CODE OF ETHICS FOR RESEARCH

1. Objectives of Code of Ethics for Research

The birth of modern research ethics began with a desire to protect human subjects involved in research projects. Research ethics involves the application of fundamental ethical principles to a variety of topics involving research in science, social sciences and humanities. These include the design and implementation of research involving human experimentation, animal experimentation, various aspects of academic scandal, including scientific misconduct (such as fraud, fabrication, falsification and misrepresentation of data and plagiarism)

Code of Ethics for Research should respond to a changing climate of research with the intent of:

(i)   showing due respect to all who are part of the research,
(ii)   respecting the values of truth, fairness and open democracy,
(iii)   upholding the integrity of a discipline, and
(iv)   carrying out the mode of enquiry of research.

Code of Ethics for Research should strive to maintain:

(i)   the integrity of social/linguistic/medical/biological enquiry
(ii)   the freedom to research
(iii)   the freedom to publish and disseminate the results of their research

2. Researcher's Responsibilities

2.1 Towards Colleagues:

   a.   When referring to the work of others do not intentionally misrepresent their work
   b.   Never present other people's work as their own
   c.   Always acknowledge other's contribution to their research and publication
   d.   Clearly identify material which comes from other author's publications or from personal communications
   e.   In a collaborative a team research, clearly outline roles and responsibilities; publications; co- authorship in publication, etc.

2.2 Towards Informants:

   a.   Maintain confidentially, autonomy and privacy of the informants
   b.   Obtain informed consent, i.e. relationships with informants should be founded on trust and openness
   c.   Avoid deception and convert research
   d.   Respect informant's decision not to participate in research

2.3 Towards Public:

Where public money is used in research, there is a duty to provide an account of how and why funds have been spent and what has been achieved.

2.4 Towards Sponsors:

Acknowledging the sponsoring agencies/bodies and also careful selection of the sponsoring agencies while keeping in mind that there is no compromise of ethics.

3. Plagiarism

This could be material copied word for word from books, journals, internet sites, professor's course notes, etc. It could be material that is paraphrased but the original source is not acknowledged. It could be the work of a fellow student, data from a lab report, a paper or

assignment completed by another researcher. Plagiarism does not refer to words alone - it can also refer to copying images, graphs, tables, and ideas without acknowledgement of the source. If you translate the work of another person from one language to another and do not cite the source, this is also plagiarism. If you cite your own work without the correct citation, this too is plagiarism.

4. Basic Ethical Principles of Research

i. Honesty:

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, granting agencies, or the public.

ii. Objectivity:

Strive to avoid bias in experimental design, data analysis, data interpretation, peer review, personnel decisions, grant writing, expert testimony, and other aspects of research where objectivity is expected or required. Avoid or minimize bias or self-deception. Disclose personal or financial interests that may affect research.

iii. Integrity:

Keep your promises and agreements; act with sincerity; strive for consistency of thought and action.

iv. Carefulness:

Avoid careless errors and negligence; carefully and critically examine your own work and the work of your peers. Keep good records of research activities, such as data collection, research design, and correspondence with agencies or journals.

v. Openness:

Share data, results, ideas, tools, resources. Be open to criticism and new ideas.

vi. Respect for Intellectual Property:

Honor patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property. Do not use unpublished data, methods, or results without permission. Give credit where credit is due. Give proper acknowledgement or credit for all contributions to research. Never plagiarize.

vii. Confidentiality:

Protect confidential communications, such as papers or grants submitted for publication, personnel records, trade or military secrets, and patient records, personal information or opinions obtained from the informants, etc.

viii. Responsible Publication:

Publish in order to advance research and scholarship, not to advance just your own career. Avoid wasteful and duplicative publication.

ix. Responsible Mentoring:

Help to educate, mentor, and advise students. Promote their welfare and allow them to make their own decisions.

x. Respect for Colleagues:

Respect your colleagues and treat them fairly.

xi. Social Responsibility:

Strive to promote social good and prevent or mitigate social harms through research, public education, and advocacy.

xii. Non-Discrimination:

Avoid discrimination against colleagues or students on the basis of sex, race, language, ethnicity, class or other factors that are not related to their scientific competence and integrity.

xiii. Animal Care:

Show proper respect and care for animals when using them in research. Do not conduct unnecessary or poorly designed animal experiments.

xiv. Human Subjects Protection:

When conducting research on human subjects, minimize harms and risks and maximize benefits; respect human dignity, privacy, and autonomy; take special precautions with vulnerable populations; and strive to distribute the benefits and burdens of research fairly.

5. Recommendation of the Committee

i) Orientation programme to sensitize the Code of Ethics for Research to the fresh Ph.D./M.Phil. students enrolled in various departments should be organized before the commencement of the of the course work.

ii) Informed consent form, depending on the nature of research of each Faculty, may be developed at the faculty level and it should be served to human subject participating in the research.

iii) Each Ph.D./M.Phil. student should be required to submit a certificate that no work contained in the thesis has been used beyond the prescribed limit, which is to be decided by the **Research Ethics Committee** of the university, and the source of the data and other related information pertaining to the research have been duly acknowledged. The certificate should be signed by the candidate.

iv) Research Ethics Committee should be constituted by the university to check the plagiarism and other issues that are in violation of Code of Ethics for Research. The said committee should have an access to Plagiarism Detection Software (PDS) for detecting plagiarism before submission of the Ph.D./M.Phil. thesis.