

# National to Global: The Transformative Journey of Our JEET

**Dr. Sushma Kulkarni<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Hemlata V. Gaikwad<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Vice Chancellor, NICMAR University, Pune, MH, India

<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies,  
Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune, MH, India

In The Evolving Landscape Of Academic Publishing, Few Stories Are As Inspiring As The Metamorphosis Of A Humble National Journal Into A Globally Recognized Platform For Scholarly Work. Our Journey With The Journal—now A Reputable Q2 Scopus-indexed Publication—has Been One Of Vision, Persistence, And Unwavering Dedication To The Cause Of Engineering Education. What Began As A Modest Publication Primarily Catering To Regional Academic Circles Has Blossomed Into A Dynamic, International Journal Making Significant Contributions To Research In Engineering Education.

## **The inception: A modest beginning**

The Journal Was Originally Founded By Late Dr. N.v. Ratnalikar Established Over Three Decades Ago, As “journal Of Engineering Education” [1], With Support Of Engineering Education Foundation, Serving As A Platform For Disseminating Work In Engineering And Technical Education Within A Limited Academic Network. Though Rich In Potential And Backed By Dedicated Scholars, The Journal Faced Several Challenges: Limited Reach, Inconsistent Quality Of Submissions, Lack Of Visibility, And Absence From Major Indexing Databases, Not Because Of Potential, But Because Of It Being Single Handed By The Founder Who Took It As A Child. It Was A Publication With Heart—but One That Needed A Strategic Overhaul To Achieve Global Relevance And Academic Impact. With Growing Age .it Was Becoming Difficult For Him To Handle And

The He Took A Decision To Hand It Over To The Present Editor Dr. Sushma Kulkarni And Her Team [1].

Our Team, Comprising Academicians And Researchers Passionate About Engineering Education, Recognized This Potential. With Experience In Academic And Subject Expertise, We Decided To Take Over The Journal With A Clear Set Of Objectives: Internationalization, Academic Rigor, Technological Enhancement, And Visibility.it Was A Baby Being Adopted For Us.

## **The takeover: strategic realignment**

Our First Step Was To Secure The Formal Rights And Institutional Backing To Assume Control Of The Journal. With The Support Of The Original Editorial Board And Our Host Institution, We Began A Detailed Review Of The Journal's Existing Systems, Policies, And Procedures. It Was Immediately Clear That If We Were To Elevate The Journal's Status, We Had To Think Beyond Incremental Improvement. What Was Needed Was A Strategic Transformation.

We Restructured The Editorial Board, Bringing In Experts From Diverse Geographies And Disciplines, All With Proven Track Records In The Domain Of Engineering Education. This International Representation Not Only Lent Credibility But Also Ensured A Variety Of Perspectives In The Review And Curation Processes.

Next Came The Overhaul Of The Peer Review Process. We Moved Towards A Double-blind Review System To Enhance Impartiality And Instituted Clear Guidelines For Authors And Reviewers. Submission Quality Was Prioritized Over Quantity, And We Set High Standards For Methodological Rigor, Relevance, And Originality.

### **Internationalization: Expanding Horizons**

Making The Journal International Was Not Just About Geographical Diversity In Contributors; It Was About Creating A Platform That Addressed Global Issues In Engineering Education. Our Collaboration With Indo-universal Collaboration For Engineering Education Made It Possible. We Published Thematic Issues On Emerging Topics Such As Sustainability In Engineering Curricula, Digital Pedagogy, Ai In Education, Diversity And Inclusion In Stem, And Industry-academia Collaboration Models. These Special Issues Attracted High-quality Submissions From Across Continents, Enabling Us To Foster A Global Dialogue.

We Initiated Outreach Efforts Through Academic Networks, Conferences, And Calls For Papers. By Presenting At Key Education Forums And Collaborating With Engineering Education Societies, We Built Visibility And Trust. The Journal's Media Presence And Digital Discoverability Were Also Improved, Making It More Accessible To Scholars Around The World.

One Of Our Turning Points Came When We Began Receiving Unsolicited Submissions From All Countries Across Globe . These Were Signs That The Journal Had Crossed The Threshold From Being A Regional Outlet To Becoming An International One.

### **Quality control and technological upgrades**

An Integral Part Of Our Success Lay In Embracing Digital Technologies. We Adopted A Robust Manuscript Management System That Streamlined The Entire Editorial Process—from Submission To Review To Publication. Turnaround Times Were Reduced, And Authors Were Kept Informed At Every Stage. We Introduced Plagiarism Checks, Metadata Standards, And Digital Object Identifiers (dois) For Each Article To Ensure Academic Integrity And Traceability.

