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Short Communication



Penerbitan Predator di Indonesia: Tantangan, Penyebab, dan Solusi untuk Melindungi Integritas Riset

Predatory Publishing in Indonesia: Challenges, Causes, and Solutions for Safeguarding Research Integrity

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ABSTRAK

Tren peningkatan publikasi ilmiah di Indonesia turut disertai dengan maraknya praktik penerbitan predator—yakni penerbitan yang tidak etis dan mengeksploitasi peneliti melalui proses editorial yang menyesatkan dan orientasi keuntungan semata. Komunikasi singkat ini membahas berbagai faktor penyebab utama, termasuk perkembangan jurnal akses terbuka, tekanan akademik untuk menerbitkan, kurangnya kesadaran terhadap etika publikasi, serta pengaruh globalisasi dan akses digital. Berdasarkan tren nasional dan inisiatif yang sedang berkembang, tulisan ini menyoroti kesenjangan pengetahuan dan minimnya dukungan institusional yang membuat para peneliti, terutama di perguruan tinggi yang kurang dana atau terpencil, menjadi rentan. Meskipun tidak berbasis data empiris, artikel ini menawarkan solusi yang realistis dan dapat diimplementasikan, seperti peningkatan pendidikan etika publikasi, penguatan regulasi, dan penyediaan akses terhadap alat bantu evaluasi jurnal seperti Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Think.Check.Submit., dan Cabells Predatory Reports. Dengan dukungan kelembagaan yang terkoordinasi dan pemanfaatan efektif alat-alat ini, Indonesia dapat melindungi integritas risetnya dan memberdayakan para peneliti untuk berkontribusi secara etis dalam wacana ilmiah global.

ABSTRACT

The growing trend of scientific publication in Indonesia has been accompanied by the troubling rise of predatory publishing—unethical practices that exploit researchers through deceptive editorial processes and financial motives. This paper examines key contributing factors, including the proliferation of open access journals, academic pressure to publish, lack of awareness regarding publishing ethics, and the influence of globalization and digital access. Drawing from national trends and recent initiatives, the article identifies gaps in knowledge and institutional support that leave researchers vulnerable, particularly those in underfunded or remote academic environments. While not based on empirical data, the study proposes realistic and actionable solutions such as improving ethical publishing education, enhancing regulatory oversight, and promoting access to journal vetting tools like DOAJ, Think.Check.Submit., and Cabells Predatory Reports. With coordinated institutional support and broader adoption of these tools, Indonesia can better safeguard research integrity and empower its scholars to contribute ethically to global scientific discourse.

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1. Introduction

Indonesia's scientific publication system has experienced substantial expansion in recent years, propelled by heightened research output and enhanced academic collaborations. Nevertheless, concurrent with this advancement, a significant concern has arisen: the proliferation of predatory

publication. Predatory publishing denotes unethical behaviors in which journals impose publication fees on contributors without offering genuine editorial or peer review services [1]. This issue has grown increasingly widespread, particularly in developing nations like as Indonesia, where researchers may be enticed by the prospect of rapid publication with minimal consideration for quality.

Indonesia, characterized by a swiftly evolving academic environment, has experienced a rise in the quantity of local journals indexed in foreign databases like Scopus [2]. Nonetheless, these developments have been followed by increasing apprehensions regarding the quality of publications, as a greater number of Indonesian scholars succumb to predatory publishers [3]. This is partially attributable to the pressure exerted on researchers and academic institutions to publish more frequently for career progression or funding opportunities, hence increasing their susceptibility to misleading journals [4].

Recent studies demonstrate that ignorance regarding predatory publishing, inadequate training in academic publishing, and insufficient regulatory monitoring greatly contribute to this issue in Indonesia [3]. Moreover, the intricate dynamics of academic publishing in the country frequently intensify the issue, as financial motivations may obscure researchers' discernment, resulting in involvement in dubious publication activities [5]. This essay seeks to elucidate Indonesia's scientific publication system, emphasizing the escalating issue of predatory publishing. The study will examine the factors influencing Indonesian researchers' participation in predatory publication and propose potential enhancements. This essay aims to enhance the discourse on fortifying the integrity and dependability of academic publication in Indonesia by analyzing the issue's extent and proposing practical remedies.

