Differences between the Indian and US CP research metrics

Descriptive statistics on usage metrics of Indian and U.S. researchers of C.P.

Table 1 provides for the research metrics of clinical psychology research in India. The total sample is 38. Each research profile of the sample has been extracted for its various usage metrics. R.G. scores, number of citations each profile has obtained, the total number of publications, research interest garnered, whether the researchers are from government or private institutions, and the percentage of citations based on the reads of the profiles.

Table 1: Research Metrics of C.P. Researchers from India

Sr No.	R.G. Score (A)	Number of Citation (B)	Number of Reads/ Counts/ Hits (C)	B / C * 100 (D)	Number of Publications (E)	Research Interest Generated (F)	Institution type: G or P
1	8.41	134	2497	5.37	8	90.9	G
2	6.13	74	621	11.92	12	45.4	G
3	8.19	49	5792	.85	13	52.4	G
4	14.36	119	15742	.76	33	177.0	G
5	7.97	69	3712	1.86	19	73.4	G
6	11.27	30	8653	.35	24	49.0	G
7	11.7	84	2687	3.13	38	68.9	G
8	17.63	361	25721	1.40	68	316.1	G
9	15.4	209	3574	5.85	23	133.1	G
10	6.45	59	8908	.66	24	85.2	G
11	8.04	13	2690	.48	6	26.0	G
12	8.12	76	15625	.49	26	142.5	G
13	19.74	206	18041	1.14	55	206.6	G
14	21.62	674	37087	1.82	75	655.2	G
15	29.67	429	13409	3.20	103	420.5	G
16	21.52	205	5286	3.88	21	177.0	G
17	21.34	324	44604	.73	86	511.6	G
18	9.67	12	2837	.42	57	52.4	G
19	24.74	409	14714	2.78	51	333.5	G
20	34.28	1119	13589	8.23	97	757.0	G
21	24.46	559	38438	1.45	88	629.6	G
22	16.04	120	4268	2.81	21	94.6	G
23	14.23	226	24140	.94	26	255.7	G
24	24.48	459	73625	.62	70	503.1	G
25	29.11	860	10435	8.24	60	569.0	G
26	14.08	143	44693	.32	62	264.2	G
27	12.95	332	8928	3.72	20	255.7	G
28	27.87	781	47859	1.63	138	781.4	G
29	26.74	683	16759	4.08	90	543.6	G
30	13.01	110	4793	2.30	34	123.4	G
31	5.51	29	15474	.19	9	98.3	G
32	5.73	87	3562	2.44	15	72.4	P
33	5.51	6	845	.71	40	10.8	G
34	5.01	270	8448	3.20	7	214.9	G
35	6.6	11	12820	.09	25	86.5	G
36	9.54	20	7046	.28	26	70.7	G
37	7.2	5	135	3.70	3	3.5	G
38	-	10	2622	.38	17	33.4	P

Note. The research parameters and metrics for the sample are provided.
RG = ResearchGate; G = Government; P = Private.
N = 38

Table 1 depicts only two researchers out of 38 from the private institutions and the rest from the governmental institutions.

Table 2 presents a different picture. The sample of 38 researchers of US CP faculty from the top ten U.S. universities was assessed for their research metrics. The sample is from governmental institutions only.

All the column headings are obtained from the research dashboard in ResearchGate profiles. The D column in Tables 1 and 2 is obtained by dividing the citations (B) brought in each profile by the number of reads/counts (C) on a profile.

Table 2: Research Metrics of C.P. Researchers from the U.S.

