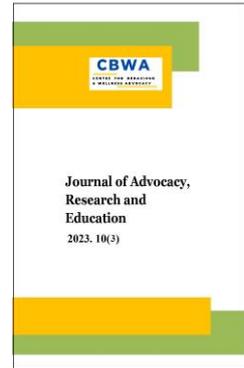




Publisher: Centre for Behaviour and Wellness Advocacy, Ghana  
Co-publisher: Cherkas Global University, USA  
Has been issued since 2014  
ISSN 2410-4981. E-ISSN 2508-1055  
2023. 10(3): 106-109

DOI: 10.13187/jare.2023.3.106

Journal homepage:  
<http://kadint.net/our-journal.html>



## Editorial

### From 2014 to 2024: Celebrating a Decade of Open Access

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#### Abstract

The Journal of Advocacy, Research and Education (JARE) was started in 2014 by the then KAD International (now Centre for Behaviour and Wellness Advocacy, Ghana) to promote free Open Access publishing opportunities. In 2024, the JARE will be celebrating a decade of publishing quality peer-reviewed scholarly papers across the globe. Today, the JARE has evolved as one of the fastest-growing journals in Ghana, Africa, with an international outlook. The JARE boasts of distinguished authors from 24 countries across five continents. So far, we celebrate authors from Africa (44.26 %), Asia (8.28), Europe (16.26 %), North America (4.84 %), and the Middle East (0.35 %). With a commendable track record of consistent publications, we have committed to promoting open access and securing comprehensive funding to aid all our contributors. As we commemorate our 10th anniversary of disseminating scientific knowledge without financial, geopolitical, or institutional constraints in 2024, we reflect on the accomplishments of our journal and editorial team. We appreciate all regulatory bodies and funding partners for their unwavering support. Collaboratively, we aspire to elevate the JARE to the pinnacle, making it the leading choice for researchers, academics, students, practitioners, policymakers, and anyone engaged in creating or consuming research outputs.

**Keywords:** Centre for Behaviour and Wellness Advocacy, Journal of Advocacy, Research and Education, open access, publishing.

#### 1. Historical Overview

The Journal of Advocacy, Research and Education (JARE) began in October 2014 as an initiative by KAD International [now the Centre for Behaviour and Wellness Advocacy]. As a charity organisation, our main source of funding was from Cherkas Global University Press (Washington, District of Columbia, USA). Beginning with seven articles from Ghana and the Russian Federation, our journal has kept to its aim of becoming one of the best multidisciplinary journals in the world (KAD International, 2014).

Currently, the JARE boasts of regularly released volumes/issues in April, August, and December, with authors from Africa (44.26 %), Asia (8.28), Europe (16.26 %), North America

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(4.84 %), and the Middle East (0.35 %) (see [Table 1](#)). Specifically, we have authors from 24 countries: Canada, China, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, South Korea, Tanzania, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe. Notably, the leading contributors to our publication are Ghana, Ukraine, South Africa, Russia, the United States of America, and Nigeria ([KAD International, 2023a](#)).

In addition to our diverse authors, the JARE is indexed by reputable databases and regulatory bodies like Crossref (USA), Directory of Open Access Journal (Sweden), EBSCOhost Electronic Journals Service [EJS] (USA), Research4Life (Hinari, AGORA, ARDI, GOALI & OARE), Sherpa Romeo (Spain), and ROAD, the Directory of Open Access scholarly Resources ([KAD International, 2023b](#)). Aside from these indexes, the JARE is indexed by the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (Italy), Electronic scientific library (Russian Federation), Electronic Journals Library – Social Science Research Center Berlin (Germany), EuroPub (UK), Ghent University Library (Belgium), Google Scholar, HOLLIS (Harvard Library) (USA), IKCEST under UNESCO (China), Institute of Information Sciences (Slovenia), Leibniz Information Centre for Science and Technology and University Library (Germany), Let Pub (China), Open Academic Journals Index (USA), Society of African Journal Editors (Africa), Southeast University Library (China), Système Universitaire de Documentation (France), Trove (Australia), University of Jyväskylä (Finland), University of Oulu (Finland), Vancouver Public Library (Canada), and Zhejiang University [China] ([KAD International, 2023b](#)). Presently, the JARE is one of the journals accredited by South Africa’s Department of Higher Education and Training and is part of national libraries in countries like Ghana and the National Library of Myanmar ([KAD International, 2023b](#)). This editorial aims to share key lessons from our years of embracing open access as a journal based in Ghana, Africa.

