



AIAER

ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

ABOUT AIAER

The All India Association for Educational Research (AIAER) was established on November 17, 1987 as a registered association having following objectives:

1. To develop and promote educational research
2. To provide a forum for discussion of problems related to educational research
3. To conduct workshops, seminars, conferences etc. on educational research
4. To disseminate findings on educational research
5. To publish journals, monographs, and other types of literature on educational research
6. To Cooperate with organizations engaged in educational research
7. To carry out all such other activities as maybe conducive to the attainment of the above objectives

This association has members not only from India but also from a few other countries. Membership covers all individuals and institutions in educational research for which it has become a multi-disciplinary research association, although majority of its members belong to Education as a discipline. After close to three decades of existence, the association published a Research Ethics Guidelines in 2020.

The guidelines articulate the broad principles that characterize an honest, ethical and conscientious research culture. It establishes a framework for responsible research conduct that provides a foundation for high-quality research, credibility, and community trust in the research endeavor. It outlines the expectations for research conducted under the auspices of Indian institutions.

The primary responsibility for ensuring the integrity of research lies with individual researchers and institutions. The Code sets out principles and responsibilities that both researchers and institutions are expected to follow when undertaking educational research. Critical to this endeavour are the moral leadership and espoused values of the institution and the shared values and expectations of honesty and integrity that characterise an institution's leadership

and culture. The Code represents the core behaviours that characterise the responsible conduct of research.

INTRODUCTION

These guidelines are intended for individuals and institutions undertaking or sponsoring research. The Association envisages its members as well as non-members to be guided by the various principles as outlined in these ethical guidelines. However, it is important to acknowledge that:

- These guidelines do not claim to cover all issues that may arise during various stages of research.
- There may be also certain suggestions, which may not be applicable in all circumstances.
- There may be certain kinds of research which may require clearance from other bodies working in areas related to education.
- There may also be research ethics guidelines at the institution level or at sponsoring agency level that a researcher must be concerned about.
- These guidelines assume that the researchers will accept responsibility for and be accountable for their actions

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHER OR TEAMS OF RESEARCHERS

1. Complying with the relevant laws, regulations, disciplinary standards, ethics guidelines and institutional policies related to responsible research conduct.
2. Ensuring that appropriate approvals are obtained prior to the commencement of research, and that conditions of any approvals are adhered to during research.
3. Ensuring that the research does not lead to any conflict of interest.
4. Giving appropriate respect to everyone involved in the research.
5. Recognizing the rights of individuals and treating them with dignity.
6. Undertaking relevant training required for developing competence for research.
7. Participating in peer review in a way that is fair, rigorous, timely and helps maintain the confidentiality of the content.
8. Ensuring protection of the rights of individuals and institutions participating in the research.
9. Ensuring availability of safeguarding measures for all participants in the research process - collaborators, assistants, students, and the employees of the concerned organization. Further ensuring special safeguards for child

participants and participants with physical impairments involved in the research.

10. Ensuring that the ethical principles of research - merit and integrity, justice, beneficence and respect are applied to human research.
11. Ensuring that all participants are appropriately informed of the purpose of research and their responsibilities as participants and their willingness to participate has been appropriately recorded in a formal way.
12. Ensuring that participants are fully informed about the purpose of the research prior to embarking on the research study.
13. Ensuring that chosen research sites are conducive for the research study to take place where the participants feel comfortable to share their views
14. Ensuring privacy of the participants to avoid any harm or embarrassment that may be caused by revealing their identity.
15. Taking appropriate measures for sustaining trust among all individuals involved in the research.
16. In case of biographical/autobiographical approaches, ensuring consent of the person who is being studied is obtained, however s/he may be close to the researcher (s).
17. Utilizing services of translators or facilitators to take care of language or cultural conflict, if any.
18. Ensuring authenticity, truthfulness and relevancy of the online data and data available in social media.
19. Ensuring appropriate permission from publishers/owners of copyright of tests (such as psychological tests), journals, books, images, diagrams, presentations, or any other form of content is obtained.
20. Ensuring continuous updating of knowledge and skills relevant for undertaking research and carrying out mid-course correction necessitated by obtained new knowledge or skill.
21. Giving due respect to the right of any participant in the research process to withdraw before completion of the data collection should they wish to.
22. Giving prior information to the participants about the anticipated risks, if any, that may appear during the process of research.
23. Bringing to the notice of appropriate authorities, behavioral threats, if any, from other researchers or stakeholders.
24. Appropriate dealing of complaints received either from the participants or from the public in a sensible way and acting appropriately.
25. Citing and acknowledging appropriately and accurately the source of citations giving page numbers in addition to name(s) of author(s) and year of publication
26. Carrying out a plagiarism check to confirm the authenticity and originality of the source being quoted.

27. Informing the publisher/ author/ copyright owner of any document / work about its use in the research if it is required as per specification of the concerned document/work
28. Taking care of the anonymity of the participants in case research findings are being published and revealing the identity only when appropriate permission has been obtained to do so.
29. Giving due acknowledgement to sponsor(s) of the research in publication.
30. Retaining clear, accurate, secure and complete records of all research including research data and primary materials and where possible and appropriate, allowing access and reference to these by interested parties.
31. In case of research conducted by a team, ensuring that the name of the researcher who has made the major contribution is mentioned as the first author.
32. Acknowledging incentives given, if any, to ensure consent of the individual(s) or institution(s) to participate in the research process.
33. Disseminating research findings responsibly, accurately, and where necessary to take action to correct the record in a timely manner.

ROLE OF THE ORGANISATION / INSTITUTION IN SUPPORTING ETHICAL PRACTICES IN RESEARCH

1. Ensuring the physical and psychological well-being of the researcher.
2. Evaluating availability of appropriate safety measures at hand for the researchers as well as the participants of the research process.
3. Providing appropriate library, computer, and internet facilities to the researcher(s).
4. Carrying out evaluation of the research proposal by competent internal as well as external reviewers.
5. Establishing and maintaining good governance and management practices for responsible research conduct.
6. Identifying and complying with relevant laws, regulations, guidelines, and policies related to the conduct of research.
7. Providing ongoing training and education that promotes and supports responsible research conduct for all researchers and those in other relevant roles.
8. Ensuring appropriate skills, qualifications, and resources for supervisors of research trainees.
9. Identifying and training research integrity advisors who assist in the promotion and fostering of responsible research conduct and providing advice to those with concerns about potential breaches of the Code.
10. Supporting the responsible dissemination of research findings and where necessary, taking action to correct the record in a timely manner.
11. Providing access to facilities for the safe and secure storage and management

of research data, records, and primary materials and, where possible and appropriate, allow access and reference.

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ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

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