Sr No.	R.G. Score (A)	Number of Citation (B)	Number of Reads/ Counts/ Hits (C)	B / C * 100 (D)	Number of Publications (E)	Research Interest Generated (F)	Institution type: G or P
1	36.10	2342	19886	11.78	81	1661	G
2	39.48	5977.00	48836.00	12.24	119	3798	G
3	40.11	10094	82977	12.16	183	5821	G
4	38.81	2745	55160	4.98	119	2028	G
5	34.7	2425	10387	23.35	65	1348	G
6	37.48	1847	6617	27.91	86	1070	G
7	27.82	2955	34425	8.58	38	1781	G
8	33.17	1035	4970	20.82	54	627.7	G
9	27.28	4197	31943	13.14	42	2357	G
10	38.61	6465	137062	4.72	232	4388	G
11	26.93	910	8408	10.82	37	537.7	G
12	30.67	1105	7604	14.53	41	677.6	G
13	32.1	4344	64190	6.77	82	2847	G
14	30.39	1826	13419	13.61	56	1045	G
15	23.99	1026	6477	15.84	31	577.6	G
16	38.15	7020	25401	27.64	105	3791	G
17	39.29	2697	32424	8.32	134	1668	G
18	32.19	838	32619	2.57	57	605.2	G
19	37.62	3663	8891	41.20	70	1978	G
20	40.8	7177	37513	19.13	162	4142	G
21	41.51	6667	48241	13.82	173	4011	G
22	46.65	41974	692124	6.06	373	26479	G
23	31.13	5983	16578	36.09	48	3120	G
24	33.99	10317	9352	110.32	74	5323	G
25	30.68	569	3616	15.74	39	364.2	G
26	32.52	2733	7334	37.26	75	1423	G
27	24.97	454	7046	6.44	49	377.4	G
28	36.65	4270	9967	42.84	83	2187	G
29	37.94	4290	20153	21.29	95	2326	G
30	44.54	17418	187785	9.28	275	9786	G
31	20.33	1743	8585	20.30	30	978.4	G
32	43.77	9959	91743	10.86	279	6165	G
33	42.64	9929	48222	20.59	179	5451	G
34	34.08	2771	10142	27.32	104	1476	G
35	34.08	2297	6160	37.29	54	1261	G
36	47.31	9157	58216	15.73	332	5141	G
37	40.04	3950	7109	55.56	132	2067	G
38	24.46	348	361	96.40	19	178.1	G

Note. The research parameters and metrics for the U.S. sample are provided.
RG = ResearchGate; G = Government.
N = 38.

In sum, the Tables (1 & 2) provide data from the profiles of C.P. researchers for the samples.

b) Differences between the Indian and US CP research metrics

Tables 3 and 4 provides an analysis of the data from the Tables 1 and 2. For the Indian sample of C.P. researchers, Table 3 depicts a median R.G. score of 12.98 with a high variation (IQR = 13.77). The maximum R.G. score obtained by the sample was 34.28. The average number of publications is 41.84 (SD = 32.70). The publications' range was high and hugely varying from a minimum of three to a maximum of 138. Therefore, the research interest garnered is about 137 but with a higher variation (IQR = 285). This could imply the considerable variation each research profile has in the sample. It speaks of the uneven nature of research metrics in this present sample. The descriptive for the Indian sample depicts the number of reads to be greater with high variation compared to the citations obtained. The number of reads is seventieth times the number of citations in this

sample. The percentage of citations for the profiles is as low as 0.09 and is 11.9 %. On average, about 2.4% are the citations based on the reads.

The U.S. sample of C.P. researchers' presents a different picture. Table 3 depicts a median R.G. score of 35.40 with a low variation (IQR = 8.94). The maximum R.G. score obtained by the sample was 47.31. The average number of publications is 110.71 (SD = 87.28). The publications' range was high and hugely varying from a minimum of 19 to a maximum of 373. Therefore, the research interest is also increased at a median of 2003 but with a higher variation (IQR = 3015.40). This again implies a significant variation in each research profile has in the sample. The descriptive for the U.S. sample also depicts the number of reads to be greater with high variation compared to the citations obtained. The median number of reads is only six times the median number of citations in this sample. The percentage of citations for the profiles is at 2.57% and is not more than 110.32 %. On average, about 23.25% are the citations based on the reads.

