

## Ethics in Research

.... *S.S. Upadhyay*  
Legal Advisor to Governor  
UP, Lucknow  
Mobile : 9453048988  
E-mail : [ssupadhyay28@gmail.com](mailto:ssupadhyay28@gmail.com)

1. **"Ethics"** : Means 'moral principles'.
2. **Distinction between ethics & law** : Ethics i.e. moral principles required of an individual or legally not binding and enforceable but observance of law is binding and enforceable.
3. **Selection of subject of research** : A researcher should select the subject of research with due care and sense of responsibility.
4. **Caution** : Caution exercisable in selecting the subject of research requires that the researcher must see whether the subject of research he has chosen for his research has or has not been already selected by any other person and got his research paper published. If any such research paper of any other researcher has already been published on the same subject, then the new researcher must show in his second or successive research work carried out on the same very subject as to how he is going to make additional or further research on the same subject with newer approach and with newer results and findings.
5. **Object** : The researcher must record in the beginning of his research paper about the object behind his research, how his research work is going to benefit the academic world or class of people or people in general. A research work which does not benefit anyone should not be undertaken.
6. **Source** : Whenever you borrow any work, idea, intellectual material of any other scholar and academician in your research paper, must quote the source and give credit to him.
7. **Disclaimer** : Even media channels while telecasting any film, play or other artistic work, issue disclaimer regarding correctness of facts, characters and events shown therein. Therefore, if necessary, you can also append a disclaimer to your intellectual work if you have any doubt

regarding the accuracy of facts and figures etc. referred to in your research paper. Great Saint Tulsidas had also appended Disclaimer in the beginning of his famous work "Ramcharitmanas" by writing \*\*ukuk iqjk.kfuxekxe IEera ;n~ jkek;.ks fuxfnra DofpnU;rkssfij LokUr% lq[kk; rqylh j?kqukFkxkFkk Hkk"kkfucU/kefr eatqyekruksfr\*\* A

8. **Honesty** : Be honest in showing Datas, Methods, Procedures, Statistics etc. in your research paper.
9. **Avoid misrepresentation etc.** : While preparing your thesis or research paper, do not misrepresent the facts, datas and do not indulge in deceits and frauds.
10. **MCI Regulations** : Even the wrappers of medicines contained a disclaimer to the effect that : Do not use except on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.
11. **Conduct Rules in University Act and Statutes etc.** : If there are any conduct rules provided in the University Act, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations regarding research work, the same must be adhered to.
12. **Conduct and misconduct as defined by Supreme Court in several rulings** :
13. **Tips for observance by researchers** :
  - (1) Do not super impose your views authoritatively over others.
  - (2) Do not indulge in hyperboles and exaggerations.
  - (3) Do not act like a 'poet' who many a times goes by imaginations and fictions.
  - (4) Take the example of poem on great Bundelkhand warriors Alha and Udal where it has been said that \*\*gsn xk ?kksM+k] gksn xk ?kksM+k] ?kksM+k x;k vdk'ks ikj\*\* which means that the horse on which Alha was riding first went hither, then thither and thereafter jumped and went into outer space. If you compare this *Ghoda* with modern spacecrafts like Chandrayan and Mars Mission, you will find this *Godha* of Alha was not an horse but a State craft like Chandrayan and Mars Mission. That's why, it is said about the poets that \*\*tgkWa u igWqps jfo] ogkWa

igqWaps dfo\*\*. Therefore, a researcher cannot simply act like a poet and instead he has to remain data or fact based, objective and credible.

- (5) Do not incorporate sensational information in your research work unless they are based on concrete facts and materials acceptable to people of ordinary prudence.
- (6) ;|fi IR;e~] yksdfo#)e~] u dj.kh;a] u dj.kh;a which means even if a thing is true but the same is oppose to public morality, public belief or public sentiments, it must not be done.
- (7) Example of Justice Markandey Katju, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India can be cited here. Justice Katju had some three years back given interview to media about Mahatma Gandhi by saying that he was a British Agent. Similar statement was given by him about Subhash Chandra Bose that he was Japanese Agent. Parliament unanimously condemned Justice Katju for his said irresponsible statements. Therefore, a researchers should avoid recording any sensational or controversial information in his thesis which may hurt the feelings or beliefs of others.
- (8) eq.Ms eq.Ms efrfHkZUuk which means individuals do have their own subjective perceptions about one and the same thing but yet their views should be respected. It is another matter that one has freedom to disagree and dissent with the views of others.
- (9) Criticism should be of views not of individuals. A researcher should avoid bitterness in criticising the views of others. No subjective accusation or disparaging remarks should be passed against an individual by the researcher. Politeness and humbleness in language in thesis makes your thesis graceful and commendable.
- (10) No unparliamentary or offending words, language or material should be used by the researcher in his research paper so as to offend the sentiments or feelings of others.
- (11) Fundamental right of speech and expression guaranteed by Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India is not absolute but always subject to reasonable restrictions. Therefore, the expressions

