



PRINCIPLES OF RESEARCH ETHICS AND COMPONENTS OF PUBLICATION ETHICS

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ABSTRACT

A publication is something made to communicate with the public. Newspapers, Popular Magazines, Trade Journals / Magazines, Scholarly Journals etc are the examples of publications. Publications make scientific knowledge accessible to the public and give the rest of the academic community an opportunity to evaluate the quality of the research. Now, online publication method is available to increase publication frequency and reduce the in process time expenditure. Research ethics plays an important role in publications. Research ethics are the set of ethical guidelines that guides us on how scientific research should be conducted and disseminated where as publication ethics is a standard of conducts that guides the researcher to act responsibly and follow a set of guidelines for conducting and publishing their research. Both are the key foundation for maintaining scientific integrity and credibility.

KEYWORDS :

INTRODUCTION

The term "Ethics" is defined in the Webster's Dictionary as conformance to the standards of conducts of a given profession or group. "Ethics is a system of moral principles by which human actions and proposals may be judged good or bad, right or wrong" (Macquarie Dictionary 3rd edn). In research, ethics and compliance can be defined as conducting your research responsibly, adhering to legal requirements.

According to the University of Minnesota Centre for Bioethics 2003, "Research ethics provides guidelines on responsible conduct of biomedical research. In addition, research ethics trains and monitors researchers who conduct research to ensure a high ethical standard."

OBJECTIVES

- To protect human participants, their dignity, rights and welfare.
- To ensure that research is directed in a manner that promotes the wellbeing of individuals, groups and/or civilization as a whole.
- To verify the ethical reliability of certain research events and schemes, considering issues such as the controlling risk, protection of privacy and the progression of informed consent.

PRINCIPLES OF RESEARCH ETHICS

Principle of Honesty: Honesty plays a key role in the search for knowledge and in fostering co-operation and trust among researchers. Avoid fabrication, falsification and plagiarism of data and be truthful in findings and methodology of research. Also be honest with the beneficiaries, respondents and with other direct and indirect stakeholders.

Principle of Integrity: Integrity is the critical connection between ethics and moral action. Indeed it "is doing the right thing, even when no one is looking" said by author C.S.Lewis. Acting with integrity includes honesty, fairness, and decency.

Principle of Objectivity: Researchers are obligated to avoid bias in experimental design, data analysis, data interpretation, peer review, and other aspects of research. **Principle of Openness:** Be willing to share information, findings, and other resources. Accept uplifting remarks as well as helpful criticism.

Principle of Responsibility: Researchers must take steps to ensure that their work does not duplicate that of other researchers.

and being negligent. Also maintain thorough records of all research activities, including data gathering, research design, and communications with organizations or journals.

Principle of Transparency: Researcher must disclose methods, materials, assumptions, analyses, and other information needed to evaluate the research.

Principle of Accountability: Be prepared to give an account (i.e., an explanation or justification) of what you did on a research study and why. Assume responsibility for your part in the research.

Principle of Intellectual Property: Researcher must honor patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property. It protects original work of authorship and gives proper acknowledgement or credit for all contributions to research.

Principle of Confidentiality: Researcher must maintain confidentiality of the identity of a research subject or research communications such as papers or grants submitted for publication, personnel records, trade or military secrets, and patient records.

Principle of Non-discrimination: Researcher must refrain from discriminating against people based on their age, gender, race, ethnicity, or any other factors that violate the human rights. Also avoid elements that are not related to study.

Principle of Responsible publication: Publishing should be done to advance research and scholarship, not only to improve personal career. A publication becomes responsible when researcher avoid wasting resources and duplicative publication.

Responsible Mentoring: Responsible researcher educates and allows less experienced researchers or trainee or students to make their own decisions. Sharing knowledge and skills, supervising the trainee's work, assisting the trainee in connecting with other researchers, and providing career counseling are the responsibilities of a mentor.

Human Subjects protection: Research involving human beings is ultimately necessary for improvements in human health and welfare. There are significant risks involved in human research, and mistakes could happen. Any results about healthy physiology, illness causes, treatment effectiveness, learning, or behavior must be verified by carefully controlled investigations involving human participants.

Principle of Carefulness: Avoid making thoughtless mistakes

Animal Care: Top priority of a civilized society is the care of

animals. respect for life, societal benefit and nonmaleficence are the basic principles of animal care in research.

