



## ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN RESEARCH



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### **Preface**

Writing is an embodied thought, at least a craft but at best an art. Essentially, writing is most different to learn. However, there are established standards and guides for writing which are usually difficult to understand. This is much so with thesis/project writing entails "writing on demand" rather than "bread and-butter writing". Generally, writers are prone to errors and limitations.

#### **Meaning of the word ethics**

Ethics examines the rational justification for our moral judgments; it studies what is morally right or wrong, just or unjust. In a broader sense, ethics reflects on human beings and their interaction with nature and with other humans, on freedom, on responsibility and on justice.

### **Importance of ethics**

Ethics is what guides us to tell the truth, keep our promises, or help someone in need. There is a framework of ethics underlying our lives on a daily basis, helping us make decisions that create positive impacts and steering us away from unjust outcomes.

### **Types of ethics**

Normative ethics, concerning the practical means of determining a moral course of action; Applied ethics, concerning what a person is obligated (or permitted) to do in a specific situation or a particular domain of action.

### **Further Types of ethics**

Supernaturalism.

Subjectivism.

Consequentialism.

Intuitionism.

Emotivism.

Duty-based ethics.

Virtue ethics.

Situation ethics.

How many types of ethics are there?

Ethics is traditionally subdivided into normative ethics, metaethics, and applied ethics.

#### **Who is the father of ethics**

Socrates: The Father of Ethics and Inquiry (Greatest Greek Philosophers) (Library Binding)

### **Sources of ethics**

The Utilitarian Approach

The Rights Approach. Other philosophers and ethicists suggest that the ethical action is the one that best protects and respects the moral rights of those affected. ...

The Fairness or Justice Approach

The Common Good Approach

The Virtue Approach.

### What Educational Research is all about

The term research is applicable to wide range of activities in the field of education. The conceptualization of a precise and single identifiable meaning is difficult. However, research is not magic neither is it a mere complication of figures, juggling with statistics based on data collected with copious questionnaire. A close look at the texts on Educational Research attest to the fact that some authors perceive of Educational Research as a synonym for statistics. Such authors devote greater proportion of the texts to educational statistics and the processes. Educational research is not randomised collection of individual observations and miscellaneous items of information without a central focus or concept. Research is not a dogma or divine revelation acceptable only through faith. It is not synonymous with mere collection, computation and organization of statistical data.

Research and science methods are deemed to possess some common elements and are at times used as synonyms. In literary terms, research has been conceptualised as:

Search to the problems that plague and puzzle mankind;

Any scientific attempt at the advancement of learning with the purpose of constructing our universe.

“The more formal, systematic and intensive process of carrying out a scientific method of analysis” (Best 1970: 8).

An activity that involves observation and description of the characteristics properties of objects or events for the purpose of discovering relationships between variables and developing generalizations that may be used to predict future occurrences.

Involves identification of problems, gathering new data, finding solution to a problem through carefully designed procedures and, logical analysis

Specially, Travers (1969:5) defined educational research as “an activity directed toward the development of an organized body of scientific knowledge about the events with which educators are concerned.

Intentional and systematic activities of search that lead to the conceptualization, expression, design and production of something new (Vielle, 1981:6)

### **Research defined**

To search or to investigate exhaustively.

An inquiry or examination; especially, investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws

Adding something new to existing knowledge

Solving problems that puzzle mankind

Research has order of approach to arrive at universally acceptable standard of presentation. This therefore call for ethical consideration in research reporting. In order to ease our discuss in the subject, it is necessary to refresh our memory on the basic concept of variables that form the fulcrum of our overall presentation. These are ethics and research. It is essential owing to their relevance of the nexus between ethics and research which if otherwise research will be reduced to rule of the thumb or exist in the realm of aposteriori (assumptions) axiomatic which may be correct or false examples: research titles, statement of problems, research questions, research hypothesis, literature review, research designs, gathering of materials, population, sample and sampling techniques, analyses of results, presentation of findings, summary, conclusion and recommendations are all guided by acceptable standard which cannot be disbursed from ethical consideration in research on one hand, on the other it is seen as an acceptable approaches for eliciting data for research purposes. Consequently, we now have two perspectives of ethical consideration in research;

The expectations in the key subheadings in research presentation and the manner of eliciting data are reporting same constitute ethical considerations in research.

