



Course Title: Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)

Credit Units: 2

Course Level: Doctoral

Course Code: PHD901

L	T	P/S	SW/F W	TOTAL CREDIT UNITS
2	0	0	0	2

Course Description: This course has total 6 modules focusing on the basics of philosophy of science and ethics, research integrity, publication ethics. Hands-on-sessions 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.

Course Objective:

Pre-requisites: NIL

Course Contents/Syllabus:

Modules	Weightage (%)
Module I – Philosophy and Ethics Descriptors/Topics 1. Introduction to philosophy; definition, nature and scope, concept, branches 2. Ethics: definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgments and reactions.	14
Module II – Scientific Conduct Descriptors/Topics 1. Ethics with respect to science, social science and research 2. Intellectual and research honesty and research integrity 3. Scientific misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication and Plagiarism (FFP) 4. Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing 5. Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data.	14
Module III – Publications Ethics Descriptors/Topics 1. Publications ethics: definition, introduction and importance 2. Best practices in research / standards-setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME, etc 3. Conflicts of interest 4. Research and Publications misconduct: definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa, publication types 5. Violation of publications ethics, authorship and contributorship 6. Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals 7. Predatory publishers and journals.	22

Module IV – Open Access Publishing	14
Descriptors/Topics 1. Open access publications and initiatives 2. SHERPA/RoMEO online resource to check publisher copyright & self-archiving policies 3. Software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU 4. Journal finder / journal suggestion tools viz. JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggester, etc.	
Module V – Publication Misconduct	14
A. Group Discussions 1. Subject-specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship 2. Conflicts of interest 3. Complaints and appeals: examples and fraud from India and abroad. B. Software tools 1. Use of plagiarism software like Turnitin, Urkund and other open source software tools	
Module VI – Databases and Research Metrics	22
A. Databases 1. Indexing databases 2. Citation databases: Web of Science, Scopus, etc. B. Research Metrics 1. Impact Factor of journal as per Journal Citation Report, SNIP, SJR, IIP, Cite Score. 2. Metrics: h-index, g index, i10 index, altmetrics	

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will be able to get

- i. Awareness about the publication ethics
- ii. Awareness about the publication misconducts

Pedagogy for Course Delivery:

Classroom teaching, guest lectures, group discussion, and practical sessions.

Assessment/ Examination Scheme:

Theory L/T (%)	Lab/Practical/Studio (%)	End Term Examination
100%	-----	100%

Theory Assessment (L&T):

Continuous Assessment/Internal Assessment			End Term Examination
Components (Drop down)	Attendance	Class Tests/Quizes	
Weightage (%)	5	35	60

References

Bird, A. (2006). *Philosophy of Science*. Routledge.

MacIntyre, Alasdair (1967) *A Short History of Ethics*. London.

P. Chaddah, (2018) *Ethics in Competitive Research: Do not get scooped; do not get plagiarized*, ISBN:978-9387480865

National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering and Institute of Medicine. (2009). *On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research: Third Edition*. National Academies Press.

Resnik, D. B. (2011). What is ethics in research & why is it important. *National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences*, 1–10. Retrieved from <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/resources/bioethics/whatis/index.cfm>

Beall, J. (2012). Predatory publishers are corrupting open access. *Nature*, 489(7415), 179–179.

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Indian National Science Academy (INSA), *Ethics in Science Education, Research and Governance*(2019), ISBN:978-81-939482-1-7. http://www.insaindia.res.in/pdf/Ethics_Book.pdf