

Course 2 - Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)

Hours of Instructions in a Week : 2

Assessment:

Course End- Examination : 70 Marks (3 Hours duration)
Continuous Assessment : 30 Marks (Test and Assignment)

Objectives:

The objective of this course is to instruct the research candidates about the philosophy of research; research and publication ethics; accessibility of publications and the publication misconduct.

Course Specific Objectives:

1. An understanding of the philosophy of research.
2. Learn about the research ethics.
3. Familiarise with the scientific conduct in research activity.
4. Understand the publication ethics.
5. Get informed about the open access publishing.
6. Awareness of publication misconduct
7. Understand the publishing databases and research metrics.
8. Get familiar of the processes involved in the standard publication.

Course Outcome:

- CO1. Learn philosophy of research.
- CO2. Understand the research ethics.
- CO3. Understand the scientific conduct in research.
- CO4. Learn publication ethics.
- CO5. Become aware of the open access publishing.
- CO6. Familiarise with publication misconduct
- CO7. Learn publication database and research metrics

Unit 1. Philosophy and Ethics

Hrs : 3

- a. Introduction to philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches
- b. Ethics: definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgements and reactions

Unit 2. Scientific Conduct

Hrs : 5

- a. Ethics with respect to science and research
- b. Intellectual honesty and research integrity
- c. Scientific Misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication, and Plagiarism (FFP)
- d. Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publication, salami slicing
- e. Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data

Unit 3. Publication Ethics

Hrs : 7

- a. Publication Ethics: definition, introduction and importance.
- b. Best practices – standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME, etc.
- c. Conflict of interest
- d. Publication misconduct: definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behaviour and vice-versa, types.
- e. Violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributionship
- f. Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals
- g. Predatory publishers and journal

Unit 4. Open Access Publishing

Hrs : 4

- a. Open access publications and initiatives
- b. SHERPA/RoMEO online resource to check publisher copyright and self-archiving policies;
- c. Software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU
- d. Journal finder/journal suggestion tools, viz. JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggester, etc..

Unit 5. Publication Misconduct

Hrs : 4

A. Group discussion (2Hrs)

- a. Subject specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship
- b. Conflict of interest
- c. Complaints and appeals: examples and fraud from India and abroad

B. Software tools (2Hrs)

- a. Use of plagiarism software like Turnitin, Urkund and other open source software tools

Unit 6. Databases and Research Metrics

Hrs : 7

A. Databases (4Hrs)

- a. Indexing databases
- b. Citation databases: Web of Science, Scopus, etc.

B. Research Metrics (3Hrs)

- a. Impact factor of journal as per journal citation report, SNIP, SJR, IPP, Cite Score
- b. Metrics: h-index, g index, i10 index, altmetrics

Reading list:

Bird, A. (2006). *Philosophy of Science*. Routledge.

Chaddah, P. (2018) *Ethics in Competitive Research: Do not get scooped; do not get plagiarised*.

Deakin, L. (2014). *Best practice guidelines on publishing ethics: A publisher's perspective*. Wiley.

Indian National Science Academy. 2019. *Ethics in Science Education, Research and Governance*.

Israel, M. (2015). *Research ethics and integrity for social scientists: Beyond regulatory compliance*. SAGE Publications.

Israel, M., & Hay, I. (2009). *Research ethics for social scientists: Between ethical conduct and regulatory compliance*. Sage.

Kimmel, A. J. (1988). *Ethics and values in applied social research*. Sage Publications.

MacIntyre, A. (198). *A short history of ethics*. Routledge.

Mertens, D. M., & Ginsberg, P. E. (2009). *The handbook of social research ethics*. Sage Publications.

Resnik, D.B. 2011. *What is Ethics in Research and why it is important?* National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Yadav, Santosh Kumkar. 2000. *Research and Publications Ethics*. Ishwar Books.