International Journal of Advanced Research and Development
www.advancedjournal.com
ISSN: 2455-4030
Received: 20-04-2022, Accepted: 05-05-2022, Published: 21-05-2022
Volume 7, Issue 3, 2022, Page No. 35-39

Role of ethical values in sustainable research practices in higher education

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Abstract
Ethics plays an important role in human life. Without ethics, human life seems embarrassed and mean. Ethics tell us the difference between right and wrong. Ethics are like blood in every aspect of human life. Human feelings work to push human beings on the right and wrong path. Just as some objectives exist in the life of every person, by the same token ethics seems to be absolutely necessary to fulfill those objectives in a planned form. Generally from the late 1990s onwards, ethical review boards were set up for research in education and social sciences. Increasingly, universities have established ethics review procedures that engage academics to submit applications seeking authorization to conduct research. Review boards, guidelines and circumstances under which they control have been critiqued as obstructive, gratuitously bureaucratic and even unethical. Simultaneously, appraisal boards and their procedures have been recognized as causative to deliberation of the ethical conduct of research. The reasons for sustainable research practices are typically complex, personal, and diverse. It's hard to list all of the reasons why so many individuals, organisations, and communities are working to achieve this goal. For the great majority of people, however, sustainable research practices is defined by the legacy we leave for future generations. The researcher of today, as well as future generations, must invent and adopt solutions. This paper reconnoiters the issues allied to ethical review and inspects the broader ethical considerations that may ascend throughout the research procedure. The paper determines that a merely administrative manner of review is approach to make sure the ethical conduct of research, mainly qualitative research. Somewhat, it is contended that ethical research involves the resolution of a potential series of ethical dilemmas as they ascend during research. Per se, the ethical conduct of research is a substance of researcher formation and development.

Keywords: ethics, values, sustainability, sustainable research practices, higher education

Introduction

Meaning of Ethics

"Generally recognised principles" can be characterized as "ethics". "Ethics" is derived from the Greek word "ethos", which meaning "character", "customs" or "accepted behaviour". The Oxford definition of ethics is "the moral principle that governs a person's behaviour or the manner in which an activity is carried out". It is the branch of knowledge that deals with moral values, to put it another way.

Ethics is a set of human behaviour rules or standards that influence individual or organizational behaviour. Individuals, groups of individuals, and organisations can use these ethical standards to distinguish between what is acceptable and what is unacceptable in the eyes of others.

Ethics is not a natural science but a creation of the human mind. It is not absolute and is open to the influence of time, lace and situation. Truth and justice are at the heart of ethics, which encompasses a wide range of topics such as societal standards, fair competition, public relations, social duties, and business behaviour.

Ethics is a discipline that deals with moral responsibilities and obligations, as well as describing what is good and bad for us. It is the study of moral decisions made by us while carrying out our responsibilities. Ethics is the study of the aspects of morality, as well as moral decisions made in relationships with others [1].

What areValues?

Values are motivating or guiding beliefs that influence or promote attitudes and behaviours. They aid us in prioritizing our goals. Values are the characteristics we choose to embrace to guide our actions; they define who we want to be, how we treat ourselves and others, and how we interact with the environment. They establish the foundation for appropriate conduct.

Values refer to what is great, desirable, or worthy in a strict sense. Values are the driving force behind purposeful conduct. They are the objectives towards which we strive, and they come in a variety of forms. Personal values are beliefs about what is right and wrong that may or may not be moral.Religions and societies accept cultural values that reflect what matters in their context.

Ethics cannot exist without values. Ethics concerns human behavior, and the choices we make in our lives. Ethics assesses the acts as well as the principles that behind them. It establishes which values should be pursued and which should be avoided [2].

What is Sustainability?

Sustainability is based on a simple concept: everything we want for our survival and enjoyment is dependent on our typical surroundings, either ambiguously or unintentionally. Sustainability creates and maintains conditions that allow people and the environment to coexist in a productive way, allowing current and future generations to meet their social, economic, and other needs.

Sustainability is a developing idea that entails satisfying our own needs without jeopardizing future generations' capacity to satisfy their own desires. We also require social and economic resources in addition to natural resources. Conservationism isn't the sole aspect of sustainability. We also uncover apprehensions for social equality and economic progress rooted on greatest delineations of sustainability.