2. The Emergence of Predatory Publishing in Indonesia: Context and Underlying Factors

In Indonesia, the phenomenon of predatory publication has gained prominence over the last decade, coinciding with the expansion of the academic and research environment. The country has advanced its academic production but concurrently encountered issues with unethical publication methods. Predatory publishing in Indonesia, especially in scientific research, is not an isolated issue but a manifestation of wider institutional and cultural challenges within the research community. The proliferation of predatory journals in Indonesia is due to a confluence of local and global causes that intersect with the nation's educational policies, economic pressures, and the changing landscape of academic publication.

3. The Ascendancy of Open Access and Its Misappropriation in Indonesia

Open access publication has emerged as a significant model for scholarly journals globally, including Indonesia, which has experienced a swift increase in the number of open-access journals in recent years. The open-access concept aims to democratize research access and enhance academic exposure, although it has been misused by predatory publishers. These publishers exploit the heightened demand for expedited and accessible publication avenues, enabling researchers to disseminate their findings with little delays, but at a substantial cost.

For numerous Indonesian scholars, particularly those at impoverished universities or distant regions, publishing in esteemed foreign journals is frequently monetarily prohibitive. The appeal of open-access journals that guarantee rapid publishing without rigorous editing and peer-review procedures is a temptation that many struggle to resist. Angadi (2020) emphasizes that predatory publishers take use of the open-access approach to deceive unwary writers, frequently imposing substantial publication costs with minimal or no editorial scrutiny [6].

Within the Indonesian environment, the increasing prevalence of domestic open-access journals indexed in international databases like DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) has facilitated the proliferation of both legal and predatory publishers. Numerous scholars are misled into perceiving these journals as credible just due to their indexing in various directories; yet, the lack of stringent editorial procedures frequently categorizes them as predatory publications [7], [8]. Some national and institutional efforts have emerged to improve publishing literacy. For instance, the Indonesian Ministry of Research and Higher Education has collaborated with universities to conduct workshops and webinars on academic writing and publication ethics. Organizations such as Relawan Jurnal Indonesia (RJI) and the Indonesian Open Science Team have also played a pivotal role by offering journal accreditation guidance and training programs aimed at raising awareness of predatory journals. Despite these efforts, outreach remains uneven, with many researchers—particularly those at regional or newly established institutions—still lacking access to these vital resources [9].

4. Scholarly Pressures and Publication Requirements in Indonesia

A primary local catalyst for predatory publishing is the academic imperative to publish. In Indonesia, as in numerous developing nations, academic institutions and researchers are frequently evaluated based on the quantity of articles they produce in indexed journals, especially those that are

internationally esteemed. These articles are generally seen as indicators of research output, directly linked to career progression, funding eligibility, and institutional rankings [10].

The compulsion to fulfil publishing quotas may result in unethical decision-making, as academics emphasize quantity above quality to achieve institutional and personal objectives. Consequently, numerous Indonesian researchers, especially those facing stringent financial limitations, may be inclined to submit to journals that provide rapid acceptance and minimal publishing fees, often without comprehending the dangers associated with predatory publishing. The problem is exacerbated by the absence of centralized resources to assist researchers in assessing the reliability of journals prior to submitting their work.

Recent research indicates that junior professors and early-career researchers in Indonesia are more susceptible to predatory publications [3]. These researchers, motivated to meet publication criteria for advancement, frequently succumb to journals that guarantee rapid publication while lacking adequate editorial oversight.