Research titles



The title summarizes the main idea or ideas of your study. A good title contains as few words as possible that adequately describe the content and/or purpose of your research paper. The title is, without a doubt, the part of a work that is read the most, and is usually the first to be read.

### **Developing research questions; How to write good research questions;**

Clear and focused, in other words, the question should clearly state what the writer needs to do.

Not too broad and not too narrow. The question should have an appropriate scope. ...

Not too easy to answer

Not too difficult to answer

Researchable

Analytical rather than descriptive.

There are six forms of hypothesis and they are:

Simple hypothesis.

Complex hypothesis.

Directional hypothesis.

Non-directional hypothesis.

Null hypothesis.

Associative and casual hypothesis.

How do you conduct ethical research?

Strive for honesty in all scientific communications. Honestly report data, results, methods and procedures, and publication status. Do not fabricate, falsify, or misrepresent data. Do not deceive colleagues, research sponsors, or the public.

### **What are the 8 professional ethics?**

Universal ethical principles:

Honesty.

Trustworthiness.

Loyalty.

Respect for others.

Adherence to the law.

Doing good and avoiding harm to others.

Accountability.

### **Characteristics of Research**

Empirical Research. ...

Logical Research. ...

Cyclic Research. ...

Analytical Research. ...

Controlled Research. ...

Research-based on Objective. ...

Research-based on statistical treatment. ...

### **Hypothesis-based Research.**

It is ethical for identify the nature of your research so as to decipher the approach and even the tool to focus your attack on it.

### **Difference between ethics and morality**

Ethics focuses on the decision-making process for determining right and wrong, which sometimes is a matter of weighing the pros and cons or the competing values and interest. Morality is a code of behaviour usually based on religious tenets, which often inform our ethical decisions.

### **Ethical considerations in research**

Ethical considerations in research are a set of principles that guide your research designs and practices. These principles include voluntary participation, informed consent, anonymity, confidentiality, potential for harm, and results communication.

Another school of thought advanced the following as part of ethical considerations in research. These are autonomy, non-maleficence, beneficence, justice, fidelity and veracity.

Yet another perspective sum up ethical considerations as follows: display of honesty, objectivity, morality, prudence, openness and respect for intellectual property, confidentiality, responsible publication, responsible management, respect for colleagues, social responsibility, anti-discrimination.

Generally, there are about 12 ethical principles: honesty, fairness, leadership, integrity, compassion, respect, responsibility, loyalty, law-abiding, transparency, and environmental concerns.

### **Why are ethical principles important in research?**

It is important to adhere to ethical principles in order to protect the dignity, rights and welfare of research participants. As such, all research involving human beings should be reviewed by an ethics committee to ensure that the appropriate ethical standards are being upheld.

### **Ethical issues in research**

Study design and ethics approval. As a universal practice “good research is well adjusted, well-planned, appropriately designed, and ethically approved. ...

Data analysis. ...

Authorship; order of authorship should not distorted

Conflicts of interest; avoid conflicts of interests

Redundant publication and plagiarism.

Fundamental principles of ethical research

The rights and dignity of individuals and groups should be respected.

Wherever possible, participation should be voluntary and appropriately informed.

Research should be conducted with integrity and transparency.

Lines of responsibility and accountability should be clearly defined.

These principles include in greater details;

Voluntary participation,

Informed consent,

Anonymity,

Confidentiality,

Potential for harm,

Results communication.

Scientists and researchers must always adhere to these codes of conduct when collecting data from others.

Discuss intellectual property frankly. ...

Be conscious of multiple roles. ...

Follow informed-consent rules. ...

Respect confidentiality and privacy. ...

Tap into ethics resources.

### **Principles of ethical research**

Research should be worthwhile and provide value that outweighs any risk or harm. Researchers should aim to maximise the benefit of the research and minimise potential risk of harm to participants and researchers. All potential risk and harm should be mitigated by robust precautions.



