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Importance of Ethics in Research

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Abstract: Research ethics are a responsibility of a researcher for the unique and isolated research. Research often involoves a great deal of cooperation and coordination among many different people in different disciplines and institutions ethical standards promote the values that are the essential to collaborative work such as a trust, accountability, mutual recepect and fairness. Strive for honesty in all scientific communication like report data, results, methods. Research objectivity is expected required for experimental design, peer review and personal decisions. Keep promises and agreement act with integrity. A good research is main quality are maser by carefulness, openness, respect for intellectual property, confidentiality, responsible publication, responsible mentoring, respect for colleagues, social responsibility, non-discrimination, competence, legality, animal care, human subject protection etc. So a good research is not complete without research ethics.

Keywords: cooperation - working together, collaborative - Joint or partnership working, integrity - the quality of honest, mentoring – direction given by a guide, legality - the fact allowed by law.

I. INTRODUCTION

Research ethics are moral principles that guide three thousand researchers to conduct and report research without deception or intention to harm the participants of the study or members of the society as a whole, whether knowingly or unknowingly. What do we mean by "Ethics" Ethics in simple terms means "values or morality". Ethics as a discipline is a special field- Science of morality.

Research ethics provides guidelines for the responsible conduct of research. In addition, it educates and monitors scientists conducting research to ensure a high ethical standard. Some ethical principles are honestly report data, Integrity.

Keep your promises and agreements, carefully and critically examine your own work and the work of your peers, Openness Share data, results, ideas, tools, resources. Be open to criticism and new ideas. Objectivity strive to avoid bias in experimental design, Responsible Publication mentoring, Maintain and improve your own professional competence, Know and obey relevant laws and institutional and governmental policies, When conducting research on human subjects, minimize harms and risks and maximize benefits; respect human dignity, privacy, and autonomy.

Ethics is the branch of philosophy, said to have been initiated by "Aristotle", which takes human action as it's subject matter. This can mean opinions about human action, opinion about right human action, right opinions about human action, or all of these topics. ETHICS is a Greek word formed by Ethos' it means custom or convention, or the spirit of community.

Definitions: -

1. Moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity (Oxford dictionary, 2014).

2. The branch of philosophy that deals with morality. Ethics is concerned with distinguishing between good and evil in the world, between right and wrong human actions, and between virtuous and no virtuous characteristics of people (TheAmerican Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, 2005).

As per ethical ground the adoption of right procedure and outcomes of research are more important than intentions per say. In research we need to consider how the imposition of the research on individuals (with their consent or otherwise) can be balanced with the benefit of making the world a better place to live in. As Homan says, "Ethics is the science of morality: those who engage in it determinate values for the regulation of human behavior."

II. RESEARCH ETHICS PERCEPTIVITY

Martyn Hammersley and Paul Atkinson (2007) argued that "there are ethical issues surrounding social research, just as there are with any other form of human activity." How do we connect this with issue of power and inequality in social science research? Conflicting research interest which is linked with ethics is between research supervisors and students (Hammersley and Atkinson (2007). Researchers too are interested in the values that may regulate the conduct of research.

The decisions we make at different stages in our researchmay have ethical implications even though we may not be aware of them. Even when deciding on a topic for study we are making a choice about a population to investigate and this may have ethical implications (Ali and Kelly 2012).

So, in order to counter this process and committing to the principle of justice (professional role of social science is to perform as a moral political force), ensure safety and dignity for the research participants. Strict application of normative standards or ethical guidelines are stressed. Institutional review board are established in research institutions (Silverman and Marvasti 2008).

III. IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS

1. Beneficence: the obligation to provide benefits and balance benefits against risks.

2. Non-maleficence (the obligation to avoid the causation of harm).

3. Although there is considerable debate within medicine regarding ethical research practice, a number of principles are commonly regarded as fundamental.

4. Respect for autonomy (the obligation to respect for decision making capacities of autonomous persons).

5. Justice (obligations of fairness in distribution of risks and benefits).

6. Discuss intellectual property frankly

7. Be conscious of multiple roles

8. Follow informed-consent rules

9. Respect confidentiality and privacy.

10. Discuss the limits of confidentiality.

11. Know federal and state law, Take practical security measures. Think about data sharing before research begins. Understand the limits of the Internet.

12. Tap into ethics resources.

IV. ETHICAL PROCEDURES IN SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Shortly after the publication of Humphreys" work in 1970, there was a considerable outcry against the covert research, invasion of privacy, misrepresentation of researcher identities, and deception commonly being practiced during the course of research.

Many of the controversies that revolve around Humphreys" research remain key ethical issues today (Ali and Kelly, 2012 and Silverman and Marvasti, 2008). These ethical principles of medical sciences: beneficence, non-maleficence, respect for autonomy and justice- also underlie the development of social research ethics. The most striking deviation from this principle in the context of ethnographic work is covert participant observation, examples include Scheper-Hughes"s- anthropologist (2004)study of organ-traffickers.

A frequent concern about research is that it involves making things public that were said or done in private. Like informed consent, however, the concept of privacy iscomplex. What is public and what private is rarely clear-cut.

V. RESPONDENT'S RIGHT TO CONTROL INFORMATION OF THE RESEARCH

Sometimes, the invasion of privacy by researchers is justified on the grounds that since the account will be published for a specialized audience neither the people studied nor anyone else who knows them is likely to read it. But is this true? And, even if it is, does it excuse what has been done?

Also we try to address, the issue of privacy by saying that we have maintained confidentiality by not naming the organisation or person and given a pseudonym. But it is unethical from other vantage point, if the field-site is close to the university or research institutes.

The idea advanced by some researchers that people have a right to control information relating to them, and that they must give their permission for particular uses of it by researchers (Walker 1978; Lincoln and Guba 1989).

VI. ETHICS IN RESEARCH INDIAN SCENARIO

Twelve general principles are-

- Essentiality
- Voluntariness, informed consent, and community agreement
- Non-exploitation
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Precaution and risk minimisation
- Professional competence
- Accountability and transparency
- Maximisation of public interest and of distributive justice
- Institutional arrangements
- Public domain
- Totality of responsibility
- Compliance

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VII. CONCLUDING REMARKS

At the very least, being researched can sometimes create anxiety or worsen it, and where people are already in stressful situations research may be judged to be unethical on these grounds alone. The research process may also have wider ramifications, beyond immediate effects on the people actually studied, for instance for broader categories of actor or for one or more institutions. Another example is if a researcher is supposed to continue discussion if she/he notices that the respondent is in disadvantaged position. Harm can be reduced also in early stage, if we involve research participants while framing the questions for data collection so that we can avoid uncomfortable questions.

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