5. Insufficient Education and Training on Ethical Publishing Practices

The proliferation of predatory publishing in Indonesia is closely associated with insufficient education and training regarding publishing ethics and standards. Despite advancements in academic development at Indonesian universities and research organizations, education in research ethics sometimes remains inadequate or absent. Researchers may lack sufficient training in the procedures pertinent to legitimate academic publishing, including comprehension of peer review, recognition of reputable journals, and evaluation of journal impact factors.

Research conducted by Indonesian researchers indicates that the majority of faculty members, particularly those affiliated with provincial or non-prestigious universities, possess inadequate resources to assess the authenticity of journals [5]. The absence of training renders researchers oblivious to the threats posed by predatory publishers, who exploit their naivety. As the demand for articles increases, these authors frequently fall into the predicament of selecting journals based on convenience rather than quality or reliability.

6. Economic Motivations for Predatory Publishers in Indonesia

Predatory publishers regard Indonesia as a profitable market owing to the nation's increasing research output and a comparatively low knowledge of predatory publishing practices. The financial motivations for these publications are considerable [11]. Authors incur significant publication costs, occasionally surpassing several million IDR, for the assurance of expedited publication in "indexed" journals. Regrettably, these publishers provide no substantial editorial services, including peer review or adequate copyediting, resulting in articles published in these journals frequently lacking the quality necessary for authentic academic discourse.

For several Indonesian researchers, particularly those with constrained financial resources or affiliated with underfunded universities, financing publishing in a predatory journal may appear to be the sole alternative. The availability of these publications, frequently promoted as open-access and devoid of conventional subscription obstacles, fosters a misleading impression of credibility. Many researchers are oblivious to the fact that they are financing a publication that will not significantly enhance their academic careers or the scientific community.

7. The Impact of the Internet and the Globalization of Academic Publishing

The internet has served as both an advantage and a disadvantage for Indonesian researchers. It has democratized access to academic knowledge, facilitating Indonesian scholars' access to worldwide research and the dissemination of their work. Conversely, it has enabled predatory publishers to function globally, targeting Indonesian researchers with misleading propositions. Predatory journals sometimes promote themselves through professional-looking websites, email solicitations, and adverts, complicating the ability of researchers to differentiate between credible publications and predatory entities.

The globalization of academic publishing has facilitated these publishers in targeting not only Indonesian researchers but also those from other developing nations. By utilizing the convenience of internet submission platforms, these publishers have broadened their reach and persist in capitalizing on deficiencies in knowledge and infrastructure in developing nations. Indonesian scholars, especially at underfunded institutions, are susceptible to this worldwide predicament [12].

8. Conclusion

The surge of predatory publishing in Indonesia is a result of the intersection of institutional factors—academic stress, limited resources, and unawareness. It will require strong measures in education, regulation, and institutional support to end it. By reinforcing ethical standards and empowering researchers with an education that enables them to deal with the world of academic publishing,

Indonesia can protect the integrity of science research in the country and promote responsible scholarship. The proposed solutions can be implemented in a practical way through collective action from government departments, universities, and research communities by leveraging networks and programs already in place to maximize effect, strengthen policy, and ensure lasting scholarly standards. Evaluation tools of journals like the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Think.Check.Submit., and Cabells Predatory Reports are just some of the resources utilized for these efforts. Institutions may also have internal whitelists or blacklists of journals, and provide open-access to publishing literacy modules and mentoring programs. With adequate promotion and embeddedness in research training, these resources can influence scholars' decisions and reduce the risk of being exploited by illegitimate outlets.

9. Author contributions

The author developed the concept for the brief communication, created the approach, and oversaw the entire process, including data gathering and analysis. The author wrote the first draft, created any relevant figures or tables, and edited the content for clarity and conciseness. All editing, including confirming compliance with publication standards, was done completely by the author.

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12. Konflik kepentingan

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13. Abbreviation

DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals
RJI - Relawan Jurnal Indonesia (Indonesian Journal Volunteers)
IDR - Indonesian Rupiah

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