

## A REVIEW ON ROLE OF ETHICS IN MODERN-DAY RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

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**Received: 14 Oct 2022**

**Accepted: 21 Oct 2022**

**Published: 26 Oct 2022**

### **ABSTRACT**

*Ethics determines people's behaviour, attitudes, and ideas in society. The set of principles and concepts that regulate what defines appropriate and incorrect behaviour is referred to as ethics. The potential of a leader to identify, right and wrong and to inculcate the same to the followers determines their ethical intelligence. For a researcher, ethics means providing honest information and avoid inconsistencies. Researchers should follow ethical research principles, such as rules addressing truthfulness, fairness, and willingness to admit their fallibility. Quantitative and qualitative approaches are adopted by various researchers based on their scope of work. A researcher's research is a genuine and valuable effort on a specific area of their interest, which also includes a solution to these problems in that area of education. Therefore, ethics is acknowledged as the heart of research, ensuring moral standards and values in the research. The researcher himself follows the path of comprehensive and integrated humanistic and scientific virtues to improve them morally acceptable quality of research work.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Research Ethics, Ethical Values, Quantitative Research, Qualitative Research, Research Analysis*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Man's potentiality for contemplation, especially his ability to marvel, is unique to the human species. Genuine curiosity and self-motivated attempts to satisfy it are the foundations of the research. "Ethics is a branch of philosophy which focus on things that are good or bad, that are right or wrong"[5]. In the research context, ethics is concerned with setting instructions for researchers, assessing and evaluating research, and building systems to assure ethical study[9]. According to a review of the history of research, research ethics includes not only regulations described in a code of ethics, but rather the author's conceptual and value point of view, but also a generation's dialogue and learning from costly errors [13].

Ethics is highly significant and is seen as a vital element. A researcher must ensure that their purpose is to provide honest information and avoid inconsistencies. Furthermore, being ethical permits writers to collaborate on their research with the assistance of educators, mentors, and contemporaries. To do this, researchers must instill values such as justice, integrity, and mutual trust among all participants in their study. Before beginning work on the research, the researcher should be informed of all ethical concepts of research processes. Ethics in research is intended to be a code of practice or expected social norm of conduct when conducting a study. The primary goal of research ethics is to ensure that no one is hurt or affected by adverse acts committed by the researcher or during research operations under any circumstances. As a result, a study must be written so that no unethical activity occurs in a person, group, community, or organization.

## THE CONCEPT OF ETHICS

Ethics is a moral commitment that determines people's behavior, attitudes, and ideas in society. The set of principles and concepts that regulate what defines appropriate and incorrect behavior is referred to as ethics. The ability of a leader to distinguish between right and wrong and to detect when one has been practiced instead of the other determines their ethical intelligence. The application of moral values to all organizational activities, such as justice, transparency, and integrity, is referred to as ethics. (Tamunomiebi & Ehior, 2019)

### The Theory of Values

Everyone's life is affected by the theory and content of values. 'What and which kinds of things are good?' it asks. Discounts can be quantified through requirements and obligations. Ethical principles are concerned with morality in truth and conduct. Ethical principles highlight the foundation of all orders, either moral or social.

### Definition of Research Ethics

"Research ethics relates to various questions that ask about how we collate and provide a clear idea of our research topic, design and how we access and collect data, process and store data, analyze data, and report our research findings in a morally appropriate and responsible manner." (Mark Saunders, 2011) It guarantees that the approach we employed to conduct our research is both theoretically right and ethically justifiable to everyone involved. This is inevitably morally justifiable because it has an impact on the researchers through socially expanded behavior and norms.

### The Value of Research and Research Ethics

Researchers should follow ethical research principles, such as rules addressing truthfulness, fairness, and willingness to admit their fallibility. Research is the deliberate, socially regulated quest for new and improved knowledge. Ethics must also be viewed as "moral principles and values that affect or influence the way a researcher or a group of researchers conducts research. Ethics affects all events, circumstances, and activities in which people can suffer actual or potential harm of various kinds" (Churchill, 1999). Ethics is a necessary component of research to maintain the integrity and provide correct results. As a result, a researcher must be aware of the ethical implications of their research from the inception.

It should be mentioned that the ultimate goal of the research is to find the truth. As a result, intellectual integrity is an essential component of research ethics. However, the fallibility and uncertainty connected with research do not excuse researchers from the need to avoid unnecessary ideas and strive for consistency and clarity in their thinking. Research is distinguished by researchers' perspectives on society and humanity in the human sciences, which is often enlightening. This, however, required that researchers consider how their perspectives may influence their selection of issues, information sources, and the balance between various interpretations. Overall, all professions are subject to the same research ethical duties, such as the need for compelling and relevant study topics, verifiable documentation, the unbiased debate of opposing viewpoints, and awareness of one's fallibility. Academic autonomy and peer assessment criteria are also universal. The fundamental research ethics criteria are based on societal moral norms. (*National Committee for Research Ethics in the Social Sciences and the Humanities, 2010*)

### **Ethical Consideration of Research**

When planning research, it is essential to keep participants safe from potential injury. Here are some moral standards that have been developed to protect the participants:

- Participants should be safeguarded against physical, social, and psychological harm.
- Each participant's privacy should be maintained, and they should be respected for who they are.
- Because confidentiality is an essential aspect of research, all data acquired should be kept confidential.
- Participants have the right to be informed about the research's purpose before participating in it.
- Obtain informed consent from participants prior to their participation in the research. (Patten & Newhart, 2017)

The researcher protects the participants' and their families' privacy. The researcher must protect and save the participants from any dangerous components during the research.

