



Recent National Medical Commission Guidelines for the Promotion of Medical Educators in India

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I read an informative article titled “Indexing of Journals and Indices of Publications” in your journal. The article provided a detailed overview of journal indexing and various journal-, author-, and article-level metrics.¹ To support and update the discussion, I would like to share a brief note on the difference between an “indexing database” and a “bibliographic database,” as well as the latest publication criteria set by the National Medical Commission of India.

Indexing databases primarily focus on organizing and making research searchable by indexing metadata such as titles, abstracts, keywords, and subjects, but they do not track citations or provide bibliometric analysis (e.g., PubMed, Directory of Open Access Journals). In contrast, bibliographic databases go beyond indexing by providing detailed citation information, references, and often citation tracking and bibliometric analysis to assess research impact (e.g., Scopus, Web of Science). Some databases serve both functions, as they index research while also offering citation tracking and bibliometric tools (e.g., Scopus, Web of Sci-

ence, Embase).^{2,3} ▶ **Table 1** shows the difference between “indexing database” and “bibliographic database.”

The National Medical Commission (NMC) in India has established specific guidelines for medical faculty promotions, requiring research publications that meet certain standards. The criteria were changed five times after its first guidelines started in 2009, and medical teachers have witnessed a rollercoaster ride over the years.^{4,5} The NMC has published the latest guidelines as “Teachers Eligibility Qualifications in Medical Institutions Regulations, 2024 (TEQ-2024)” on January 17, 2025, and is waiting for government gazette publication. The date when it will be published, the regulations will come in force.⁶ ▶ **Table 2** presents the criteria over the years from 2009. For the latest and most detailed criteria, faculty members should always refer to the official NMC website or official notifications.

Institutes of national importance such as All India Institute of Medical Sciences or Postgraduate Institute of Medical

Table 1 Difference between indexing database and bibliographic database

Aspect	Indexing database	Bibliographic database
Definition	Provides citations and basic metadata to help locate resources	Provides detailed bibliographic records, including abstracts, citations, and other metadata
Purpose	Helps users find where information is located	Provides comprehensive details about publications and supports citation analysis
Content	Basic metadata (e.g., title, author, publication date). May include abstracts	Detailed metadata, including abstracts, keywords, and citation information
Use case	Quick searches to locate resources	In-depth research, citation tracking, and impact analysis
Examples	Google Scholar, PubMed, IEEE Xplore	Web of Science, Scopus, Embase

Abbreviation: IEEE, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

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Table 2 Minimum criteria for promotion of medical teachers in terms of publication working in colleges under the National Medical Commission in India

Effective date	Step 1 (n)	Step 2 (n)	Type of article	Author number	Circulation	Database	Type of journal
December 15, 2009	2	2	Research publication	First	National society (specialty)	Not mentioned	Not mentioned
November 4, 2010	2	2	Research paper	First, second	Indexed, national	Indexed (but no details)	Not mentioned
September 3, 2015	2	2	Original research article or original research paper	First, second	National, international (specialty), indexed	MEDLINE, PMC, Scopus, Embase, Index Copernicus	Printed
June 8, 2017	2	2	Research publication	First, corresponding	National, international	MEDLINE, PMC, Scopus, Embase, Index Copernicus	Printed
February 17, 2020	1	2	Original paper, systematic review, meta-analysis, case series, research project	First, second, third, corresponding	Not mentioned	DOAJ, MEDLINE, PMC, SCIE, Scopus, Embase	Not mentioned
February 22, 2022	2	2	Original paper, systematic review, meta-analysis, case series	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	DOAJ, MEDLINE, PMC, SCIE, Scopus, Embase	Not mentioned
2025 ^a	2	2	Original paper, systematic review, meta-analysis, case series	First, second, third	Not mentioned	DOAJ, MEDLINE, PMC, SCI, SCIE, Scopus, Embase	Not mentioned

Abbreviations: DOAJ, Directory of Open Access Journals; PMC, PubMed Central.

Notes: "Science Citation Index (SCI)" was merged with "Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)." Step 1: Assistant professor to associate professor. Step 2: Associate professor to professor. ^aYet to be published in the government gazette and the effective date will be date of publication in the government gazette.

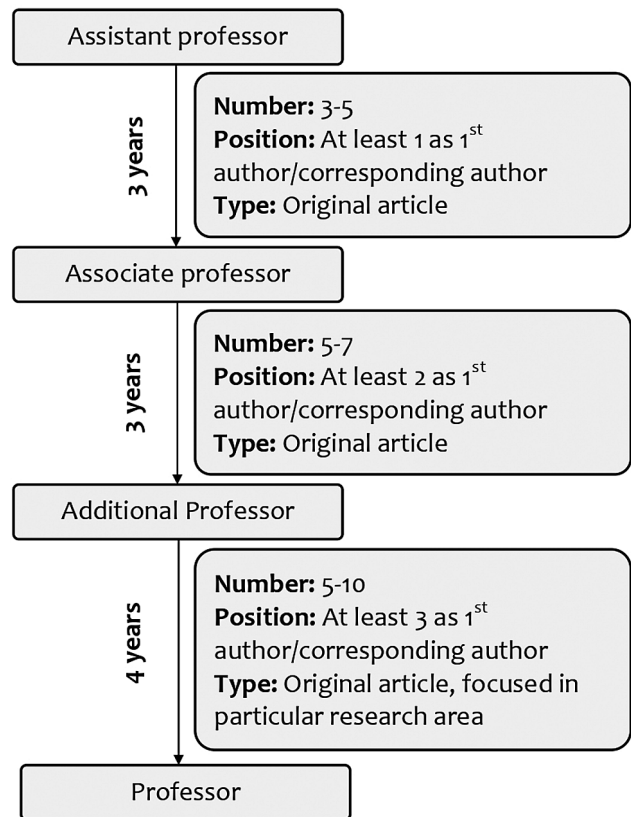


Fig. 1 Recommended publications for promotion of medical faculty in institute of national importance according to Dr. Sneha Bhargava Committee Report (only PubMed indexed articles are accepted).

Education and Research are autonomous institutions. They follow their own guidelines for faculty promotion. However, most institutions follow the Dr. Sneha Bhargava Committee Report or its derivatives according to the institution's policy.⁷ The requirement of publications for the assessment promotion scheme according to the Bhargava Committee is summarized in ► **Fig. 1**.

Conflict of Interest

None declared.

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