PUBLICATION ETHICS

"The principles and standards associated with the process of publishing the results of scientific research or scholarly work in general. These include such requirements as giving the appropriate credit and authorship status to those who have earned it; ensuring that appropriate citations are given to ideas, methodology, or findings from another study; not submitting the same article to more than one journal simultaneously; and not submitting results for republication without indicating that they have already been published elsewhere" - APA Dictionary of Psychology

Why to publish ethically?

- It ensures scientific progress
- It protects life and the planet
- It promotes ethical behavior
- It's good for your reputation
- It's the only way

Major International Organizations on Research and Publication Ethics

- **COPE:** Committee on Publication Ethics
- **WAME:** World Association of Medical Editors
- **ICMJE:** International Committee of Medical Journals & Editors
- **CSE:** Council of Science Editors
- **UGC:** University Grants Commission

COMPONENTS OF PUBLICATIONS ETHICS

- Ethics review or Breach of confidentiality
- Fabrication and falsification
- Authorship
- Plagiarism
- Ethics related to submission
- Conflict of interest

Ethics review or Breach of confidentiality

According to national guidelines researcher must take approval from the human and animal ethics committee before starting a research.

When you are planning for a research you must take the human and animal ethics committee approval whichever is applicable as per the national guidelines. Also you must take the informed consent or age appropriate consent whenever required. No journals accept the submitted manuscript

Fabrication and Falsification

As per the European Code of Conduct fabrication is defined as "making up results and recording them as if they were real". Falsification is when study findings (data) are altered or left out in order to support statements, theories, other facts, etc. Manipulating research tools, materials, or procedures is one type of falsification. Falsification can also be defined as the alteration of visual or verbal representations in a way that misrepresents the information or causes the reader to "read too much into the lines."

Authorship

A published work's responsibility, accountability, and credit are all conferred by authorship. Each author should be clear about their responsibility and it is mandatory to declare the contribution of each author. Also decide on authorship while writing protocol. Four criteria are suggested by the ICMJE (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors) as the basis for authorship.

Criteria for authorship

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of

data for the work; AND

- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

In addition an author should be able to identify which co-authors are responsible for specific other aspects of the work. Also authors should have confidence in the integrity of the contributions of their co-authors.

Plagiarism

The act of presenting someone else's ideas or work as your own, with or without that person's consent, by incorporating it into your work without giving it due credit, is known as plagiarism

Types of plagiarism

- **Direct Plagiarism:** it is also known as verbatim plagiarism. Complete or partial copying of someone else's work without acknowledging original author or the word-for-word transcription of a section of someone else's work, without attribution and without quotation marks is direct plagiarism.
- **Self Plagiarism:** it is also known as auto-plagiarism. In this writer duplicates of previous work or sentences.
- **Mosaic Plagiarism:** It is also known as patchwork plagiarism. It is an intentional or dishonest work which interlays someone else's phrases or text within its own research.
- **Accidental Plagiarism:** Accidental plagiarism occurs when a person forgets to cite their sources, incorrectly paraphrases them, or unintentionally uses similar terms, word groupings, or sentence structures without giving proper credit.

How to avoid plagiarism?

- Avoid "copy and paste"
- Write the concept in own words
- Cite the original source
- Cite references accurately
- Avoid writing same type of several articles
- Make use of anti-plagiarism software too

Ethics related to submission

- **Simultaneous submission:** It is the act of submitting an article to a journal while it is already being reviewed by another publication.
- **Duplicate/Multiple submission:** A new manuscript is submitted with same hypothesis, methods, data, discussion and conclusion. This can occur in varying degrees: literal duplication, partial but substantial duplication, or even duplication by paraphrasing.
- **Self citation:** Citing one's own work or publication out of context.
- **Predatory journals:** It is a publication that has no peer review system and no true editorial board with huge publication charges. It is also called fraudulent, deceptive, or pseudo-journals.

Conflict of interest

A potential conflict of interest exists when an investigator, author, editor, or reviewer has a financial or personal interest or belief that could affect his/her objectivity or improperly influence his/her activities. Dual commitments, competing interests, or competing loyalties are other terms for these kinds of relationships.

CONCLUSION

Ethics are an integral part of good research and publication.

Publishers are responsible for their published information to ensure that the published article or material is accurate and true. A good publication always maintains all ethical standards.

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