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An Act of Resistance: The Role of Local Journals

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When I was an undergraduate student, the idea of students publishing their research was almost unheard of among my peers. Writing a scientific paper, submitting it to a journal, and receiving feedback from reviewers felt distant, a process reserved for established scientists. My first experience with publication was only possible thanks to an extraordinary mentor who guided and encouraged me through every step. Even with that support, it felt like stepping into unfamiliar and unwelcoming territory. Not all first-time authors are lucky enough to have such guidance, and it should not be necessary.

Local journals can make this path less daunting. They are not only publication outlets but learning spaces, where new researchers begin to understand how scientific communication works. When editors and reviewers approach their work as mentors rather than gatekeepers, the editorial process becomes less about fear and more about growth. This is where young scientists learn that science is a dialogue they are invited to join.

Behind every published article there are students, mentors, and collaborators who have invested time, curiosity, and passion into understanding a fragment of the cosmos. The editorial process is where those efforts meet another set of invisible collaborators: editors and reviewers. Their work, if done correctly, allows a journal to function as a space for exchange. The tone of a review, the clarity of feedback, the respect shown toward an early-career researcher shape how people experience science. When handled with care, this process builds trust, not only in the journal, but in science itself.

Beyond their educational role, local journals sustain the scientific ecosystems in which they exist. They give visibility to local research, studies that address the specific challenges, biodiversity, and cultures of their region. They are places where science meets its own landscape and allows data and context to converge. Publishing locally connects scientific practice to the realities that surround it and ensures that knowledge flows back into the community where it is based.

When we talk about scientific impact, we often look outward: to impact factors, international collaborations, and citations. But there is another kind of impact, quieter and harder to measure, the impact of a young scientist encouraged to publish for the first time and join the scientific conversation; the impact of a paper that informs local policy or education; the impact of collaboration between neighboring institutions working toward the same goal. Local journals make those impacts possible. They hold space for science that speaks to its own territory and responds to its own needs.

In today's publishing environment, where predatory journals exploit the pressure to publish, the presence of trustworthy, community-oriented outlets is more valuable than ever. These journals do not compete for prestige; they earn respect through



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transparency, integrity, and care, promoting a scientific practice where publication is not a transaction, but a conversation. Local journals grounded in academic integrity and shared purpose protect the essence of science as a collective endeavor. They remind us that publishing is not merely about producing papers, but about fostering understanding, curiosity, and connection.

Ultimately, the value of local journals lies in the kind of science they help create, science that is transparent, inclusive, and responsive to its context. Their goal is to strengthen a culture of collaboration over competition, and curiosity over prestige: a science that is, above all, humane. For those of us involved in the editorial process, this is both a responsibility and a privilege.

Local journals are, in the end, acts of resistance. They stand as proof that rigorous and meaningful research can emerge anywhere people are willing to observe carefully, think critically, and share openly. By valuing context, collaboration, and accessibility, local journals remind us that good science is not defined by where it is published, but by the quality of its questions and the care with which it seeks answers.