

# 8<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Research Integrity



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## The Link Between Research Methods And Research Ethics: Towards Promoting Ethical Research Culture In Higher Education.

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# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- Globally there is an amplified need for promoting research integrity and preventing research misconduct.
- Research and integrity practices - Research is conducted according to the highest standards of practice with minimal risk of adverse or harmful outcomes
- Unethical research studies conducted in the past throughout the world have cast a significant historical shadow on research/subjects.
- The consequences of these ill practices gave rise to the need for rules governing the design and implementation of research protocols.
- The Singapore research statement outlines that research institutions should create and sustain environments that encourage integrity through education, clear policies, and reasonable standards for advancement while fostering work environments that support research integrity.
- Research ethics protect the rights and well-being of participants, uphold the integrity of research findings, and contribute to the positive impact of research on individuals and society.
- Research design and methodology are vital for research integrity, regardless of discipline.
- Research designs and research ethics are complexly linked, as the design of the study directly impacts the ethical considerations and obligations of researchers
- ethics is not an afterthought or side note to the research study- an integral aspect of research that needs to remain at the forefront
- The ethical considerations must be considered and presented with a plan on how these ethical issues will be managed.
- Sensitivity when tailoring the research procedures to ensure cultural sensitivity, collaboration, and respect to the population being studied
- Thinking about ethics and incorporating research ethics is fundamental to good research design and practice

# RESEARCH PROBLEM

- There is a growing misunderstanding amongst academic researchers, that Research Ethics Committees should evaluate only the ethical consideration section when reviewing a research proposal.
- Another popular misunderstanding is that ethics reviews obstruct research progress.
- These misunderstandings suggest that there is a need to promote ethical research thinking in higher education training institutions.

# AIM OF THE STUDY

- This study aims to provide an understanding of the relationship between research ethics and research methodology to promote an ethical research culture.
- **Objective** -To explore ways to promote ethical research culture in higher education



# METHODS

- Qualitative approach
- Interpretive research
- Relevant secondary data gathered
- Critically reviewed and synthesised.
- Document analysis with the guide of discourse analysis will be used in analysing the research data

# Ethical Research

**Title of the study:** The research title should be clear and descriptive, designed to answer a specific question, the answers to the research question should scientifically contribute to the scientific understanding of the phenomena studied

**Participant Welfare:** A well-designed study will ensure the welfare of participants by minimizing risks and maximizing benefits. Ethical research design includes measures to protect participants from physical, psychological, and social harm.

**Informed Consent:** Ethical research design requires that participants are fully informed about the study's purpose, procedures, risks, and benefits. A clear, comprehensive design aids in providing participants with all the necessary information to give their informed consent.

**Confidentiality and Anonymity:** Research design must incorporate strategies to protect the privacy of participants. This includes how data is collected, stored, and reported to ensure confidentiality and, where appropriate, anonymity.

**Bias and Integrity:** Ethical research design involves eliminating bias and ensuring the integrity of the data and results. This includes using appropriate sampling methods, valid measurement instruments, and honest reporting of findings.

**Transparency and Reproducibility:** An ethically sound research design promotes transparency and reproducibility. Detailed documentation of the research design allows other researchers to replicate the study, which is crucial for the validation and advancement of knowledge.

**Regulatory Compliance:** Research designs must comply with ethical guidelines and regulations set by institutional review boards (IRBs) or ethics committees. This includes adhering to local, national, and international standards for conducting research involving human or animal subjects.

**Fairness and Equity:** Ethical research design ensures fair treatment of all participants. This includes equitable selection of subjects, avoiding exploitation of vulnerable populations, and ensuring that the benefits and burdens of research are distributed fairly.

# Why do research ethics matter?

01

Protecting  
Participant  
Safety

02

Maintaining  
Scientific  
Integrity

06

Complying With  
Legal and  
Regulatory  
Compliance

**REASONS WHY  
RESEARCH  
ETHICS MATTER**

03

Upholding  
Human Rights  
and Dignity

05

Building Trust in  
Research and  
Institutions

04

Ensuring Social  
Responsibility

# HOW TO PROMOTE ETHICAL THINKING

- Scientific advancement is dependent on the ethical integrity and responsible conduct of research
- Ethics should be considered transversal to the university's academic actions-
- Mainstreaming research ethics in the curriculum- Educating emergent scholars in the principles of ethics/responsible conduct of research is therefore critical to ensuring such advancement
- Capacity building -
- Researchers, institutions, and regulatory bodies play a collective role in ensuring the responsible conduct of research.



# **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

It is envisaged that a study of this nature could shed light on how academic researchers in higher education may incorporate ethical principles in their research to meet both their institutional requirements and other related legislations.

# Conclusions

- Ethical considerations are intertwined into the fabric of research design.
- A sound design not only ensures the scientific validity of a study but also upholds the ethical principles of respect, beneficence, and justice.



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*Thank you*

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