### **Basis of research ethics**

Research ethics are based on three fundamental principles:

In order to treat people as autonomous, individuals must be provided with complete information about a study and decide on their own whether to enroll.

### **What are the 4 key ethical principles?**

Beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy, and justice constitute the 4 principles of ethics. The first 2 can be traced back to the time of Hippocrates “to help and do no harm,” while the latter 2 evolved later.

### **Principles of research designs**

The basic principles of experimental design are (i) Randomization, (ii) Replication, and (iii) Local Control.

### **Research principles**

Research principles presents practical guidance, which enables students to get to grips with managing and understanding academic information. It also outlines the different methods of researching a topic as part of academic study, depending on the subject discipline, level of study, source materials and the assignment.

### **Principles of ethical research?**

Three basic principles, among those generally accepted in our cultural tradition, are particularly relevant to the ethics of research involving human subjects: the principles of respect of persons, beneficence and justice.

### **Principles of ethical research and communication**

Simply put, ethical communication refers to communicating in a manner that is clear, concise, truthful, and responsible.

### **What are the principles of research ethics NCBI?**

The Belmont Report requires that researchers uphold three basic principles: respect for persons, beneficence, and justice. Researchers in the US must have the protocol approved by an IRB prior to enrolling subjects.

### **Steps to ethical research?**

The steps to ethical research are as follows:

- 1) Identify the problem or dilemma,
- 2) Identify the potential issues involved,
- 3) Review the relevant ethical codes,
- 4) know the applicable laws and regulations,
- 5) Obtain consultation,
- 6) Consider possible and probable course of action,
- 7) Enumerate the consequences of various decisions

### **Beauchamp and Childress and Biomedical ethics**

The Four Principles, originally devised by Beauchamp and Childress in their textbook *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, are considered by many as the standard theoretical framework from which to analyse ethical situations in medicine.

### **Examples of ethics in research?**

- A) Strive for honesty in all scientific communications.
- B) Honestly report data, results, methods and procedures, and publication status.



C) Do not fabricate, falsify, or misrepresent data.

D) Do not deceive colleagues, research sponsors, or the public.

### **Writing ethically in research?**

You should identify and anticipate any ethical issues or dilemmas that may arise during or after your research, and how you will resolve them.

You should also consider the impact and consequences of your research on different stakeholders, such as your participants, colleagues, institution, community, or society

### **Non- maleficence in research?**

The ethical principle of non-maleficence compels researchers not to cause any harm to study participants. It also requires that the researcher should at least not make the conditions of participants worse if he/she cannot make it better. Justice requires fairness in the process of recruitment of persons into any study.

### **Essential Characteristics of Research**

Purposive. Research must be purposive. ...

Controlled. Control in research refers to a methodology that is to be applied while conducting research

Rigorous. The process or procedure of research must be rigorous. ...

Systematic; should involve series of stages

Valid and verifiable

Critical, novel and solving problems

Empirical.

The purpose of research is to enhance society by advancing knowledge through scientific theories, concepts and ideas. A research purpose is met through forming hypotheses, collecting data, analysing, etc.

### **What are research objectives?**

Research objectives describe what your research is trying to achieve and explain why you are pursuing it. They summarize the approach and purpose of your project and help to focus your research. Your objectives should appear in the introduction of your research paper, at the end of your problem statement.

### **What is the difference between a hypothesis and a research question?**

A hypothesis is a statement that expresses a possible relationship between variables or phenomena, based on existing knowledge, theory, or observation. A research question, on the other hand, is a question that seeks to explore or explain an aspect of your topic, without making any assumptions or claims.

### **Which ethical principle requires researchers to do good?**

Researchers must implement specific protections to minimize all forms of discomfort and harm to align with the principle of beneficence. Under the principle of beneficence, researchers must also protect participants from exploitation.

### **What are the two types of ethics?**

There are two main types of ethical inquiry: Theoretical ethics and applied ethics.

### **What are the 10 code of ethics?**

Respect, integrity, compassion, collaboration, stewardship, accountability, and quality shall be incorporated into SIH's day-to-day operations. 2. Continually work to improve the quality of patient care. SIH will work to identify and meet the healthcare needs of the community it serves.

