

Mahesh Karra



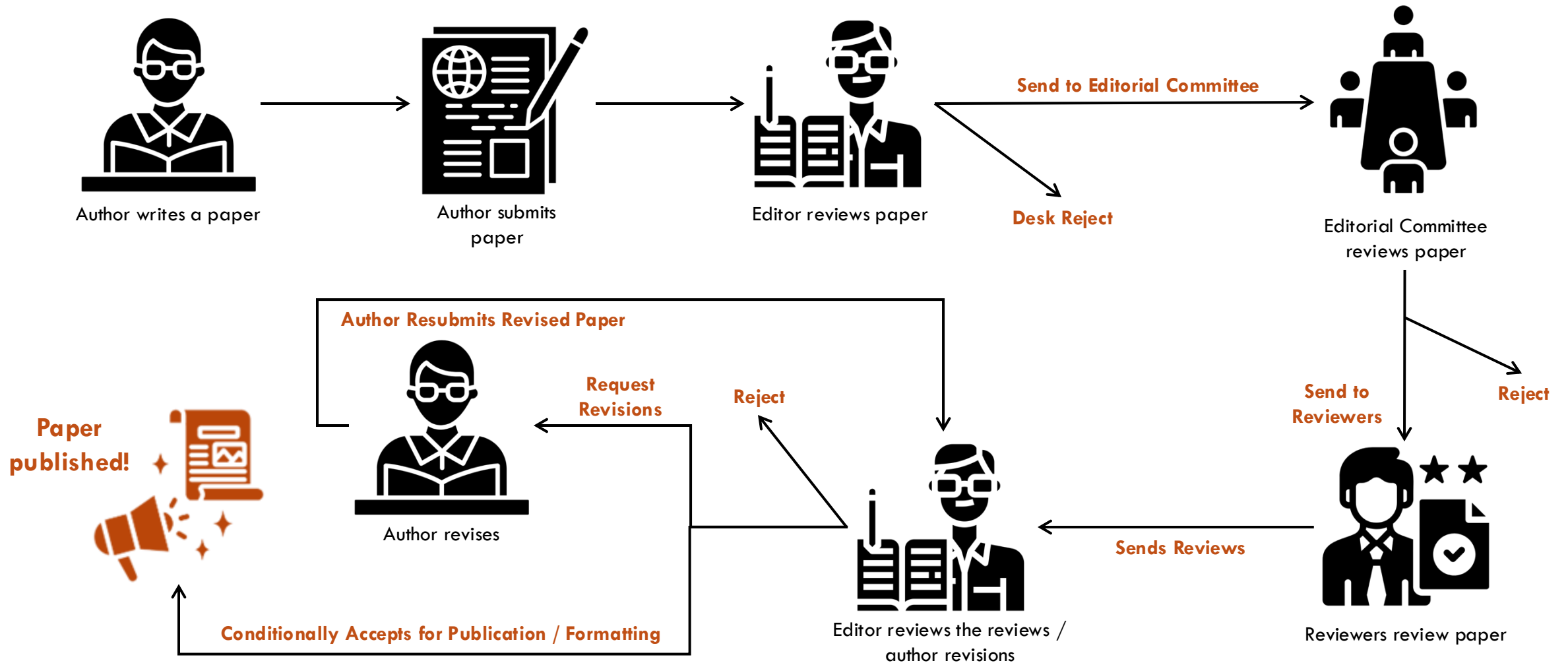
Mahesh Karra is an Associate Professor of Population and Family Health at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and the Director of the Program on Women's Empowerment Research (POWER). His academic and research interests are broadly in development economics, health economics, quantitative methods, and applied demography. Mahesh's research utilizes experimental and non-experimental methods to investigate the relationships between population, health, and economic development in low- and middle-income countries. I have conducted field work in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, and his current research uses randomized controlled trials to evaluate the health and economic effects of improving access to family planning and maternal and child health services. Mahesh have also worked for the Population Reference Bureau and the Futures Group International and served as a consultant to the World Bank, the World Health Organization, and the Population Council. He is currently one of the Co-Editors of *Studies in Family Planning*.

What Do Journal Editors Want? Some Thoughts

Mahesh Karra

**International Conference on Family Planning 2025
WHO Scientific Writing, Mentoring, and Coaching Course**

Understanding the Submission Process



So...what are editors looking for?

Contribution, Contribution, Contribution!

- What is known?
- What is unknown?
- Given what is unknown, what knowledge is the study contributing to the evidence base? What is the study making known?
- How is the study convincingly adding to the evidence base? This depends on the **methods** and the **data** used

Key Tips for Authors

State clearly:

- **Research question & contribution**
- **Relevance to journal**
- **Robust, appropriate methodology**
- Follow author guidelines
- Use cover letter to emphasize value

Common Reasons for Rejection

- **Out of scope**
- **Weak/unclear contribution**
- **Methodological flaws**
- Lack of literature engagement
- Poor writing/structure

Resources for Authors

- Author Guidelines – look at them carefully!
- Examples of published papers – see if your paper looks like papers that have been published in the journal previously
- Peer mentorship and writing workshops
- **Edit, edit, edit!**
- **Check code over thoroughly! It is important to replicate the results**

Author Responsibilities

Prior to submission:

- **Prepare manuscript in accordance with formatting guidelines**
 - Abstract, keywords, cover letter
 - Manuscript type: regular article, data report, commentary, other?
- **Comply with formatting and ethical guidelines on journal website**
 - Manuscript length is flexible **within reason**
 - **References and citations:** reference management is encouraged

Q&A

- Questions?



**Post-ICPD and Beyond:
Future-Proofing SRH, Rights, and Justice**

**Rethinking Family Planning Measurement with a
Rights, Justice, and Person-Centered Lens**



**Call for new special issues:
Deadline: December 1, 2025**



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What do Journal Editors Want?

Panellists



Hannah Wilson



Carolina Cardona



Linnea Zimmerman
Speizer



Nancy Kidula



Moazzam Ali



World Health
Organization

human
reproduction
programme **hrp.**
research for impact
UNDP · UNFPA · UNICEF · WHO · WORLD BANK