

# African Journal of Reproductive Health

## Information for Authors

The African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) is a multidisciplinary and international journal that publishes original research, review articles, short reports, and commentaries on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The journal provides a forum for authors working on contemporary issues relevant to Africa and other low-to-middle-income countries to share findings on all aspects of sexual and reproductive health and rights and to disseminate innovative, relevant, and useful information in the discipline throughout the continent and globally.

The AJRH publishes manuscripts written in English. As published articles will also include abstracts published in French, manuscripts submitted should preferably include abstracts in French.

### Type of Articles

AJRH publishes original research, review articles, short reports, and commentaries. A cover page should accompany each manuscript and should include:

1. the **Title** and sub-title (running title of no more than 5 words);
2. the name(s) of the author(s);
3. the affiliation(s) of the author(s);
4. Corresponding author's email address
5. A non-structured abstract of not more than 150 words; and
6. three to six **Keywords** for indexing and retrieval purposes.

**Original Research** — The journal welcomes articles reporting on original research, including both quantitative and qualitative studies. The subject matter should be organized under appropriate headings and sub-headings: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Acknowledgements.

The maximum length should depend on the nature of article being submitted and the

Figures and/or Tables should not exceed five (5) e.g., 2 figures and 3 tables. Where any Table occupies a full page, no more than 4 tables and/or figures should be included.

**Review Articles** — Comprehensive review articles, including scoping, systematic reviews and meta-analysis on all aspects of reproductive health will also be considered for publication in the journal. Reviews should provide a thorough overview of the topic and should incorporate the most current research. The length of review articles and the organizational headings and sub-headings used are at the author's discretion.

**Short Reports** — Brief descriptions of preliminary research findings or interesting case studies will be considered for publication as short reports.

**Commentaries** — Commentaries or editorials on any aspect of sexual and reproductive health and rights will be considered for publication in the journal. Opinion pieces need not reference previous research, but rather reflect the opinions of the author(s).

### Plagiarism Policy

#### Definition

Plagiarism is the intentional use of other people's work or words without giving them credit.

#### Types

**Direct Plagiarism:** Word-for-word copying of a portion of another person's works without citation or acknowledgment.

**Self-Plagiarism:** Also known as auto-plagiarism, happens when an author reuses significant portions of previously published work without attribution or citing the initial source.

*Mosaic Plagiarism:* When an author uses statements from a source without using quotation marks or finds synonyms to replace the source statement while maintaining the general sentence structure. It is also known as “patchwriting.”

*Accidental Plagiarism:* Occurs when an author fails to cite their sources or misquotes or unintentionally paraphrases their origin by using the same words or groups of words, and sentence structure without citation.

### **Policy and Implementation**

The AJRH expects all authors submitting manuscripts to abide by ethical standards and refrain from plagiarism, in any form. Our Editors will investigate every suspected case of plagiarism before and after the publication of the manuscript.

When the text plagiarized is minor (less than 10% of the text), the author(s) will be given an opportunity to make the necessary corrections. When the piracy is extensive (greater than 10% of the text) the author(s) will be provided a chance to explain within two weeks. If no response is received from the author(s) after the deadline period, the manuscript will be rejected, and the authors will be barred for three years from submitting a manuscript to the journal. When an already published manuscript is found to be plagiarized, the article will be retracted from the AJRH and any third-party websites where the paper is listed and indexed.

### **Code of Publishing Conduct Policy**

The AJRH has adopted the best practice guidelines on the Code of Conduct for Journal Editors recommended by the Committee on Publication Ethics and published at the following link: [https://publicationethics.org/files/Code\\_of\\_conduct\\_for\\_journal\\_editors\\_Mar11.pdf](https://publicationethics.org/files/Code_of_conduct_for_journal_editors_Mar11.pdf)

### **Submission of Manuscripts**

**Format** — All manuscripts should be typed on A4 size with 1.25 inches margin on all sides

using the Times New Roman font size 12 for the entire text.

The AJRH abhors the stigmatization of people with a medical diagnosis, individuals with a disability, and the socioeconomically disadvantaged groups such as the homeless. Authors are required to use the people-first language when referring to these individuals. Additional information on the issue can be accessed at: <https://ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh/article/view/1703>

**Ethical Clearance** — Consistent with the ethical standards of the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards, authors submitting the findings of research investigation that involve human subjects, must include a statement in the Methodology Section to the fact that the protocol was approved by an institution’s Ethical Review Board or a Human Experimentation and Ethics Committee.

Authors may mail documents and manuscripts at the journal’s website: [www.ajrh.info](http://www.ajrh.info) or to the journal’s editorial office at the following address:

The Editor

African Journal of Reproductive Health, Women’s Health and Action Research Centre, Igue-Iheyra Village, Benin-Lagos Express Road P. O. Box 10231, Ugbowo, Benin City, Nigeria.

E-mail:

[africanjournalofreproductiveH@gmail.com](mailto:africanjournalofreproductiveH@gmail.com)

No faxed submissions will be accepted.

A cover letter must accompany the manuscript certifying that the article has not been previously published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere should be included at the time of submission.

**Abstract** — Articles and short reports should be accompanied by an abstract of not more than 150 words. The abstract should be unstructured in one paragraph and should

provide a concise description of the objectives of the study, methods used, and major findings and conclusion.