To Further Enhance Quality, We Instituted An

Annual Audit Of Editorial Processes And Reviewer Performance. A Structured Feedback System Helped Us Refine Practices Continuously. We Also Invested In Professional Language Editing And Formatting To Bring The Journal In Line With International Standards.

We Maintained A Firm Editorial Stance: Only Work That Met Our Stringent Criteria For Innovation, Clarity, And Scholarly Contribution Would Be Accepted. Rejection Rates Rose, But So Did The Journal's Reputation.

Getting Indexed In Scopus Was Not Merely A Goal—it Was A Milestone That Validated Our Efforts And Gave Us Global Visibility. The Application Process Was Rigorous And Required A Demonstration Of Sustained Quality, International Reach, Citation Impact, And Ethical Publishing Practices.

We Submitted Our Application To Scopus In 2016, After Three Years Of Sustained Quality Publishing And Strategic Positioning. We Had Already Seen Growing Citations, And Our Editorial Board Now Featured Experts From Different Countries. With Well-documented Review Procedures, Ethical Compliance, And Consistent Publishing History, We Were Confident Yet Prepared For A Long Wait.

To Our Delight, After A Long Wait Of Two Years , We Received The Confirmation In 2018: The Journal Had Been Accepted Into The Scopus Database. This Moment Was A Vindication Of The Tireless Work Our Team Had Put In. Scopus Indexing Transformed The Journal's Stature Overnight, Making It A Desirable Venue For Researchers Seeking High Visibility And Impact.

### **Achieving Q2 Status: A Dream Realized**

Once Indexed, We Knew The Next Benchmark Would Be Inclusion In Scopus Quartiles. These Quartiles Are Determined Based On Various Citation Metrics And Field-specific Performance. Climbing These Ranks Requires Not Just Consistent Publishing But Impactful Publishing—articles That Are Cited, Discussed, And Drive Scholarly Discourse.

Over The Next Two Years, We Focused On Increasing Article Visibility And Quality. We Encouraged Post-publication Promotion, Indexed Our Content In Institutional Repositories, And

Collaborated With Authors To Disseminate Their Work More Effectively. The Result Was A Steady Increase In Citation Counts And Downloads.

Now In April 2025, When We Received News That The Journal Had Moved Into Q2—signaling A Strong Mid-tier Performance—we Were Ecstatic. It Meant We Had Not Just Created A Journal But A Journal Of Consequence. In A Niche Like Engineering Education, This Is No Small Feat, Indicating The Consistent Efforts Of The Team Jeet.

### Community and collaboration

One Of The Aspects We Are Most Proud Of Is The Sense Of Community The Journal Has Fostered. We Are Not Just A Publication Outlet; We Are A Hub For Academic Collaboration. We Host Webinars, Panel Discussions, And Even Annual Paper Awards Through Our Signature Conference Ictee To Recognize Excellence In Research. This Engagement Has Built Loyalty And A Steady Stream Of Quality Submissions.

We Have Also Worked Actively To Mentor Young Researchers, Providing Detailed Feedback And Editorial Support. For Many, Our Journal Was The First International Publication, And We Take Pride In Being Part Of Their Academic Journey.

### Looking ahead: the future of the journal

While We Have Come Far, Our Journey Is Far From Over. The Goal Now Is To Consolidate Our Q2 Position And Strive For Q1 Status And Also Getting

Indexed In Web Of Science Database. This Will Require Not Just Maintaining But Elevating Our Standards.

Moreover, We Are Aiming For Wide Dissemination, Ensuring That Our Content Reaches Educators And Policymakers In All Corners Of The World.

Our Aspiration Is Not Merely To Be A Journal That Publishes Research—but A Journal That Shapes Practice And Policy In Engineering Education. In Doing So, We Hope To Contribute To Building More Responsive, Inclusive, And Innovative Systems Of Technical Education Globally.

### Final Reflections

Transforming A National Journal Into An International, Scopus-indexed, Q2-ranked Publication In A Niche Area Like Engineering Education Is Not Merely About Editorial Policies Or Publishing Mechanics. It Is About Vision, Leadership, And A Commitment To Excellence.

This Journey Has Been A Collective One—driven By An Exceptional Editorial Team, Dedicated Reviewers, Supportive Institutions, And A Vibrant Community Of Authors And Readers. Each Article Published Is A Testament To Our Belief In The Transformative Power Of Education And Research.

We Look Back Not Just With Pride, But With Gratitude—and Look Ahead With Hope And Ambition.

### References

The Journal Of Engineering Education : It's Journey From Issue No. 1 To 100 And 106 And Beyond, Journal Of Engineering Education Transformations, Volume 27, No. 4, July-2014,

