

Course II: Research and Publication Ethics(RPE)

THEORY

I. PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS(3 hrs)

1. Introduction to philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches
2. Ethics: definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgements and reactions

II. SCIENTIFIC CONDUCT(5 hrs)

1. Ethics with respect to science and research
2. Intellectual honesty and research integrity
3. Scientific misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication, and Plagiarism(FFP)
4. Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing
5. Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data

III. PUBLICATION ETHICS(7 hrs)

1. Publication ethics: definition, introduction and importance
2. Best practices/standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME etc.
3. Conflicts of interest
4. Publication misconduct: definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa, types
5. Violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributorship
6. Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals
7. Predatory publishers and journals

PRACTICE

IV. OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING (4 hrs)

1. Open access publications and initiatives
2. SHERPA/RoMEO online resource to check publisher copyright & self-archiving policies
3. Software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU
4. Journal finder/journal suggestion tools viz. JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggester, etc.

V. PUBLICATION MICONDUCT(4 hrs)

A. Group Discussions(2 hrs)

1. Subject specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship
2. Conflicts of interest
3. Complaints and appeals: examples and fraud from India and abroad

B. Software tools (2 hrs)

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

VI. DATABASES AND RESEARCH METRICS(7 hrs)

A. Databases (4 hrs)

1. Indexing databases
2. Citation databases: Web of Science, Scopus, etc

B. Research Metrics (3 hrs)

1. Impact Factor of journal as per Journal Citation Report, SNIP, SJR,IPP, Cite Score
2. Metrics: h-index, g index, i10 index, altmetrics

References

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- MacIntyre, Alasdair(1967) A Short History of Ethics. London
- P.Chaddah,(2018) Ethics in Competitive Research: Do not get scooped; do not get plagiarized, ISBN:978-9387480865
- National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering and Institute of Medicine.(2009). On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research: Third Edition. National Academies Press.
- Rensik, D.B(2011).What is ethics in research & why is it important. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, 1-10. Retrieved from <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/resources/bioethics/whatis/index.cfm>
- Beall, J.(2012). Predatory publishers are corrupting open access. Nature, 489(7415), 179-179. <https://doi.org/10.1038/489179a>
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