Table 3: Descriptive statistics on the research parameters

Research Parameters	Descriptive Statistics									
	Indian CPs [a]					US CPs [b]				
	Mean	SD	Range	Mdn	IQR	Mean	SD	Range	Mdn	IQR
RG Score	-	-	0.00 - 34.28	12.98	13.77	-	-	20.33 - 47.31	35.40	8.94
Research Interest	-	-	3.50 - 781.40	137.80	285.00	-	-	178.10- 26479	2003	3015.40
Number of Publications	41.84	32.70	3.00 - 138.00	-	-	110.71	87.28	19 - 373	-	-
Number of Reads	-	-	135 - 73625	8918	13508.50	-	-	361 - 692124	18232	40853.25
Number of Citations	-	-	5 - 1119	127	328.75	-	-	348 - 41974	3309	4950
Average percentage of citations vis-à-vis reads	2.43	-	0.09 - 11.92	-	-	23.25	-	2.57 - 110.32	-	-

Note. The mean, median, IQR, SD, and range of the research parameters for the sample are provided.
RG = ResearchGate.
N = 76 (^{a}n = 38, ^{b}n = 38).

Table 4: Comparison of Indian and U.S. research metrics

Research Metrics	Indian CP Researchers[a]	US CP Researchers[b]	Mann-Whitney U Test	
	Mean Ranks	Mean Ranks	Z	p
RG Score	20.93	56.07	6.94	.000**
Research Interest	20.92	56.08	6.94	.000**
Number of Reads	31.75	45.25	2.67	.008*
Number of Citations	20.24	56.76	7.21	.000**

Note. Differences between the Indian and U.S. sample on various research usage metrics.
RG = ResearchGate
N = 76 (^{a}n = 38, ^{b}n = 38).
*p < .05, **p < .001.

The difference between the samples is significant across all the research metrics (Table 4). They depict the low citations (p<.001), reads (p<.05), research interest (p<.001), and therefore lower R.G. score (p<.001) of Indian samples in comparison to our peers in the U.S. Thus, the Tables (3 & 4) provide us the pattern of the research usage metrics between the samples.

DISCUSSION

The research metrics are high, with a higher number of citations in the U.S. sample. Our reads are not poor, but the number of citations is abysmal. Overall, our scientific reputation needs upliftment.

Many concordant and interesting articles have emerged to support our findings and assist the authors of the study in putting forward some guidelines for better metrics from clinical psychology. The metrics are high in a few profiles, mainly in the moderate and low tail-end of most of the clinical psychology faculty in our country. Overall, the average percentage of citations appears to be relatively low in comparison to the U.S. sample.

Our scientific reputation is poor in comparison to our peers from the west. The median value of the R.G. score of the Indian sample is 12.98, with a very high variation. It indicates the unevenness of our researcher's profiles. The median value of US CP researchers is 35.40, with a low variation. Many factors such as the number of years of experience, the network of collaborations, recommendations from peers, the impact factor of journals, and the number of publications could contribute to this score's unevenness. Since these findings are only

preliminary, a detailed understanding of the number of Indian profiles that the present sample recommends, reads, cites, and follows could take the lead.

Further, a "read" in ResearchGate is defined as simple access to the research publication (ResearchGate, n.d.-b). Indian sample depicts high variation, more than the median value of the sample, like the U.S. sample. Interestingly, Subelj et al. (2014), in their computational model of citation on over 60 years of Web of Science data, revealed that most (about 85%) of the cited papers are never read. They are copied from other papers, and the probability of citing a paper is only about 30%. Simkin and Roy Chowdhury (2002) report of scientists copying someone else's reference without reading the paper in question. These points could be valid for our Indian researchers of the present study. We could be "citing without reading in this internet era," as Simkin and Roy Chowdhury (2002) analyzed. Hence this could not lead to many citations from our domain emerging, perhaps. Another reason could be difficulty retrieving the articles of our "own" work online.

Citations simply are the number of times a researcher's work/publications gets cited (ResearchGate. (n.d.-c). It is also possible that some citations are obtained after years of publication (Perneger, 2004). But it needs to be stated that easy and quick access to our articles and papers attract more reads and subsequent citations (Perneger, 2004). The meagre average percentage of the citations could be due to the tendency of Indian researchers to look at mostly the articles from high-impact journals compared to other articles in non-high impact journals (Nishy & Rana, 2016). Peer competition could be a major reason for pure disregard of Indian research, which we could retrieve (Andrade et al., 2000). One major problem that we would face due to non-citing of our own is the resultant poor impact factor of our journals (D'cruz & Andrade, 2021). A few first-world countries dominate the "top" journals, and we need to start citing, reading research pertinent to our cultural context, and befitting it in the broader world context (Mason & Merga, 2021). Moreover, our journals do carry some good and diverse articles.

