

Paper II: Research and Publications Ethics

Pedagogy: Class room teaching, guest lectures, group discussions and practical sessions.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce the concept of research and publication ethics.
2. To enable the research scholars with the basic ethical practices.
3. To familiarize the recent trends in research ethics.
4. To create an understanding of ethical issues in research publications.
5. To provide knowledge on predatory publications and their implications.
6. To prepare research scholars to use databases and research metrics
7. To prepare research scholars to conduct research work with ethics.

Course outcomes:

1. Acquire knowledge on the ethical issues in research.
2. Have understanding of the research ethics
3. Be able to incorporate ethical norms in research publications.
4. Understand the challenges of scientific misconducts.
5. Able to identify predatory publishers and journals.
6. Understand the practical applications.
7. Researcher is able to visualize intellectual honesty and research integrity.

Overview

This course has total 6 units focusing on basics of Philosophy of Science and Ethics. Research Integrity, Publications Ethics. Hands-on-session are designed to identify research misconduct and predatory publications. Indexing and citation databases, open access publications, research metrics (citations, h-index, Impact Factor, etc.) and plagiarism tools will be introduced in this course.

Unit I: Philosophy and Ethics (3 hrs.)

- a) Introduction to philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches
- b) Ethics: definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgments and reactions.

Unit II: Scientific Conduct (5 hrs.)

- a) Ethics with respect to management studies and research
- b) Intellectual honesty and research integrity
- c) Scientific misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication and Plagiarism (FFP)
- d) Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing
- e) Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data

Unit III: Publication Ethic (7 hrs.)

- a) Publication Ethics: definition, introduction and importance

- b) Best practices / standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME, etc.)
- c) Conflicts of interest
- d) Publication misconduct: definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa, types.
- e) Violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributorship
- f) Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals
- g) Predatory publishers and journals

PRACTICE:

1. Open Access Publishing (4 hrs.)

- a) Open access publications and initiatives
- b) SHERPA / RoMEO online resource to check publisher copyright & self-archiving policies
- c) Software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU
- d) Journal finder / journal suggestion tool viz., JANE, Elsevier Journal finder, Springer Journal Suggester, etc.

2. Publication Misconduct (4 hrs.)

A. Group Discussions (2 hrs.)

- a) Subject specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship
- b) Conflicts of interest
- c) Complaints and appeals: example and fraud from India and abroad)

B. Software tools (2 hrs.)

Use of plagiarism software like Turnitin, Urkund and other open source Software tools

3. Databases and Research Metrics (7 hrs.)

A. Databases (4 hrs.)

- a) Index database
- b) Citation database: Web of Science, scopes, etc.

B. Research Metrics (3 hrs.)

- a) Impact factor of Journal as per Journal Citation Report, SNIP, SJR, IPP, Cite Score
- b) Metrics: h-index, g index, i10 index, altmetrics.