



Guiding principles for ethical research in social sciences

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Abstract

Research scholars necessary to understand the concepts of research ethics and legal issues in relation to research. The specific areas measures being developed to measure the students' awareness of ethical issues. The most challenging in ethical issues for the students are research participants, the dissemination of results, and giving recognition to co-contributors. Ethical responsiveness expected by professional organizations, socialization, for perspective winning. The ultimate aim of all research ethics is to improve the skills of sensitivity in the context of ethics in research. Research ethics play a significant role by helping research scholars to be aware of moral and ethical problems by contributing to the research training in teams of conducting research activities in their institutions. This article is to explore the concept of ethical sensitivity skills based on a review of the professional as well selected research disciplines.

Keywords: ethics, research ethics, guidelines, plagiarism, publications

Introduction

Ethics defined as norms for conduct that distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable behavior. Many of people learn their ethical norms at home, at school, in temple/church, or in other social experiences. Although most people acquire their knowledge and sense of right and wrong during early days, moral development occurs throughout life when human beings pass through different stages of growth life cycle. Ethical norms are also universal that one might be attracted to regard them as simple commonsense. One acceptable clarification of these disagreements is that all people recognize some common ethical norms but analysis, apply, and balance between them in different ways in light of their own values and life experiences. To criticize, evaluate, propose, or interpretation of laws can also be used ethical concepts and principles. Indeed, many social reformers have urged citizens to disobey laws they regarded it as immoral or opposed to public policies.

Codes of Conduct for Research Ethics

The importance of ethics in the conduct of research is, it should be come as no surprise that many different government agencies, and colleges/universities and professional associations have adopted specific codes, rules, and policies relating to research ethics. The purpose of the guiding principles is to provide researchers and the research community with information about recognized norms of ethics in research. These guidelines provided direction and advices to follow while dealing with research organizations. They intended to help develop ethical discretion and reflection to clarify ethical dilemmas, and to promote good scientific temper in research. Ethics also intended to prevent scientific misconduct and frauds. Researcher may use this tool in the assessment of individual cases, in the planning of a research projects, and publishing, reporting the results.

UGC's guidelines have also drawn up to cover the social sciences, humanities, law and theology, but they may also have a wider area of application, including fields like pedagogy and psychology.

Objective of Ethics in Research

1. To understand the ethics issues in research
2. To maintain ethical standard in research
3. To examine specific research activities in lines of ethics
4. To identify key international references for rules and regulation in research

Research Ethics

Research ethics refers to values, norms, and institutional arrangements that help to creates and regulate scientific activities. Research ethics is a codification of scientific morality as part of ethical practice. Research ethics stipulate guidelines for the basic norms and values of the research community. Ethics based on general principles of science, just as general ethics based on the morality of society. The research ethics mainly cover research, but they also deal with other research-related activities such as teaching, dissemination of expert's advice in management of institutions. The research also covers the work of research students at all levels such as doctoral research fellows, and the institutions are responsible for providing relevant training in research in ethics.

Basic Standards in research ethics

The guidelines based on recognized norms for research ethics, regulating research in different areas and in different relationships:

1. Standards that constitute good scientific practice, related to the pursuit for accurate, adequate and relevant knowledge in an academic freedom, originality, openness, trustworthiness etc.

2. Standards that regulate the research community such as integrity, accountability, impartiality, criticism etc.
3. The relationship to people who take part in the research in respect, confidentiality, human dignity, free and informed agreement etc.
4. The relationship to the refreshment of society in respect of social responsibility, independence, conflicts of interest, dissemination of research etc.

Strategies for Research Ethics

1. Customs and values of research

Research is a systematic and socially organized activity governed by various specific values. Research is a journey for new and improved or deeper insight. The fundamental obligation of research ethics science is the pursuit for truth but research can never fully achieve by its goal. The norms of science have a value in themselves as guidelines and regulatory principles for the research community in pursuit for truth.

2. Autonomy of research

Researcher must secured against internal or external burden that limits the investigation of well-defined problems that may intersect financial, social, cultural or religious interests, political and traditions. Scientific standards regarding originality, openness and trustworthiness may conflict with the desire of other parties to prevent or govern research.

3. Responsibility of researcher and institutions

The institutions must facilitate the development and maintenance of good scientific practice. Responsible researcher requires freedom from control and constraints, while trust in research requires the exercise of responsibility by both researchers and research institutions. Scientific, ethical and legal norms and values regulate the responsibility of research. The institutions must facilitate the development and maintenance of good scientific practice. Institutions should communicate the guidelines of research ethics to their employees and students, and provide training in research ethics and the relevant rules of law that govern research.

Principles of Research Ethics

1. Principle of responsibility and privacy

Research institutions must promise that research is good and responsible by preventing misconduct and promoting the guidelines for research ethics. The institutions must facilitate the development and maintenance of good scientific practice. From a legal perspective, the protection of privacy linked to the processing of personal data. Thus, research must conducted in accordance with basic considerations for data protection, such as personal integrity, privacy and responsible use and storage of personal data.

2. Principle of information and obligations

Researchers must provide with adequate information about the field of research, what is the purpose of the research?, who has funded the project?, who will receive access to the information?, and the intended use of the results. The consent must be freely given and to obtain their consent, informed, and in an unambiguous form.

3. Principle of Confidentiality

Generally, researchers must however balance confidentiality and the obligation to notify. Personal data must normally be de-identified while publication and dissemination of the research material. Both the credibility of the researchers and the participants trust in research closely linked to confidentiality.