While the notion of sustainability is a novel one, the movement as a whole has origins in social justice, conservationism, internationalism, and other long-standing causes. Many of these concepts had come together by the end of the twentieth century in the push for 'sustainable development'. The ability to survive is referred to as sustainability [3].

In a broader scientific sense, sustainability is synonymous with continuity, or the capacity to continue on a path without stopping. As a result, sustainability is consistent with the existence of the universe, and it is defined as th e ability to preserve a predictable and steady outcome. The progression to a sustainable condition can be predicte d. During evolution, however, the form, or condition, that is viable may be modified with intelligence or systema tic intervention [4].

Ethics in Higher Education

The Ethics in Higher Education Collection aims to keep students, teachers, and higher education administrators informed about ethical issues that affect university life, as well as to understand how to advocate for the interests of all parties involved at the institutional, state, regional, and international levels. From an empirical standpoint, the collection on ethics in education includes documents that explain what the newest forms of innovative education are, why didactic method is just as important as delivering a good curriculum, and this collection could even provide concrete insights on how to support students' aspire to and plan for education through institutional efforts.

The collection's major goal is to go beyond education's empirical layer in order to give a thorough normative explanation and ethical incentives for successful education. But, exactly, what does a good education entail? Is it technological mastery, the development of disinterested knowledge, the application of practical knowledge in context, or self-awareness and virtue? By reminding us that just dealing with others honestly and fairly are universal principles, the Globethics.net Library may help us to demonstrate the highest level of academic integrity. It is based on wisdom acquired since antiquity and applied to current problems [5].

Role of Ethics in Research Practices

The term "research ethics" refers to a set of principles, practices, and institutional structures that help define and regulate scientific activities. A practical articulation of scientific morality is research ethics. The research community's essential values and aspirations are spelled forth in research ethics guidelines. They are founded on general scientific ethics, just as social morality is founded on general ethics.

For every phase of a research project, such as the writing up and publication phases, researchers have a moral and practical responsibility to reflect on their research practices, as well as to be aware of research ethics guidelines. Researchers must have a care for participants in their research projects, especially those who are vulnerable, such as children, who may not fully understand what is involved in taking part in a project. However, all those without power within an institution are at risk of being manipulated by those in authority on an unethical basis.

Researchers must be aware of accidentally contributing to unethical behaviour by carefully considering the ramifications of their study techniques for participants and their institutions in the short and long term. Helping participants grasp the advantages of the study in terms they can understand and how they could benefit from it is part of this duty of care. For research projects to be successful and provide reliable results, researchers need to develop and demonstrate ethical field practices [6].

The Importance of Research Ethics

Ethics is a set of written and unwritten rules that govern how we expect ourselves and others to behave. They effectively describe what we want individuals to do and why we expect them to do it. While there is broad agreement on some ethical principles (murder, for example), there is substantial debate on how these ideals should be implemented in practise. There are several reasons to consider research ethics-

- Research aims to expand knowledge in this way.
- They uphold the values of mutual respect and fairness, both of which are necessary for collaborative work. This is crucial since scientific research relies on collaboration between researchers and groups.
- They indicate that scientists are accountable for their actions. Many academics get government funding, and policies controlling conflicts of interest, misconduct, and human or animal research are necessary to ensure that money are spent responsibly.
- They ensure the public's faith in research. People will only pay and support research if they believe in it.

- They promote a number of additional ideas in addition to essential social and moral norms like avoiding self-harm.

Ensuring ethical standards and procedures for research with human beings

Research ethics sets the guidelines for scientific researchers' conduct. It is vital to observe ethical norms in order to protect the dignity, rights, and well-being of study participants. As a result, an ethics committee should review every human-centered research to ensure that the highest ethical standards are met. The ethical concepts of beneficence, justice, and autonomy are central to ethical review.

For all human subjects research, WHO collaborates with Member States and partners to set ethical principles and suitable review processes. The Research Ethics Review Committee (ERC) of the World Health Organization (WHO) guarantees that WHO funds only research that meets the highest ethical standards. The ERC examines all human-participant research projects that are financially or technically funded by WHO. The World Medical Association's Declaration of Helsinki (1964), which was recently amended in 2013, and the International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects regulate the ERC's operations (CIOMS 2016) [7].

