



# **Ethics In Social Research**

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# Ethics In Social Research

- ❖ Ethics refers to norms of conduct
  - norms of action
  - norms of study in social science
- ❖ Ethics is not simply right and wrong
- ❖ Ethics promote values: social and moral, so that people can trust the quality and integrity of research and its findings

# Good Research and Ethics Approach

## What is Good Research?

- ❖ The good research advances present status of knowledge/information
- ❖ In social sciences, the research studies address the issues necessary for human development; protection of human subjects and protection of environment

## What is Ethics Approach?

- ❖ A Research is responsible for ensuring that all aspects of research process and its findings are transparent, honest and trustworthy
- ❖ Ethics approach is to promote knowledge, truth; avoidance of error and protect studies against forgery, falsifying of documents, or misrepresenting data

# Codes of Ethics

- ❖ A University may develop specific codes of ethics related to research
- ❖ In India like others in the world, the UGC laid down guidelines for researchers regarding reporting, quoting, publishing their findings
- ❖ UGC Committee on Promoting & Improving the Quality of Research under Universities divided its guidelines into two parts:-
  - (A) Improving the Quality of research by Faculty & Creation of New Knowledge and Strategies for Improving Research Culture in Universities
  - (B) UGC (Minimum Standards & Procedures for award of MPhil/PhD degrees) Regulations{available on [ugc.ac.in](http://ugc.ac.in)}

- ❖ Ethics in social research like other disciplines watch research integrity, honesty, transparency, social responsibility, objectivity, protection of humanity and nature
- ❖ Respect for institutions, colleagues and resource generators
- ❖ Stop unethical behaviours
- ❖ Even research journals, publications verify the authenticity of research

# Ethics in Research Reporting

- ❖ Research should be well planned, adopt appropriate research methods and develop efficient research design
- ❖ Ethically correct
- ❖ Research should be capable to give answers about its own research questions
- ❖ Research methodology should be well defined, practical, understandable and suitable

- ❖ Anyone can follow same methodology in similar Queries
- ❖ Research should be capable to be published
- ❖ The publishing of research disseminate new knowledge or new findings to others so that others can use the research findings in their own research and may advance for further research

# Probable Reasons for Misconduct in Research

- ❖ Research must be transparent and ethically written
- ❖ Misrepresentation of study methods, data collected, the analysis of data, conclusions drawn from the data may happen, because of:-
  - some pressure to conduct research
  - pressure of career advancement
  - pressure to promote individual or institutional reputation; and other possibilities



# Ethics in Qualitative Research

- ❖ Qualitative research is based on observation
- ❖ Researchers use observational methods to collect data related to the study
- ❖ The observational studies may have potential biases
- ❖ However observational tools are effective, because it enhance researcher's understanding of the issues involved in research
- ❖ Observational studies should describe statement of the problem or the issues expected to be studied, the background of the study or the present status of research questions, hypothesis, conceptual analysis and the types of observation to be used

- ❖ It should also be specified that how the data is quantified or coded, what methods are used to analyse the data or in other words, research methods must be specified
- ❖ Discussion about variables, biases or the factors that may have affected the study should be discussed
- ❖ Conclusions and implications must be discussed

# Systematic Review of Literature

- ❖ The study and the research in any discipline including social research are the continuous process, the way the knowledge/information advance.
- ❖ Therefore, there are already published study materials are happened to be available which should be systematically reviewed and synthesised
- ❖ Thus every discipline requires ethics
- ❖ All aspects of research and its findings require ethical conduct from the researcher, such ethical conduct and transparent documentation of findings establishes solid foundation of research

**Thank You!**