**Table 1.** Summary of Continents and Authors

Continent	Authors	Percentage (%)
<b>Africa</b>	128	44.26
<b>Asia</b>	24	8.28
<b>Europe</b>	47	16.26
<b>North America</b>	14	4.84
<b>Middle East</b>	1	0.35

Notes: Percentages are rounded to two decimal places, and the total may not add up to exactly 100 % due to rounding.

## 2. Our Achievements, Challenges, and Overcoming Strategies

As we reflect on the past nine years, the JARE have made massive strides in open access and reshaped the landscape of scholarly communication as a multidisciplinary journal focusing on advocacy. Based in a low-resourced country, the JARE have faced unique challenges and opportunities in navigating these transformative years. From our database from October 2014 to August 2023, the JARE boasts 289 authors affiliated with institutions based in five continents (see [Table 2](#) for details). In Africa, the JARE has published papers from authors from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. Out of the African countries, our top three with the most papers are Ghana, South Africa, and Nigeria. Aside from having authors from seven African countries, we have published papers from eight Asian countries: China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, and Vietnam. However, India, Indonesia, and China are the top three Asian countries. In Europe, our authors came from Germany, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. Also, we had our top three out of our six European authors from Romania, Russia, and Ukraine. Furthermore, the rest of our authors were based in North America (Canada and the USA) and the Middle East (United Arab Emirates).

In addition to our scholarly achievement, the JARE has faced challenges over the years. As the journal approaches its 10th anniversary in 2024, its journey from a low-resourced country has been marked by various challenges, each of which has been met with strategic solutions. Here are some key challenges faced by JARE over the years and the corresponding overcoming strategies:

**Table 2.** Summary of Continents, Country and Authors

<b>Continent</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Authors</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Africa</b>	Ghana	81	28.03
	Zimbabwe	2	0.69
	Kenya	2	0.69
	Nigeria	13	4.49
	Tanzania	6	2.07
	Ethiopia	2	0.69
	South Africa	24	8.28
<b>Asia</b>	Vietnam	1	0.35
	India	9	3.10
	Indonesia	3	1.03
	China	6	2.07
	Malaysia	1	0.35
	Philippines	2	0.69
	Japan	1	0.35
	South Korea	1	0.35
<b>Europe</b>	United Kingdom	1	0.35
	Germany	1	0.35
	Russia	10	3.45
	Romania	2	0.69
	Serbia	1	0.35
<b>North America</b>	Ukraine	31	10.69
	Canada	1	0.35
<b>Middle East</b>	USA	13	4.49
	United Arab Emirates	1	0.35

Notes: The percentages are rounded to two decimal places and may not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding.

### **Financial Constraints**

**Challenge:** Being based in a low-resourced country, the JARE has faced challenges since 2014 in securing financial resources for publishing, marketing, and maintaining high editorial standards.

**Overcoming Strategy:** The JARE sought external funding through partnerships with international organisations, academic institutions, and research foundations like Cherkas Global University Press (Washington, District of Columbia, USA). Additionally, we initiated the implementation of cost-effective publishing practices to alleviate financial constraints.

### **Global Visibility and Recognition**

**Challenge:** Establishing and enhancing global visibility and recognition for a journal in Ghana, Africa, was a hurdle in attracting diverse and high-quality submissions. It was a major challenge as the period of JARE's establishment was met with an influx of predatory journals promising open access to authors.

**Overcoming Strategy:** JARE engaged in strategic marketing and networking efforts, actively participating in international conferences and forming partnerships with established journals and academic bodies. This helped in building credibility and expanding the journal's reach.

### **Capacity Building and Expertise**

**Challenge:** Resource limitations presented challenges in developing and retaining a pool of qualified editors, reviewers, and technical staff.

**Overcoming Strategy:** The JARE currently depends on editors, reviewers, and technical staff willing to provide free services. Also, the journal prioritised capacity-building initiatives, providing training programs for our experts. We also secured collaborations with experienced professionals and mentorship programmes to enhance the quality of the journal's productivity.

### **Quality Assurance and Editorial Integrity**

Challenge: Maintaining rigorous peer review standards and ensuring editorial integrity without significant financial resources was a constant challenge.

Overcoming Strategy: JARE implemented robust editorial policies, emphasising the importance of ethical research practices. Collaborating with renowned scholars and experts in the field as part of the editorial board contributed to upholding quality standards.

### **4. Declarations**

#### **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

Not applicable.

#### **Consent for publication**

Not applicable.

#### **Availability of data and materials**

Not applicable.

#### **Conflict of interest statement**

The author reports no conflicts of interest.

#### **Funding**

Not applicable.

### **Acknowledgements**

I thank the Centre for Behaviour and Wellness Advocacy, Ghana, for their editing support.

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