Ethics & Good Research Practice: What Students and Researchers Should Know

Ethics are the moral standards that students and researchers must follow, regardless of where they are or when they are doing so. Doing the correct act at the appropriate moment is a requirement of ethical behaviour. The moral norms that researchers must follow in their particular disciplines are the subject of research ethics. "The principles for conduct that discriminate between acceptable and undesirable behaviour," is the most popular definition of ethics. The majority of people learn ethical standards via home, school, church, or in other social situations. Although most individuals have a sense of good and evil throughout childhood, moral development persists throughout life and people go through many phases of development as they grow older.

Ethical norms are so widespread that it's easy to dismiss them as basic common sense. Research ethics, on the other hand, is a set of ideals, standards, and laws that help researchers develop and improve their work. Research ethics is founded on a set of guiding principles that lead to the adoption of particular research best practices. Research ethics establishes rules for doing research in a responsible manner. It also trains and oversees scientists to ensure that they adhere to the highest ethical standards possible when performing research. The following is a general list of important ethical criteria to remember for students and researchers-

- **Integrity:** Follow through on your pledges and commitments; behave honestly; and aim for consistency in your thoughts and actions.

- **Objectivity:** Experiment design, data analysis and interpretation, peer review, personnel selection, grant writing, and expert testimony should all be done with objectivity. Furthermore, avoid prejudice in other areas of research where objectivity is anticipated or essential. Declare any personal or financial interests that may have an impact on the study's conclusion.

- **Honesty:** In all scientific discussions, strive for honesty. All information, including data, conclusions, methodologies, and procedures, as well as the status of publications, should be shared openly. Don't make up, misrepresent, or distort information. False statements to your workers, grantors, or the general public are strictly prohibited.

- **Confidentiality:** Maintain the confidentiality of confidential materials such as grants or articles submitted for publication, employee records, commercial or military secrets, and patient records.

- **Transparency:** Share information, outcomes, ideas, tools, and resources. Be receptive to fresh ideas and criticism.

- **Attention to detail:** Avoid casual mistakes and neglect by thoroughly and critically examining your own and your peers' work. Keep meticulous records of all research activities, including data gathering, research design, and communication with agencies and publications.

- **Responsible Publication:** Publish in order to further research and scholarship, not only your own career. Avoid wasting time and money by publishing many times.

- **Responsible Mentoring:** Assist in the education, mentoring, and counseling of students. Encourage their well-being and give them the freedom to make their own choices.

- **Intellectual Property Respect:** Be respectful of patents, copyrights, and other types of intellectual property. Without permission, do not utilise unpublished data, techniques, or findings. Don't forget to give credit where credit is due. Never plagiarize and give correct attribution or credit for any contributions to research.

- **Colleague respect:** Show respect for your coworkers and treat them decently [8].

Both researchers and participants gain from following ethical standards and principles. To begin with, they aid in the promotion of research's broad goals, such as the pursuit of knowledge and the desire to prevent errors. Second, ethics encourage qualities like as respect, trust, and accountability, which are essential for successful collaboration. Third, they are a crucial component of keeping academics responsible to societies and communities, which improves public confidence in and support for research [9].

Role of Sustainability Governance at Higher Education Institutions

Higher education institutions (HEIs) can contribute in and support long-term human progress in a variety of ways. They may play a vital role in attaining sustainable development by including sustainability as a cross-cutting paradigm in teaching, research, operations, and knowledge transfer. The development of an SD implementation plan that includes research, teaching, knowledge transfer, and operations is a tough but important topic for HEI governance, with the potential to transform whole institutions. We agree with this viewpoint and suggest employing an "all-dimensions approach", which takes into account all of SD's dimensions and is based on a common understanding among those involved in cross-sectoral measures. This broadens perspectives and allows for the involvement of a broader variety of stakeholders.

Prioritization and finance, on the other hand, are challenges that, to some extent, HEIs may handle on their own timetables. As previously stated, SD adoption necessitates reasoned SD ideas and structures. HEI administration may make a significant statement and promote a far-reaching process of growth toward SD by making resources continuously available. Some HEIs have already been able to set high standards for SD, allowing them to become sustainability role models and hence more appealing to students and staff. A limited number of beacons is insufficient, but as the number of beacons grows, this one-of-a-kind advantage is lost. We need to get over this juncture and into a HEI landscape where not being sustainable makes a HEI unattractive.

