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NAVIGATING RESEARCH ETHICS: STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Sohil Altaf Pirani

Senior Research Fellow (SRF), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, India.
& Postgraduate Diploma, Applied Statistics, University of Mumbai, India.

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Research Ethics, Ethical Principle, Research Misconduct.

Abstract

Developing ethical leadership skills among the scholars is a need of an Hour. The study on ethical decision-making serves as an important guide for the researchers. Promoting awareness of ethical principles enhances researcher integrity and safeguards the rights and welfare of participants. The current study focuses on various aspects of Research ethics i.e. ethical principles, research misconduct, and measures to maintain research ethics. The study can serve as a guideline and help the scholars to maintain compliance with Regulations.

1.INTRODUCTION

Ethics in research are important for several reasons. First of all, they protect the integrity of research by endorsing veracity and truthfulness and outlawing actions such as data fabrication and falsification. Second, ethical norms help researchers work together by supporting moral principles like justice, accountability, and trust. Thirdly, they uphold public accountability utilizing policies concerning research misconduct and subject

protections, augmenting transparency and confidence in research methodologies. Furthermore, moral and social values including animal welfare, human rights, and public health and safety are upheld by research ethics. There can be loss and reputational damage to the scientific community if ethical norms are not followed. Consequently, the integrity of research and the welfare of society depend on giving research ethics a top priority. David B. Resnik. (2020).

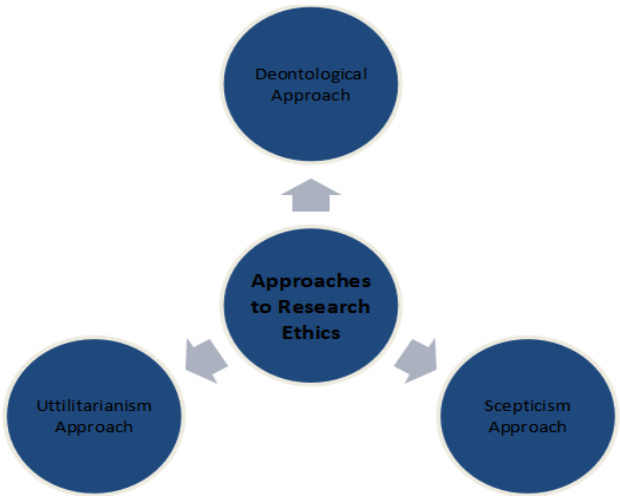
1.1 Definitions of Research Ethics

Douglas Defines Research ethics as "A discipline within the study of applied ethics. Its scope ranges from general scientific integrity and misconduct to the treatment of human and animal subjects. The societal responsibilities science and research has are not traditionally included and less well defined."

University of Sterling Defines Research ethics as "The application of fundamental ethical principles to research activities which include the design and implementation of research, respect towards society and others, the use of resources and research outputs, scientific misconduct and the regulation of research."

“A methodology or perspective in making sound and right decisions pertaining to actions to be taken, and the analysis of intricate problems and issues”. **- Shweta, 2017**

2. APPROACHES TO RESEARCH ETHICS



2.1 Deontological Approach

This ethical framework places a strong emphasis on the role that obligations and laws play in judging what is morally right or wrong. Deontology holds that a deed is morally justified if it complies with a set of moral obligations rather than because of its effects.

2.2 Scepticism Approach

Scepticism is a philosophical attitude that involves doubting the veracity of assertions about knowledge in a variety of domains. Sceptics contest the accuracy and dependability of beliefs, frequently casting doubt on the underlying presumptions or the supporting data.

2.3 Utilitarian Approach

It assesses the morality of deeds by considering their effects, especially their capacity to increase happiness or pleasure and lessen suffering or pain. This viewpoint holds that if a course of action results in the greatest amount of happiness for the greatest number of individuals, then it is morally correct.

3. ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

(i) **Honesty:** Report facts, procedures, and outcomes in an accurate manner without creating, manipulating, or distorting information.

(ii) Objectivity: Aim for neutrality in all aspects of research, avoiding prejudice in the planning, execution, and interpretation of experiments as well as in hiring choices and funding applications.

(iii) Integrity: Remain true to your word, behave honorably, and make consistent choices.

(iv) Carefulness: Exercise caution when conducting research by avoiding mistakes and being careless and by critically assessing both one's own and colleagues' work.

(v) **Openness:** Be open to receiving criticism and fresh viewpoints while sharing information, findings, concepts, and resources.

(vi) **Transparency:** Disclose all pertinent information, including techniques, materials, presumptions, and analyses.

(vii) **Accountability:** Take responsibility for one's actions in research projects and be prepared to justify decisions and actions.

(viii) **Respect for Intellectual Property:** Respect patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property, obtaining permission before using unpublished data or methods and acknowledging contributions appropriately.

(ix) **Confidentiality:** Protect confidential information, such as unpublished research, personnel records, or patient data, from unauthorized access or disclosure.

(x) **Responsible Publication:** Publish research to advance knowledge and scholarship, avoiding unnecessary duplication and ensuring contributions are made for the benefit of science.

(xi) Responsible Monitoring: Mentor and educate students responsibly, promoting their welfare and autonomy.

(xii) **Respect for Colleagues:** Treat colleagues fairly and respectfully.

(xiii) Social Responsibility: Strive to promote societal well-being and mitigate harm through research, education, and advocacy.

(xiv) **Nondiscrimination:** Steer clear of prejudice based on unimportant characteristics like gender, race, or ethnicity.

(xv) **Competence:** By learning and growing, maintain and enhance your professional competence.

(xvi) Legality: Observe pertinent statutes, rules, and guidelines from the government.

(xvii) **Animal Care:** Avoid needless or ill-conceived studies and treat study animals with the respect and care they deserve.

(xviii) **Protection of Human Subjects:** Reduce harm and maximize benefits when researching human subjects; respect their autonomy, privacy, and dignity; especially for vulnerable groups; and equitably divide rewards and burdens.

(xix) **Informed consent:** Before they participate in research, get participants' voluntary and informed consent.

(xx) **Environmental responsibility:** Reduce the negative effects of research operations on the environment and take sustainability into account.

4. RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

It refers to falsification, Fabrication, and Plagiarism in conducting the Research. It can also be termed as deviations in standard practices in performing and reporting research.

4.1 Fabrication

- Fabrication is the process of capturing or reporting fake data or results.
- The creation of data or information is known as fabrication.
- Producing a fresh record of data or outcomes is known as data fabrication.
- Patient diaries and informed permission papers are the most frequently falsified records.

4.2 Falsification

- The falsification of a scientific experiment involves changing the observed outcome.
- This is the act of altering or deleting data or findings or tampering with research supplies, tools, or procedures to produce a research record that is not an accurate representation of the study.
- Falsification is the process of altering an experiment's setup or outcomes in a way that is not supported by science.
- Most frequently to enhance the outcomes or eliminate those that don't support the theory.

4.3 Plagiarism

- Stealing someone else's ideas or intellectual property and passing it off as your own without citing the original author.

- The most common kind of wrongdoing and serious ethical transgression is plagiarism.
- Unlike the other two, plagiarism does not change scientific knowledge, while having significant negative effects on both the scientific community as a whole and the careers of those who engage in it.

