A manuscript submitted to Vikalpa goes through the first round of editorial review by the Editorial team. At this stage, a manuscript may be desk rejected for various reasons like fit with the scope of the journal, rigor of the research methodology, degree of original contribution to literature, etc. The first round of review may take 4-6 weeks. If accepted at the first round of review, the next step would be a double-blind peer review. The reviewers may recommend accepting the article in the original form, recommend revision of the article or reject the paper (This process takes about 8-10 weeks). Normally a revised article would be send back to the reviewers for another round of review. If the reviewers are satisfied with the revised manuscript, the paper would be accepted for publication. It may still undergo further editorial corrections by the Vikalpa team before its final publication. This entire process from submission to final publication may take anywhere between 12 - 36 weeks.

Manuscripts prepared as per the following the guidelines will improve the chance of publication in Vikalpa.

Abstract
The abstract should be carefully worded, precise and convey the essence of your research. It should describe the main objective(s) of the study, explain how the study was done, without methodological detail and summarize the most important results, their significance and implications.

Literature Review
A literature review is not an annotated bibliography or a listed summary of each article that has been reviewed. While a summary of what has been read is contained within the literature review, it goes well beyond merely summarizing the literature. It includes a critical analysis of the relationship among different research paper and strongly relates it the research presented in the paper.

Lack of Theory/ No Theory
Vikalpa would prefer papers which are deeply grounded in theory. In both qualitative and quantitative research, theory is a key element for publication in Vikalpa.

Methods and Method Description
The manuscript should clearly and transparently specify the methodology adopted to conduct a research study. In case of survey-based methods, the authors must mention the sampling methodology including the size, nature of sampling, etc. Application of statistics in the methodology and results sections of a manuscript creates an extra edge over the other submissions. However use of complicated or new statistical tools to analyze data without demonstrating something new or adding to the existing literature does not increase the probability of acceptance of the manuscript.

Discussion/Interpretation/Conclusion
The author should critically interpret the data and provide meaningful insights about how the study adds to or modifies the original theory and adds to the existing literature.

Responding to peer-review comments
For manuscripts, that receive a revision (minor or major), a well-crafted 'response to reviewers' document is a critical part of the authors response. The author should respond to all the points raised in the review in detail, engaging with the reviewer to demonstrate that they understand the comment and how it has been incorporated.