Finally, we want to emphasise the need of HEIs undergoing major transformations and focusing on concepts of responsibility and sustainability. Students should learn to critically assess societal problems, propose ideas for a brighter future, and implement sustainable solutions in higher education institutions. HEIs will make a concrete contribution to humanity's well-being in this way [10].

Legal Issues Involved in sustainable research practicesin higher education

Concerns about ethical and legal difficulties have arisen as a result of the present surge in research efforts. Various organisations and agencies have produced recommendations to help with research integrity, compliance, and ethical standards. Preventive measures should be performed since research fraud lowers the quality of evidence-based medicine construction. If you have a full understanding of ethical and legal issues, you may conduct research in line with best practices [11]. The following is a general list of Legal Issues Involved in sustainable research practices in higher education–

- **CopyrightIssues:** Researchers can employ copyright protection for their study to shield their work from commercial or noncommercial use. The copyright protection should be defined and signed by the writers and publishers so that other users can use the work appropriately [12]. Sponsors and writers are typically obliged to sign over certain publication rights to the journal via copyright transfer or a licence agreement; after that, if authors intend to reproduce the published content elsewhere, they must seek explicit permission from the journal/publisher.

- **Plagiarism Issues:** Plagiarism is the accidental misrepresentation of others' published and unpublished ideas or intellectual property as original and creative rather than drawn from a previously published source, without credit or permission. To find similarities between papers, researchers can use tools like similarity check, and these tests should be done before submission.

- **Issues relating to regulatory agencies' legal status:** Various regulatory agencies have been established to ensure the safety of study subjects. Before beginning any study, it is critical to seek authorization from the right regulatory authorities. The constitutions and forms of these bodies differ per country. Researchers are supposed to be aware of these authorities, and a list of several bodies relevant to India may be found in this issue's article "Research technique II."

- **Issues related to authorship:** Writers and researchers must assure the correctness, publishing, and distribution of study findings, as well as submitting required revisions, retractions, and errata to publishers, in order to maintain the scientific integrity of published evidence. Every human-participant study must be documented in a publicly accessible database, and the findings must be made public. The whole study data collection, as well as the permission to publish all study data, must be accessible to all research investigators and article writers. The source materials and the clinical research report are two examples of important documents that must be kept for a set amount of time as dictated by local legislation. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors proposes that writers be compelled to disclose de-identified individual patient data that underlies findings published in member journals with others. Those who have contributed to the project but do not fit all four criteria, such as administrative help, writing assistance, and proofreading, should be acknowledged. They should give formal permission and disclose any possible conflicts of interest before their identities are made public.

- **Issues related to research and publication fraud:** Data tampering and de novo data generation are both considered significant scientific misconduct. It's difficult to determine the exact extent of scientific deception.

- **Issues related to overlapping publication:** overlapping publication are a waste of money and a violation of copyright restrictions across the world. When such publications are accidentally included in meta-analyses, they may have an influence on evidence-based medicine due to double-counting data. This method may falsely inflate one's scientific output, altering perceptions of productivity and providing an unfair edge when vying for research funding or promotion. To artificially enhance the publication output, data from a single study approach is separated into numerous portions and individual articles are created from each component [13].

Conclusion and Suggestions

Research is a continuous process. If ethics are included in the research, then the credibility of the research automatically increases. The environment of the organization and the proper support of co-researchers while carrying out research also strengthen the role of ethics in research. Many times, ethical dilemmas come before the researcher, to overcome which it is necessary for such a researcher to keep his ethical climate at the top level. Many times, many types of ethical programs are implemented by the institutions for the research scholars engaged in higher education and research work to overcome the appropriate ethical dilemmas. Through these programs, ethics education and training are provided to such students and researchers to avoid ethical dilemmas. They are encouraged at the moral level as per the need or the scriptures are also imposed on them. Along with creating the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct, it is also obliged to ensure their compliance. Necessary steps can also be taken to establish an ethics committee to increase the quality of teaching and research. The said Ethics Committee provides proper guidance to not only the scholars but also the teachers to save them from ethical dilemmas besides ensuring ethics and high standard values in the institute. Generally, it is proved from the appropriate points that if in order to ensure the sustainable development of research and to give paramount to such research at the level of ethical evaluation; we have to put ethical conduct first. If ethical conduct is supreme, as a result of that research and higher education will automatically reach the pinnacle of excellence.

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