4. Principle limited re-use and Storage of personal data

Data protection involves not only the protection of individuals against abuse of personal data, but also of citizens in relation to the State. This is why strict rules govern the establishment of public personal data registers. Identifiable personal data collected for a specific research purpose cannot automatically used for other research. Generally, re-use of identifiable personal data requires the consent of the participants.

5. Principle of avoiding injuries and conflicts

Researchers are responsible for ensuring that participants not exposed to serious physical harm or other severe or unreasonable strain as result of the research. In humanities and social science research, there is usually little risk of participants exposed to serious physical harm. However, serious mental strain is a possibility.

6. Protection of children interest and family life

Children and adolescents who take part in research are mainly entitled to protection. Research on children and their lives and living conditions is very valuable and important. Children and adolescents are key contributors to this research. Respect for privacy aims at protecting individuals against unwanted interference and exposure. This applies not only to emotional issues, but also to questions that involve sickness and health, political and religious opinions, and sexuality.

7. Respect for the values and motives

Researchers must show respect for the values and views of research participants, not least when they differ from those generally accepted by society. Research is often concerned with the behavior and values of minorities, e.g. religious groups, ethnic minorities, youth groups, or political subcultures. Some persons may find this research to be distressing or offensive. Researchers must take seriously the participants' understanding of themselves and avoid representations that weaken their legitimate rights. When conducting research on deceased persons. Respect, documentation and accountability are also required when conducting research on deceased persons.

8. Principle of limitations and responsibilities

Researchers are responsible for explaining to the participants the limitations, expectations and requirements associated with their role as researchers. Where researchers relate to participants in a variety of capacities, they are responsible for defining the limits of their role and responsibility as a researcher.

9. Respect for public bodies and vulnerable group

Researchers must have the greatest possible access to public administration and bodies. Access may be restricted, with

reference to privacy, overriding national interests, or national security. Vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and groups are not always equipped to defend their interests when dealing with researchers. Researchers have a special responsibility to respect the interests of vulnerable groups throughout the entire research process.

10. Conservation of culture and monuments

When conducting research on other cultures, it is important to have knowledge of local traditions, traditional knowledge and social matters. Researchers should enter into a discussion with the local inhabitants, representatives of the culture in question and the local authorities. Researchers must respect the need to preserve all types of cultural monuments and remains. Researcher must recognizing other fundamental values and general human rights.

Good Research Practices

1. Criteria for Rightful Authorship

On the recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) there are some criteria for rightful authorship

1. The researcher must have made a significant contribution to the **conception and design** or the data analysis and interpretation; and
2. The researcher must have contributed to **drafting the manuscript** or critical revision of the intellectual content of the publication; and
3. The researcher must have **approved the final version** before publication; and
4. The researcher must be able to accept **responsibility and be accountable** for the work specified.

2. Good citation practice

All researchers and students are obliged to follow good citation practice. This is a prerequisite for critical examination and important for enabling further research. Researchers and students are under an obligation to provide accurate references to the literature they use, whether this is primary or secondary literature.

3. Plagiarism check

Both researchers and research institutions are responsible for preventing plagiarism. Plagiarism is unacceptable and constitutes a serious breach of recognized norms of research ethics. A plagiarist undermines not only his or her own reputation as a researcher, but also the credibility of the research. Plagiarism in research ethics is taking something from someone else and presenting it as one's own without correctly citing their sources.

4. Scientific and honesty

Both researchers and research institutions must promote customs for good scientific practice. Scientific integrity is about maintaining and complying with good scientific practice. Misconduct is serious breach of good scientific practice associated with the collective commitment to the pursuit for truth.

5. Sharing of research data

Sharing of research data is often a prerequisite for building up knowledge, comparing results and critically testing the work of others. Research material should made available to other researchers for secondary analysis and further use. Improved quality assurance can be achieved by sharing data.

Dissemination of Research Knowledge

1. Dissemination of academic responsibility

The main reasons for dissemination of research is to satisfy the intellectual curiosity of the public. Dissemination is important for a well-functioning democratic society. Dissemination of research involves communicating scientific results, methods and values from specialized research fields. Dissemination should contribute to maintaining and developing cultural traditions, to informing public opinion and to the dissemination of knowledge of relevance to society.

2. Requirements for individuals and institutions

Research dissemination makes ethical demands on individuals and institutions alike. Universities and Institutions should also encourage dissemination in different arenas and through new kinds of learning, knowledge sharing and discourse. University Colleges have a special responsibility to disseminate knowledge, results and scientific norms and values, both in their teaching of students and in relation to public administration, cultural life and business and industry.

3. Interdisciplinary and public deliberation

Many of the major challenges facing society related to ecology, globalization and human rights, call for interdisciplinary cooperation and the integration of academic knowledge from a number of fields. Therefore, a strong need to translate and communicate knowledge both across different disciplines and to a broader public.

4. Participation in public debate

Researchers should express themselves fairly and clearly in order to avoid personal interpretations of research results. Researchers have a responsibility to express themselves clearly and precisely. When researchers take part in public debate, they are using academic skill as a basis for contributions to the formation of public opinion.

5. Ethical sensitivity:

Ethical sensitivity introduced to caring research to describe the first component of decision making in professional practice that recognizing and interpreting the ethical dimension of a care situation since from conceptualized in various ways by scholars of professional disciplines.

Conclusion

In recent years, there has been increased awareness of ethical issues because of the extensive expansion of research and trials. There has also been growing debate over the ethical challenges faced by different societies. Accordingly, scholars have begun to consider how to offer protection to the research community, resulting in the creation of research ethics guidelines in many countries. Most of the documents showed various degrees of deficiencies with regard to ethical protection. The requirement of accountability is equally stringent in dissemination as in publication of research.

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