**Conclusion**

Good research follows a systematic approach to capture accurate data. Researchers need to practice ethics and a code of conduct while making observations or drawing conclusions. The analysis is based on logical reasoning and involves both inductive and deductive methods.

**What is integrity in research ethics?**

Research integrity includes: the use of honest and verifiable methods in proposing, performing, and evaluating research. reporting research results with particular attention to adherence to rules, regulations, guidelines, and. following commonly accepted professional codes or norms.

**Non -maleficence?**

Non-maleficence. The principle of nonmaleficence holds that there is an obligation not to inflict harm on others.

**Principles of ethics**

Humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality: these seven Fundamental Principles sum up the Movement's ethics and are at the core of its approach to helping people in need during armed conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies.

Principles of ethics in decision making in research methodology?

There are five principles to an ethical decision: autonomy (to allow individuals to make their own choice), justice (to treat people in accordance to their needs), beneficence (decisions should be based on one's maximum good), non-maleficence (to cause no harm), and fidelity (to remain faithful and loyal in the process.

**A Framework for Ethical Decision Making**

Identify the Ethical Issues.

Get the Facts.

Evaluate Alternative Actions.

Choose an Option for Action and Test It.

Implement Your Decision and Reflect on the Outcome.

**Ethical analysis**

Ethical analysis involves an evaluation of the impacts of the proposed managerial action upon the members of the organization and the members of the society, and then justification of those impacts according to one of the first principles or essential values of normative philosophy.

What are the stages in research process?

**Research Process Steps; it is ethical to ;**

- 1 Identify the Problem.
- 2 Evaluate the Literature.
- 3 Create Hypotheses.
- 4 The Research Design.
- 5 Describe Population.
- 6 Data Collection.
- 7 Data Analysis.
- 8 The Report-writing.

**First step in conducting research?**

The first step in the research process is to develop a research question. This can be a problem that needs to be solved, or some piece of information that is missing about a particular topic. Answering this question will be the focus of the research study.



What are the 7 principles of ethics?

**What are the 7 main ethical principles in nursing and why they are important?** There are seven primary ethical principles of nursing: accountability, justice, nonmaleficence, autonomy, beneficence, fidelity, and veracity.

How do you write an ethics section in a research paper?

### **Ethical Considerations**

Research participants should not be subjected to harm in any ways whatsoever.

Respect for the dignity of research participants should be prioritised.

Full consent should be obtained from the participants prior to the study.

The protection of the privacy of research participants has to be ensured.

### **What is beneficence vs maleficence?**

Beneficence is the ethical principle of promoting good, while nonmaleficence is to avoid causing harm. Taking a patient outside for fresh air is an example of beneficence, while performing multiple checks to avoid a medication error is an example of nonmaleficence.

### **The Principles of Design**

Balance. Balance is how the elements within a composition are arranged either symmetrically, asymmetrically, or radially to create the impression of equality in weight or importance.

Scale. This is an easy one – how big or small something is. ...

Contrast.

Pattern.

Movement and Rhythm. ...

Emphasis.

### **Recommendations**

PRINCIPLE ONE: Minimising the risk of harm.

PRINCIPLE TWO: Obtaining informed consent.

PRINCIPLE THREE: Protecting anonymity and confidentiality.

PRINCIPLE FOUR: Avoiding deceptive practices.

PRINCIPLE FIVE: Providing the right to withdraw.

The nine core principles are including: 1) Do no harm 2) Respecting autonomy 3) Benefiting others 4) Being Just 5) Being Truthful 6) According Dignity 7) Treating others with caring and compassion 8) Pursuit of excellence 9) Accepting responsibility.

### **Guidelines for doing research with humans?**

Respect for persons

Beneficence

Justice

Think about issues of responsible conduct

Make sure the use of human subjects is both justifiable and necessary

Informed Consent

Elements of an informed consent document

Beneficence is defined as an act of charity, mercy, and kindness with a strong connotation of doing good to others including moral obligation.

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