

SVDU Policy on Selection of Peer-Reviewed Journals for Academic Publications

1. Preamble

In accordance with the Public Notice issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) dated **16 July 2025**, and the discontinuation of the UGC-CARE list of journals, this University adopts the following policy to guide faculty members, researchers, and students in selecting appropriate peer-reviewed journals for academic and research publications.

The objective of this policy is to ensure **quality, transparency, and ethical standards** in research dissemination, while promoting publications in journals of national and international repute.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All faculty members engaged in research and publication.
- Research scholars and postgraduate students.
- Higher Educational Institution (HEI) committees overseeing research quality.

3. Policy Guidelines

3.1 Preliminary Journal Criteria

- Journal must have a valid **ISSN (Print/Online)**.
- Regular publication schedule ensuring **continuity and periodicity**.
- Publisher details must be transparent and verifiable.
- Journal must maintain a **secure and professional website**.
- Clear statement on **Open Access or Subscription policy**.
- Archival policy ensuring past issues are accessible.
- Integration with **national/international repositories** is desirable.

3.2 Editorial Standards

- Editorial board details must be publicly available, with affiliations and expertise.
- Board composition should include eminent academicians/researchers.
- Peer review process must be rigorous, transparent, and time-bound.

3.3 Journal Editorial Policy

- Clearly defined **aims, objectives, and scope**.
- **Transparent Article Processing Charges (APC)**, if applicable.

- Publishing timelines must be reasonable and disclosed.
- Acceptance rate should reflect academic rigor.

3.4 Journal Quality – Content

- Articles must demonstrate **original contribution** to knowledge.
- Research must align with the journal's stated scope.

3.5 Journal Standards

- Accurate bibliographic data and standardized citations.
- Professional layout, readability, and design.
- High-quality visuals, infographics, and exhibits.
- Citation record in reputable databases.
- Multilingual availability encouraged, especially in Indian languages.

3.6 Research Ethics

- Journals must enforce **ethical guidelines for authors**.
- Plagiarism prevention with similarity scores within acceptable limits.
- Disclosure of **conflicts of interest**.
- Clear policy on **AI-generated content**.

3.7 Journal Visibility & Impact

- Indexed in reputed databases (Scopus, Web of Science, PubMed etc.).
- Impact factor or equivalent citation metrics, if applicable.
- Reasonable self-citation score compared to peer journals.

4. Institutional Mechanisms

- The University shall establish an **Internal Review Committee** to periodically review and update these parameters.
- Faculty and students must seek committee guidance before submitting to journals.
- Publications in journals failing to meet these parameters may not be considered for **academic credit, promotions, or research evaluation**.

5. Effective Date

This policy shall come into effect from **1 August 2025** and will be applicable to all academic and research-related publication activities within the University.