Navrachana University

Code of Ethics for Research (CER)

Preamble

With academic freedom as the core principle of research at all levels, Navrachana University is committed to promoting and maintaining high standards of integrity and accountability in the conduct of academic research and seeks to embed and endorse a culture of honesty and transparency in all its institutional research activities. In undertaking this commitment, the university emphasizes that academic freedom is a core value to be safeguarded and sustained. The university is dedicated to guaranteeing a free academic environment to conduct research, to teach, to speak and to publish, subject to the norms and standards of scholarly inquiry, without interference or penalty, wherever the search for truth, knowledge, scholarship and/or understanding may lead. The university expects its members (teaching staff, fellows, research students, visiting students as well as administrative and support staff) to abide by the highest standards of integrity in their conduct of academic research and/or support to academic research activities. In this regard all faculty members, researchers and students undertaking research are bound by code of research ethics.

Objective

Navrachana University lays down code of ethics for research. Code of research ethics provides guidelines for the responsible conduct of research, promotes exemplary ethical standards in research and scholarship. In addition, it educates and monitors scientists conducting research to ensure a high ethical standard.

Scope

This document lays down code of research ethics for all faculty members, researchers and students undertaking research and operationally controlled by the Navrachana University. It provides recommendations on good practices during academic research at the university. It

* Shamoo A and Resnik D. 2009. *Responsible Conduct of Research, 2nd ed.* (New York: Oxford University Press).
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covers all the activities through which research information and data are gathered, processed and disseminated including surveys and interviews and the reporting of research findings. The following is a general summary of the ethical principles that Navrachana University code of ethics address*:

1. **Honesty:**

Truthfulness and responsible conduct underlie the integrity of research proposals. Honestly communicate Scientific data and information. Honestly report data, results, methods and procedures, and publication status. Demonstrate intellectual and moral honesty in proposing, conducting, and reporting research. Do not fabricate/manipulate, falsify, or misrepresent data. Do not deceive your colleagues, institute, funding agencies and the public in general.

2. **Objectivity:**

Strive to avoid bias in experimental design, data analysis, data interpretation, peer review process, personnel decisions, grant writing, expert testimony, and other aspects associated with research activities

3. **Precision:**

Avoid careless errors, discrepancies and negligence; carefully and critically examine your own work and the work of your peers. Maintain good records of research activities such as data collection, research design, and correspondence with funding agencies or communications with journal or publisher. Researchers also need to meet their ethical obligations once their research is published: If authors learn of errors that change the interpretation of research findings, they are ethically obligated to promptly correct the errors in a correction, retraction, erratum or by other means. To be able to answer questions about study authenticity and allow others to reanalyse the results, authors should archive primary data and accompanying records for at least five years

4. **Academic Integrity:**

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

5. **Openness:**

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

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6. **Respect for Intellectual Property:**

Honour patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property. Do not use unpublished data, methods, or results without permission. Give credit where credit is due by citing relevant reference/s. Never plagiarize.

7. **Confidentiality:**

Protect confidential communications, such as papers or grants submitted for publication, personnel records, trade or military secrets, and patient records. As part of research activity, if a survey is conducted, provide participants information about how their data will be used, what will be done with case materials, photos and audio and video recordings, and secure their consent.

8. **Responsible Publication:**

Strive to publish research articles in peer reviewed journals of National and international repute and book chapters in a book published by a reputed publication house. Avoid wasteful and duplicative publication.

9. **Responsible Mentoring:**

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

10. **Respect for Colleagues:**

Respect your colleagues and treat them fairly.

11. **Social Responsibility:**

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

12. **Non-Discrimination:**

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

13. **Competence:**

Maintain and improve your own professional competence and expertise through lifelong education and learning; take steps to promote competence in science as a whole.

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14. Legality:

Know and obey relevant laws and institutional and governmental policies.

15. Animal Care:

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

16. 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.

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