Research Ethics guidelines

Research is a public trust which needs to be conducted ethically ensuring ethical standards at both general and participant levels. Following guidelines are proposed by Committee to enable researcher to work with integrity.

I. Ethical implications of the topic must be given a thought before finalizing it to avoid any later ethical upshots.

II. Both human and animal participant to be handled with care .Rules of the land need to be followed.

III. Clear statements on sample, the way data will be collected, analyzed will be mentioned in the research proposal.

IV. Appropriate inferential statics need to be used based on the aim ,type of the data used, and nature of the observations made and sample size

V. Explaining how conclusions arrived based on the analysis will be important in the progress reports submitted later.

VI. Research must avoid any fabrication, falsification and misrepresentation of data or results.

VII. Researcher should preserve the raw data for later reviews.

VIII. Research report must clearly declare the sponsor of the study, institutional affiliations and conflicts of interest.

IX. Human Participants in research

1. Researchers have a responsibility to account for how and with what consent the data was gathered. Need to clearly mention how the participants were invited and treated in research.
2. Researcher need to take in writing the consent of participants where the purpose of research is clearly mentioned and the risks involved if any.
3. Clear statements on how participants are dealt with before, during and after research need to be mentioned.
4. **Confidentiality need to be maintained at all levels of research and statements on that will be part of consent forms and report.**
5. Researcher need to minimize any risk or harm to participants if any while conducting research.
6. If divulging the purpose of research may impact results, proper debriefing needs to be given after the research is over.
7. In rare cases, covert research may be defensible if researcher can validate it to committee and seek approval from the institutional ethics committee.
8. The Interview questions / questionnaire used for research, laboratory experiments or field experiment's methodology need to get ethical committee approval before it reaches the participants.
9. Language of the questions needs to be simple and preferably in the language the participant is fluent.
10. Researcher need to be aware & sensitive towards participants who are from various cultural ,social and ethnic backgrounds at all stages of research like data collection ,interpretation of results & reporting.

X. **Ethical guidelines and procedures for research involving, microorganisms, humans or animals guidelines**

1. In rDNA research and handling of hazardous microorganisms and GE organisms or cells, "Regulations and Guidelines on Biosafety of Recombinant, DNA Research and Biocontainment, 2017",laid down by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India will be strictly followed.
2. There need to be stringent and robust facility structures for handling of microorganisms, animals, plants, insects and aquatic organisms for disposal and decontamination of laboratory wastes, emergency procedures.
3. Research on animals need to follow the guidelines of the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA; http://cpcsea.nic.in), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. In
4. Experiments on humans (usage and/or transfer of human biological material, clinical trials) or related areas (such as stem cell research and therapy), guidelines from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR; http://icmr.nic.in/About_Us/Guidelines.html) should be applied.
5. In clinical research which may lead to new diagnostic methods and to new drugs, guidelines laid down by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO; http://cdsco.nic.in), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, should be adhered to.

XI. Plagiarism

The Committee defines plagiarism as using someone else's intellectual product (texts, ideas, research models , results and inferences) implying that it is their own work .

The objective of this policy with reference to plagiarism will be create awareness about plagiarism, facilitate training to avoid plagiarism and have technology enabled tool to detect and thereby rectify similarity and bring it within the acceptable parameters.

The research work carried out by the student, faculty, researcher and staff shall be based on original ideas, and in the proper format as guided by UGC .It shall not have any similarities. It shall exclude a common knowledge or coincidental terms, up to fourteen (14) consecutive words.

1. The researcher must contribute to the body of knowledge.
2. Repeated use of one's own work in various publications will be also considered as plagiarism.
3. Repeated self citation may be also considered as inappropriate
4. Intentional plagiarism will be understood as dishonesty.
5. A method adopted from others research and not citing the author will be treated plagiarism. A standard citation manual/system must be adopted by the research as per the subject discipline to which he/she belongs.

Curbing Plagiarism

a) VESASC shall implement the technology based mechanism using appropriate standardized software so as to ensure that documents such as thesis, dissertation, publications or any other such documents are free of similarity / plagiarism at the time of their submission.

b) This above shall be followed by and to all engaged in research work including student, faculty, researcher and staff etc.

c) Every student submitting a thesis, dissertation, or any other such documents to VESASC shall submit an undertaking indicating that the document has been prepared by him or her and that the document is his/her original work and free of any plagiarism.

d) The undertaking shall include the fact that the document has been duly checked through a Plagiarism detection tool approved VESASC.

e) Each supervisor shall submit a certificate indicating that the work done by the researcher under him / her is plagiarism free.

All other parameters like exclusion from Similarity, levels of Plagiarism will be as per ***University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018.dated 23rd July 2018***
In case any researcher is found engaging in practices of plagiarism, the same will be investigated thoroughly by the Research Ethics Committee under the guidance of the Research Circle to decide on a suitable penalty as the ***University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018***

LAB ETHICS

The following instruction must be followed for Safety and the environment

1. Care should be taken to ensure that the research activity of the scientist does not endanger other people or the environment.
2. Many hazards could be present in labs for experiments like high voltage, lasers, chemicals, etc. One has to use appropriate safety standards and prevent injury to oneself and also to those who are not a part of the research group.

3. Researchers are expected to incorporate safety and environmental concerns into their research practices. Environmental guidelines, regulations and laws must be followed and appropriate prescribed licenses/permits and clearances obtained for the handling, storage and disposal of hazardous material.
4. The Principal Investigator (PI) should endeavour to get his/her team members to undergo appropriate training to maintain safety and environmental standards, and also to advise their institution about any safety measures that need to be put in place.
5. Its important to decontaminate all work surfaces after each working day using an appropriate disinfectant.
6. Do not allow eating, drinking, smoking, or application of cosmetics in the work area. Do not store food in refrigerators that contain laboratory supplies.
7. Wash hands with soap or detergent after handling viable materials or removing gloves, and before leaving the laboratory. Do not handle telephones, doorknobs, or other common utensils without washing hands.
8. When handling viable materials, minimize creation of aerosols.
9. Wear laboratory coats (preferably disposable) when in work area, but do not wear them away from the work area.
10. Wear disposable gloves when handling viable materials. These should be disposed of as biohazardous waste. Change gloves if they are directly contaminated.
11. Do not wear gloves away from the work area.
12. Use sharps only when no alternatives (e.g., safety devices or non-sharps) exist.
13. Wear eye/face protection if splashes or sprays are anticipated.
14. Report spills, exposures, illnesses, and injuries immediately.
15. Control pest populations. Windows in the laboratory that can be opened must be equipped with screens to exclude insects.
16. Use furniture that is easy to clean—i.e., with smooth, waterproof surfaces and as few seams as possible.
17. Keep biohazard waste in covered containers free from leaks. Use orange or red biohazard bags (or other appropriate colors in accordance with local regulations) as required by institutional procedure.