

Paper – PROJECT STUDY

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Dr. James Hussain

Assistant Professor (Guest Faculty)

Email.-mbajames123@gmail.com

TOPIC- IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH ETHICS FOR PROJECT STUDY?

DEFINE RESEARCH ETHICS

Research Ethics are a set of principles about how researchers and research organizations should conduct themselves when dealing with research participants, other researchers and colleagues, the users of their research and society in general. Particularly relevant to the social sciences are ethics associated with projects involving human participants, including conducting surveys, focus groups and the use of secondary data.

Typical considerations include –

- Recruiting study participants and informed consent
- Keeping data secure and confidential
- Making procedures, methods and findings transparent so that they can be assessed
- Safety and risk
- Consult guidelines and codes of conduct relevant to the research being conducted

IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH ETHICS

It is important to conduct research in line with ethical standards for a number of reasons –

- In order to respect and cause no harm to the participants.
- As a sign of respect for other researchers and those who will use the research.
- It is a professional requirement particularly in some disciplines and failure to do so may result in disciplinary procedures.
- It is a requirement to obtain funding.
- Failing to conduct research ethically could be embarrassing or result in research (or the researcher) being dismissed or rejected by the research community.
- Research involving human beings, including using questionnaires and focus groups, must be passed by an Ethics Committee whose job it is to confirm that the research conforms to a set of ethical guidelines.
- If ethics are considered, this should make sure that the work is acceptable to the research community and other users of the research results.

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING IN RESEARCH

Although codes, policies, and principals are very important and useful, like any set of rules, they do not cover every situation, they often conflict, and they require considerable interpretation. It is therefore important for researchers to learn how to interpret, assess, and apply various research rules and how to make decisions and to act in various situations. The vast majority of decisions involve the straightforward application of ethical rules.

There are many other activities that the government does not define as ‘misconduct’ but which are still regarded by most researchers as unethical. These are called ‘other deviations’ from acceptable research practices and include –

- Publishing the same paper in two different journals without telling the editors;
- Submitting the same paper to different journals without telling the editors;
- Not informing a collaborator of your intent to file a patent in order to make sure that you are the sole inventor;
- Including a colleague as an author on a paper in return for a favor even though the colleague did not make a serious contribution to the paper;
- Discussing with your colleagues confidential data from a paper that you are reviewing for a journal;
- Trimming outliers from a data set without discussing your reasons in paper;
- Using an inappropriate statistical technique in order to enhance the significance of your research;
- Bypassing the peer review process and announcing your results through a press conference without giving peers adequate information to review your work;
- Conducting a review of the literature that fails to acknowledge the contributions of other people in the field or relevant prior work;
- Stretching the truth on a grant application in order to convince reviewers that your project will make a significant contribution to the field;
- Stretching the truth on a job application or curriculum vita;
- Giving the same research project to two graduate students in order to see who can do it the fastest;
- Overworking, neglecting, or exploiting graduate or post-doctoral students;
- Failing to keep good research records;
- Failing to maintain research data for a reasonable period of time;
- Making derogatory comments and personal attacks in your review of author’s submission;
- Promising a student a better grade for sexual favors;
- Using a racist epithet in the laboratory;
- Making significant deviations from the research protocol approved by your institution’s Animal Care and Use Committee or Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects Research without telling the committee or the board;
- Not reporting an adverse event in a human research experiment;
- Wasting animals in research;
- Exposing students and staff to biological risks in violation of your institution’s biosafety rules;

- Rejecting a manuscript for publication without even reading it;
- Sabotaging someone's work;
- Stealing supplies, books, or data;
- Rigging an experiment so you know how it will turn out;
- Making unauthorized copies of data, papers, or computer programs