should be within the limits of decency, morality, acceptable norms and conduct and not unreasonable harsh provocative, offending or hurting others.

- (12) Avoid using defamatory contents for others. Otherwise, you may invite your prosecution for offence of defamation u/s 500 IPC and also for civil suit for damages for having caused defamation to refreshers.
- (13) Always exercise sense of responsibility in recording your views in your research paper.
- (14) Some customs, traditions, practices, beliefs and even some facts are by fiction believed to be true, particularly those relating to religion, faith and customs etc.
- (15) Always use simple language easily understandable to others. Use of difficult words not in general use should be avoided.
- (16) Your thesis or research paper must not be unnecessarily lengthy. It is immaterial how many pages have been covered in preparing the research paper. A lengthy or voluminous research paper does not by itself make the thesis great. What matters is the substance, worth and credibility of the contents in the research paper. A short thesis with worthy and credible contents makes it commendable and not its length or volume.
- (17) Use your own words and language in preparing your research paper. Avoid verbose.
- (18) Ensure clarity in your thoughts, views and expressions and conveyability to readers.
- (19) Avoid cuttings, erasures, overwriting etc. in your research paper.
- (20) Make proper sentences with no grammatical faults etc. while preparing your research paper. It gives an impression upon the mind of your guide regarding your sense of responsibility, sincerity and commitment.
- (21) Avoid cut-paste prevalent practice.

14. **Copyright Act & IPR :** A researcher should not violate the provisions of Copyright Act or Intellectual Property Right of others by unauthorizedly using the intellectual work of any other person.
15. **Certain important cases on plagiarism :**
- (a) Dr. K.K. Sharma Vs. Chancellor, Allahabad University & Others, 1994 (24) ALR 381 (All)(DB)
  - (b) Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India & others Vs. Council of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India & others, AIR 2007 SC 2091.
  - (c) State of Punjab & others Vs. Ram Singh, Ex-Constable, AIR 1992 SC 2188 (Three-Judge Bench)
  - (d) Rinku alias Hakku Vs. State of UP, 2000(2) AWC 1446 (Allahabad High Court)(Full Bench)
  - (e) Vijay Singh Vs. State of UP & others, (2012) 5 SCC 242
  - (f) R.G. Anand Vs. M/s Delux Films & Others, AIR 1978 SC 1613 (Three-Judge Bench)
  - (g) Prof. Yashpal & Others Vs State of Chattisgarh & Others, (2005) 5 SCC 420 (*Para 38 & 39*),
16. **Certain cases of plagiarism indulged in by teachers of Lucknow University decided by the Chancellor :**
17. **Certain other high profile cases of plagiarisms in India :**

The publications are research output carried out by the faculty in the university to set tones exploring new possibilities about human and societal issues. There are several non-academic and unacceptable practices against academic leaders in Indian universities. There are few cases where people who are holding big positions in the academic world faced allegations for research misconduct:

- 1. Allegation of plagiarism in a few research papers against the Vice Chancellor (VC) of University of Hyderabad (The DNA, April 7, 2016).
- 2. The MHRD has requested the President of India to sack the incumbent VC of Pondicherry University. The fact-finding committee constituted by the government has found that some of the academic records claimed by the VC were not found to be authentic including research plagiarism. (The Indian Express, June 18, 2016).

3. A former Vice Chancellor of Delhi University, New Delhi has been jailed for some time to have plagiarized major section of his book.
4. A professor in Dept. of Sociology, Bangalore University, allegedly allowed one of his students to copy his own Ph.D. thesis. The Vice Chancellor of Mysore University was accused of plagiarism an Osmania University research paper published in an Indian Journal in Oct. 2009 and getting the same published in an International Science Journal later.

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