4.3.1 Types of Plagiarism

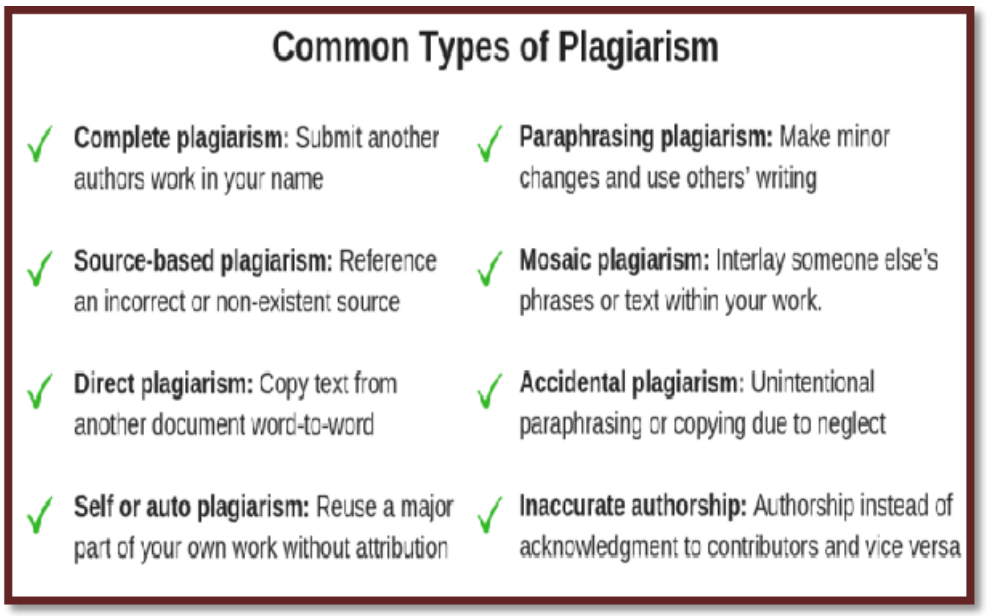


Table No: 1 Dos and Don'ts Chart of Comparison

DO'S	DON'TS
Honesty, Integrity, transparency, Accountability, Confidentiality & Objectivity	**Plagiarism** (Do not give proper citations/Credit to the author)
Carefulness, Competence, Openness, Informed Cons & Respect for colleagues	**Fabrication** Makeup of data (Duplication of data)
Responsible publication & Responsible Monitoring	**Falsification** Manipulation of data for better results

	Applying the wrong Technique for better results etc.
Legality & Social Responsibility	**Misrepresentation** Don't fabricate study results or alter data to fit your story or point of view.
Human subject protection	**Coercion or undue Influence** Refrain from forcing or overly influencing research volunteers against their better judgment or will.
Animal Care & Environmental Responsibility	
Respect for Intellectual property	
Non-Discrimination	

5. MEASURES TO MAINTAIN RESEARCH ETHICS

- Every participant should be informed about the purpose of the study, its procedure, risks, and benefits beforehand.
- The participants/respondents' personal information should be safeguarded at all costs and anonymity should be given top priority. Disclosure should take place only with the consent of the respondents.
- The respondents should be informed about potential conflicts of interest that could influence the research process or outcome.
- Researchers must familiarize themselves with the ethical standards set by the institutional review boards (IRBs) and of professional organizations.
- The collected data should be analyzed and reported accurately and transparently without any sort of manipulation or leaving out the findings that the researcher feels may impact their research.
- The respondents should be given the option to withdraw from the study at any time without having to face any consequences. Their right to make informed decisions should be respected.

- Measures should be taken to ensure that there are minimum potential physical, emotional, or psychological harm to the participants.
- The researchers must give proper credit to all the contributors to the study, any past material or findings taken into consideration by previous authors should be given complete credit.
- The researcher must communicate research methods, findings, and any conflict of interest.
- The researcher must ensure research are laid out accurately and responsibly without avoiding sensationalism or exaggeration of results.

6. AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

The writers affirm that they have no connections to, or engagement with, any group or body that provides financial or non-financial assistance for the topics or resources covered in this manuscript.

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article**.**

8. PLAGIARISM POLICY

All authors declare that any kind of violation of plagiarism, copyright and ethical matters will taken care by all authors. Journal and editors are not liable for aforesaid matters.

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