### **ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH**

There are ethical standards and obligations in all types of research. The following are the ethical standards that must be met in qualitative and quantitative studies:

#### **Qualitative Analysis**

The researcher and the participant interact closely in qualitative research. As a result, those involved in the research must adhere to ethical standards. According to accepted norms, the welfare of the participants takes precedence over that of the researcher. Respect for participants, benevolence, and justice are the three fundamental components of research ethics. In the case of data collection via in-depth focus groups and interviews, the following aspects should be informed and assured to participants: the objective and purpose of the research and its beneficial factors, obtaining informed consent, maintaining honesty and confidence towards the participants, protecting their privacy and confidentiality, the voluntary nature of participation, and the option to withdraw at any time without any obligations. Respondents are required to fulfill certain obligations, including making all necessary clarifications about various aspects of the research before it begins, as well as providing honest and truthful information

#### **Quantitative Research**

There are various methods for selecting appropriate samples in quantitative research. It entails, among other things, the selection of a suitable study, the development of a hypothesis, the result of a sampling plan, the data collection, statistical analysis, the conclusion, and so on. However, there are ethical concerns in each of these steps.

#### **Ethical Concerns In The Research Process**

Giving significance to ethical principles in research is a matter, but there must be ethical integrity, or else the researcher's study may mislead those who rely on it. As a result, ethical maturity should be present in all research, as the quality of research is more important. (Srivastava & Rego, 2011)

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism in research ethics refers to the act of replicating content from the works of other authors and researchers and passing it off as one's own. Researchers who use the ideas or statements of others from publications or research materials must cite one's sources. Trying to connect to another work early in one's own written form and then using it extensively without citation is also plagiarism. "Plagiarism can be defined as (a) intellectual property theft, i.e., presenting the 'words, data, or ideas of others with the implication that they are their own, without attribution in a form appropriate for the medium of presentation,' and (b) misuse of privileged information" (Pruzan 2016). Applying some basic fundamental standards can prevent the occurrence of plagiarism. It is critical to distinguish between direct citations from others' works and paraphrases in footnotes and endnotes, such as those found in the text. The citation must not be so similar to the source text that it is mistaken for a quote. When multiple rephrasing passages are linked together, it is possible that the entire rationale belongs to someone else. A plagiarist jeopardizes their prestige as a scholar and the research's integrity. (National Committee for Research Ethics in the Social Sciences and the Humanities, 2010)

## **Codes And Policies Of Research Ethics**

"Ethics has a requirement: the scientist must accept responsibility for how his or her research may affect others, including nature. As a result, he or she must consider not only how the scientific community will accept the results, but also how they will be acknowledged by all others who may be influenced, explicitly or implicitly, by both the research and the results" (Pruzan, 2016). As a result, when cataloging all information and data discovered during research, scholars must maintain a high level of honesty; the data must be appropriately preserved in its original source and cited. Likewise, the objectivity of the research should be asserted and preceded. Both the researcher and their research should be completely reliable. Reverence for intellectual property is illustrated by citing, referencing, and recognizing all resources derived from other researchers' work. In addition, if secrecy is required, the research scientist must uphold it. The value of ethical publishing and mentoring cannot be overstated. To ensure credibility, all institutions involved must use responsible research methodology. (ChimaIchendu, 2020)

## **Why Is It Essential To Study Research Ethics?**

"History has shown us time and time again that what we think may be beneficial results of the research may also be destructive. Despite the difficulties and the lack of clear-cut answers, scientists have a responsibility of using their heads and their hearts to determine, delimit, and live up to their responsibilities as scientists, human beings and citizens of the world" (Pruzan, 2016). The researcher's right to accept the laws and concepts established to conduct ethical research. All components of a research project must be ethical, from the project's inception to the presenting of the study. When one part of a research effort is problematic or immoral, the integrity of the entire project is called into question. (A Guide to Research Ethics 2003)

## **CONCLUSION**

A researcher's research is a genuine and valuable effort on a specific area of their interest, which also includes a solution to these problems in that area of education. As a result, ethics is acknowledged as the heart of research, ensuring moral standards and values in the research. In summary, it can be concluded that the researcher himself follows the path of comprehensive and integrated humanistic and scientific virtues to improve them morally acceptable quality of research work.

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