Although this requires further input and analysis by peers of this domain, a few observations that contribute enhance reads and subsequent citations could be as follows.

1. We could look to build on research work already conducted on a particular topic. We seek to replicate based on the western studies with their template modified for our Indian subcontinent samples. Much original work could be conceptualized from us, from which the west could take the lead (Singh, 2010).
2. The use of Indian search engines such as Shodhganga (Shodhganga: A reservoir of Indian theses at INFLIBNET, n.d.) could help mine Indian research and authors. It might refine and extract valuable information.
3. We could mentor our master's students, pre-doctoral and doctoral scholars of psychology (and clinical psychology), the importance of original research work, and the need to improve the existing database with additional research findings (Manickam, 2008). The opportunities and ideas in young scholars and post-graduate students should add to the research database on a current topic.
4. As highlighted by Galundia (2018), poor funding and bleak prospects in research are significant de-motivators to publish high-quality research work in reputed journals. Who funds the research in clinical psychology also needs exploration. Prabhu and Hirisave (1990) viewed that funding research in clinical psychology is neglected by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) since they consider clinical psychology as a 'soft subject 'or as 'social science' whereas Indian Council for Social Science and Research (ICSSR) view the CP falling outside their purview. Though RCI regulates clinical psychology, they do not fund research in clinical psychology and therefore, in depth and longitudinal research that can be impactful are not carried out except the 'surface level' or 'cross sectional' studies led by individual CPs. Professional associations like the Indian Association of Clinical Psychologists (IACP) could assist in bringing this to the light of our policymakers and the government.
5. Independent ethical approval houses or institutions to grant ethical approval to independent researchers will bring quality research in our domain of clinical psychology.
6. Making ourselves available online and promoting as much as possible on various social networking sites could make it easy to retrieve, and lead to more readers and citations of our research. The visibility and the citations of CP's are likely to improve if the past issues of our major journals are digitised and made available in open-source repository.
7. More internal collaborations amongst Indian clinical psychology members could bring new ideas to test in the empirical realm.

Most Indian CP researchers of this social platform belonged to government institutions. It is also possible that many C.P. faculty move from private to government institutions. Nevertheless, the profiles of C.P. faculty researchers from private institutions are low. Another observation by the present study's authors was that more than the faculty members, many post-graduate students, and research scholars were registered with ResearchGate. It is concordant to a similar analysis on Mendeley, where Mohammadi et al. (2015) found that most readers were Ph.D. and post-doc researchers and post-graduate students. Moreover, many senior researchers were not seen with their publications online in ResearchGate. It could be due to more young researchers than seniors being drawn to the latest technology tools or web networking (Mas-Bleda et al., 2014).

CONCLUSION

Much of the problems listed could be resolved if scientific and personal communication amongst the researchers is enhanced for the more significant benefit of clinical psychology. It is interesting to note that four decades ago

Basavanna (1981) raised 5 pertinent questions to the clinical psychologists in India that appears to have high relevance even in the current context. The questions were:

> 1. What is our contribution to theory and practice of clinical psychology? 2. Have we, any one of us, published something that has fired the imagination of the young researchers in the field? 3. Have we evolved some impressive models for imparting clinical skills to our youngsters? 4. What is our rating in the internal and international scene? 5. How often an Indian clinical psychologist is being quoted in academic circles abroad? (p. *i*).

One must keep in mind that he had aired these at a time when impact factor or the rating index for research publications were not in place. The challenge is open even now and it is for current clinical psychology faculty and practitioners to respond. The authors hope that with the advancement enabling the researchers to have access to statistical packages and AI based Electronic Health Records like Trias that ease the collection of data and generation of analytics, citation of our research can take a quantum leap (Manickam, 2021).

We invite all our colleagues and peer researchers to join the online platforms of publishing their research. In the words of Andrade et al (2000), if we don't read, cite, and recommend our country's research, who will?

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