Research Ethics

Research ethics provides guidelines for the responsible conduct of research. In addition, it educates and monitors scientists to ensure a high ethical standard in research. Research ethics govern the standards of conduct for scientific researchers. It is important to adhere to ethical principles to protect the dignity, rights and welfare of research participants.

- Research ethics are the set of ethical guidelines that guide a researecher on how scientific research should be conducted and disseminated.

- Research ethics govern the standards of conduct for scientific researchers. It is the guideline for responsibly conducting the research.

Objectives of Research Ethics

- To guard/protect human participants, their dignity, rights and welfare.

- To make sure that research is directed in a manner that assists welfares of persons, groups and/or civilization as a whole.

- To inspect particular research events and schemes for their ethical reliability, considering issues such as the controlling risk, protection of privacy and the progression of informed consent.

Ethical principles

Honesty:

A researcher needs to be honest in his research work. He must be honest with the beneficiaries and respondents. He needs to be honest about the findings and methodology of the research. Researcher needs to honestly report data, results, methods and procedures, and publication status. He should not fabricate, falsify, or misrepresent data.

Objectivity:

Researcher need to strive to avoid bias in experimental design, data analysis, data interpretation, peer review, personnel decisions, grant writing, expert testimony, and other aspects of research. Avoid bias in experimental design, data analysis, data interpretation, peer review, and other aspects of research.

Integrity:

As a reseaercher you need to keep your promises and agreements; act with sincerity; strive for consistency of thought and action.

Carefulness:

Avoid careless errors and negligence; carefully and critically examine your work and the work of your peers. Keep good records of research activities.

Openness:

Share data, results, ideas, tools, resources. Be open to criticism and new ideas. Be open to sharing results, data and other resources. Also, accept encouraging comments and constructive feedback.

Respect for Intellectual Property:

Honor patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property. Do not use unpublished data, methods, or results without permission. Give credit where credit is due. Never plagiarize.

Confidentiality:

Protect confidential communications, such as papers or grants submitted for publication, personnel records, trade or military secrets, and patient records. It includes the information such as:

- Introduction and objective of the research

- Purpose of the discussion

- The procedure of the research

- Anticipated advantages, benefits/harm from the research (if any)

- Methods that will be used to protect the anonymity and confidentiality of the participant

Responsible Publication:

Publish to advance research and scholarship, not to advance just your career. Avoid wasteful and duplicative publication. Responsibly publishing to promote and uptake research or knowledge. No duplicate publication.

Responsible Mentoring:

Help to educate, mentor, and advise students. Promote their welfare and allow them to make their own decisions.

Respect the Colleagues:

Respect your colleagues and treat them fairly.

Social Responsibility:

Strive to promote social good and prevent or mitigate social harms through research, public education, and advocacy.

Non-Discrimination:

Avoid discrimination against colleagues or students based on gender, race, ethnicity, or other factors that are not related to their scientific competence and integrity.

Competence:

Maintain and improve your professional competence and expertise through lifelong education and learning; take steps to promote competence in science as a whole.

Legality:

Know and obey relevant laws and institutional and governmental policies.

Animal Care:

Show proper respect and care for animals when using them in research. Do not conduct unnecessary or poorly designed animal experiments.

Human subjects protection:

When you conduct research on human subjects, minimize harms and risks and maximize benefits; respect human dignity, privacy, and autonomy.

Non-discrimination:

Avoid discrimination based on age, gender, race, ethnicity or other factors that are a violation of human rights and are not related to the study.

Advantages of Research Ethics

Some of the advanteges of research ethics are:

- Research ethics promote the aims of the research.
- It increases trust among the researcher and the respondent.
- It is important to adhere to ethical principles to protect the dignity, rights and welfare of research participants.
- Researchers can be held accountable and answerable for their actions.
- Ethics promote social and moral values.
- It promotes the ambitions of research, such as understanding, veracity, and dodging of error.
- Ethical standards uphold the values that are vital to cooperative work, such as belief, answerability, mutual respect, and impartiality.

- Ethical norms in research also aid to construct public upkeep for research. People are more likely to trust a research project if they can trust the worth and reliability of research.

References:

1. https://www.publichealthnotes.com/research-ethics-definition-principles-and-advantages/

2. https://libguides.library.cityu.edu.hk/researchmethods/ethics

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Dr B T Sampath Kumar
Professor, Dept. of Library and Information Science
Tumkur University, Tumakuru
sampathkumar.info