**Body** — The body of manuscripts reporting on original research should be organized under appropriate headings and sub-headings such as Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and references. Authors of review articles and short reports are requested to organize the body of their manuscripts using headings and sub-headings appropriate to the material and discipline represented.

**Tables and figures:** Use 11 points font size all through. Data in Tables MUST be provided in the cells inside Tables and aligned to the left. The Tables should be in single line paragraphing and 0| spacing. An example is shown in Table 1

**Table 1:** Distribution of educational status

Educational level	Number (%)
Non-literate	3,043 (61.5)
Completed primary	986 (19.9)
Completed secondary	585 (11.8)

The use of TABS and spacing between lines using line should be avoided. Attempts should be made to stretch. Any Table that can fit into half column of a page must not be stretched into the entire width of the page. Tables must be in the usual format. Authors must not use spaces to create a demarcation between lines inside the table. Coloured tables and figures may be reprinted in black and white unless the authors indicate they want them in coloured print. In which case, the cost will be borne by the author.

**Figures:** Images should preferably be reduced to a width of about half of A4 size paper (with 1.25 inches margins) with very clear text (if any) of about 9-12 points. Larger images are acceptable provided that the sizes are justifiable and if there is a need to reduce the sizes, any text will not be less than 9 points in size when reduced. As much as possible, figures labels should be such that they should

not be less than 9 points in size when reduced to a width of about 2.5 inches. All images (pictures) must be of high resolution and of sufficient quality for both archival and print purposes. Images in which colors are not realistic, the text is illegible, or images are pixilated will be rejected.

Unless the authors are prepared to pay for the printing of the pages of the journal with colored images in their articles in colors, all images should be presented in black and white or gray format.

**Acknowledgements:** should be included on a separate sheet of paper and should not exceed 100 words. Funding sources should be noted here.

#### **Citing of References outside text**

Use numbers in superscript. The number should appear after the punctuation mark (e.g. Previous reports justify the need for this work.<sup>5-8</sup>) and not before a comma or period.

**References** — References should be numbered in the order in which they occur in the text. These numbers should be inserted above the line on each occasion a reference is cited (e.g., . . . as noted in other studies.<sup>1-4</sup>). Numbered references should appear at the end of the article and should include the names and

initials of all authors. The format of references should be as published by the International Committee of Medical Journals in the edition of the British Medical Journal 1988, volume 296, pages 401-405.

The following are sample references for an article published in a journal and for a book:

- Nichols D, Ladipo OA, Paxman JM, Otolorin EO. Sexual behaviour, contraceptive practice, and reproductive health among Nigerian adolescents. *Stud Fam Plann* 1986; 17(2): 100-6.
- Oppong C. Responsible fatherhood and birth planning. In: Oppong C (Ed.). *Sex Roles, Population, and Development in*

West Africa. New Hampshire: Heinemann, 1987, 165-78.

### **Author(s) Guarantee Form**

All authors will be asked to complete and submit an author(s) guarantee form certifying that all authors named have contributed sufficiently to the work submitted and that the content of the manuscript has neither been

previously published nor being considered for publication elsewhere.

### **Publication Charge**

Authors of manuscripts accepted for publication will be required to pay a publication charge of US\$500.00 before the accepted article is published.

E-mail : africanjournalofproductiveH@gmail.com

Aucune soumission télécopiée ne sera acceptée.

Une lettre d'accompagnement doit accompagner le manuscrit certifiant que l'article n'a pas été publié précédemment et n'est pas envisagé pour publication ailleurs. Elle doit être incluse au moment de la soumission.

**Résumé** — Les articles et les brefs rapports doivent être accompagnés d'un résumé ne dépassant pas 150 mots. Le résumé ne doit pas être structuré en un seul paragraphe et doit fournir une description concise des objectifs de l'étude, des méthodes utilisées, ainsi que des principales constatations et conclusions.

**Corps** — Le corps des manuscrits rendant compte de la recherche originale doit être organisé sous des titres et sous-titres appropriés tels que Introduction, Méthodes, Résultats, Discussion et références. Les auteurs d'articles de synthèse et de courts rapports sont priés d'organiser le corps de leurs manuscrits en utilisant des titres et des sous-titres appropriés au matériel et à la discipline représentés.

**Tableaux et figures** : Utilisez une taille de police de 11 points partout. Les données des tableaux DOIVENT être fournies dans les cellules des tableaux et alignées à gauche. Les tableaux doivent être rédigés en paragraphes sur une seule ligne et avec un espacement de 0. Un exemple est présenté dans le tableau 1.

**Tableau 1:** Répartition du statut scolaire

Niveau d'études	Nombre (%)
Analphabètes	3, 043 (61,5)
Primaire terminée	986 (19,9)
Secondaire terminé	585 (11,8)

The use of TABS and spacing between lines using line should be avoided. Attempts should be made to stretch. Any Table that can fit into half column of a page must not be stretched into the entire width of the page. Tables must be in the usual format. Authors must not use spaces to create a demarcation between lines inside the table. Coloured tables and figures may be reprinted in black and white unless the authors indicate they want them in coloured prin. In which case, the cost will be borne by the author.

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