



## TYPES OF MANUSCRIPTS ACCEPTED

JARD (Journal of Applied Research & Development) publishes scholarly and practice-oriented manuscripts that contribute to research, policy formulation, and development practice. The journal welcomes submissions across disciplines, with a strong emphasis on African and global development contexts.

### 1. Research Articles

Research Articles present original, unpublished research findings that advance theoretical understanding or provide empirical evidence on a clearly defined research problem. These articles must demonstrate methodological rigor, analytical depth, and scholarly originality. Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods approaches are all acceptable.

Manuscripts should normally follow the IMRAD structure (Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion), concluding with implications for research, policy, or practice. The recommended length is 6,000–8,000 words, excluding references.

Examples of acceptable Research Articles include:

- i. “The Impact of Solar Energy Adoption on Health Service Delivery in Rural Malawi”
- ii. “Determinants of Youth Unemployment in Southern Africa: Evidence from Household Survey Data”
- iii. “Gender Dynamics in Smallholder Agricultural Productivity: A Mixed-Methods Study”

### 2. Review Articles

Review Articles provide a critical synthesis of existing literature on a specific topic, identifying trends, gaps, and future research directions. These may take the form of systematic reviews,

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scoping reviews, or narrative reviews, depending on the research objectives and disciplinary standards.

Review Articles should demonstrate analytical insight rather than simple summarization. The recommended length is 5,000–7,000 words, and authors must clearly explain the review methodology where applicable.

Examples of acceptable Review Articles include:

- i. “Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review”
- ii. “Trends in Monitoring and Evaluation Practices in NGO-Led Development Projects”
- iii. “Digital Health Interventions in Low-Income Countries: A Scoping Review”

### 3. Policy Briefs

Policy Briefs are short, evidence-based manuscripts designed to inform policymakers, development partners, and practitioners. They translate research findings into clear policy options and recommendations, focusing on relevance, feasibility, and impact.

Policy Briefs should be written in accessible language and range between 2,000 and 3,000 words. While academically grounded, they should prioritize clarity and actionability over technical complexity.

Examples of acceptable Policy Briefs include:

- i. “Strengthening Community Health Financing in Malawi: Policy Options for Universal Coverage”
- ii. “Improving Access to Clean Water in Informal Settlements: Evidence-Based Policy Recommendations”
- iii. “Youth Skills Development and Employment Creation: Lessons for National Policy”

### 4. Case Studies

Case Studies document real-world experiences, programs, or interventions, offering practical insights and lessons learned. These manuscripts are particularly suitable for NGOs, government institutions, development agencies, and practitioners.

Case Studies should go beyond description by providing analytical reflection on what worked, what did not, and why. The recommended length is 3,000–5,000 words.

Examples of acceptable Case Studies include:

- i. “Implementing Community-Led Total Sanitation in Rural Malawi: Lessons from Nsanje District”
- ii. “A Case Study of Mobile Data Collection in Agricultural Extension Services”
- iii. “Strengthening School Retention through Conditional Cash Transfers: Programmatic Insights”

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### 5. Conference Papers & Proceedings

JARD publishes peer-reviewed conference papers and selected proceedings that demonstrate scholarly quality and relevance. Submissions must be revised and expanded beyond the original conference version and should clearly acknowledge the conference where the paper was presented.

Conference papers should meet the same ethical and academic standards as regular journal submissions. Length may vary depending on content and scope.

Examples of acceptable Conference Papers include:

- i. “Climate Change Adaptation Strategies among Smallholder Farmers: Evidence from a Regional Conference Study”
- ii. “Innovations in Public Health Surveillance Systems: Proceedings from the Southern Africa Research Forum”
- iii. “Digital Transformation in Higher Education: Selected Papers from the National Research Conference”

### 6. Institutional Practice & Development Reports

Institutional Practice & Development Reports are designed for organizations, companies, NGOs, startups, and public institutions that are actively implementing programs, hosting seminars, engaging donors, and participating in high-level meetings, forums, and partnerships. This category provides a formal platform for institutions to document, analyze, and share their work, growth journeys, and evidence-based practices.

These manuscripts focus on organizational learning, program implementation, stakeholder engagement, and development outcomes rather than purely academic theory. Submissions may cover seminars, workshops, donor-funded projects, strategic meetings, pilot initiatives, and institutional innovations. Reports should demonstrate relevance, transparency, and practical value for policymakers, funders, and practitioners. The recommended length is 3,000–5,000 words.

Examples of acceptable Institutional Practice & Development Reports include:

- i. “Strengthening Donor Engagement through Evidence-Based Reporting: A Case of an Emerging Malawian NGO”
- ii. “From Pilot to Scale: Lessons from Hosting National Research and Innovation Seminars”
- iii. “Institutional Growth and Partnership Development in the Health Sector: A Practice Report”
- iv. “Private Sector Participation in Development Forums: Reflections from a Growing Social Enterprise”

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