

Save the Earth, Let's go Green

The times have changed. Print media has also changed its colors. The earth is spoilt by us. It continues to get spoilt further with our actions, with our practices and our will to hoard more and more. All over the world efforts are made to save the earth. In our schools, children are told how make their parents understand the new concepts. The concept of being green is coming up and has taken the world by storm. Everyone of us has to make an impact and do our part. Trees make a lot of difference to our lives we all know. To prevent trees from falling and planting more trees is our motto. Somewhere there lies the point I wish to make. Save the trees, use less paper. Hence, use the modern media, the electronic media to send articles, review articles and read them too. Why not try to reduce the use of paper, hence making less trees to be felled and making the earth greener, let it only be a drop in the ocean, every drop counts.

You would notice a lot of change in the guidelines for the contributors. We have tried to omit the requirement of sending the hard copies of the articles submitted for publication. Similarly, I would also request most of our reviewers to be modern and use the electronic modes for reviewing the articles unless it is absolutely mandatory to send to such a reviewer who is not familiar or comfortable with this media, only then we shall use the articles printed on paper. Thus economizing on everything as far as we can.

From here comes something more. Can we dispense with the need for printing the journal. I don't think that we can do that entirely. It would mean a lot of change in the world we live in. I don't think that it is the time that we can have only the electronic version of the journal even though the future may guide us to do only that. We have not reached that stage as yet. It might come in the near future. Perhaps we may start doing that from now in a phased manner. I remember, the Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development, brought out by the Veterans Administration, many years ago announced that there are two things that make a lot of impact on the finances required to support the journal. One is the printing cost and second is the postage. Now we have also realized that paper cost is not just drained from the pockets of the publisher but also drains the resources of the earth. Keeping that idea in mind, I am proposing an idea to all the members of the association. I understand that as per the membership rules, all life members of IAPMR are supposed to get the journal for their lives, free of cost. I would like to respect that. But

let us also respect the earth, our mother, which gives everything to us. Let us do our part by saving the earth by saving trees. Those of us who are good net users and are comfortable to read the journal online, why not do our part by opting out of the print copies of the journal. The journal shall be available on the net. We can read it, download and print the copies if needed to be attached somewhere with applications etc. It would save us not only the trees but the precious space on the earth needed to store the print version. Not just the space on the earth but look at the limited space in your almirahs in your homes or offices. You would consider it a disrespect to throw old copies of the journal which are 'occupying' precious space you would like to keep something else.

Those of us, who agree to be a part of 'save the earth' campaign and would like to opt out of receiving the print copies of the journal may please write an email to me (EditorIJPMR@gmail.com) and say that they would not like to have the hard copy of the journal. I shall thank them and not send them any copy. It is purely voluntary.

The print copies shall still be printed and sent to those who do not opt out and also to those who have subscribed and to the libraries where I think it is still needed. It shall be continued to be printed till the time the whole world wakes up to this. Maybe, where internet cannot reach, in future we may even think of sending the CDs or similar things that come up in the future.

I am sure that many of us would like to do this little thing for the sake of all of us, for humanity. I shall be waiting. More suggestions are welcome.

I am not sure how many would read this. But still I am hopeful that those who care would read and act too. I shall feel fortunate to have initiated this if most of us agree.

Don't forget to send me an email either to opt out of receiving the print copies or for any suggestions. If I don't receive a positive no from any, they shall feel assured that they shall continue to get the print copies as always. Just think of the earth, postage, storage space and what not. I propose to start this from the October 2009 issue.

Thanks very much for reading this to this end. Do your part in saving the earth.

*Dr U Singh
Editor*