

Name

Instructor

Course

Date

The research profession is an important segment of our country's workforce. This is because it serves the purpose of supplying us with an improved understanding of knowledge of which we may or may not be aware. This way, the research process empowers people by providing the necessary information on numerous entities. Research work is also vital to the enforcement of policies as increased understanding raises the importance placed on issues such as affirmative action.

Due to the extensive influence of the research work, it is of utmost importance that it observes the highest standards of quality, in the form of integrity, accuracy and relevance. In order to achieve this, the work of researchers must follow clearly defined guidelines that will serve as a blueprint for the achievement of quality research work. This brings to the fore the importance of ethics in research.

Kothari notes that ethical research must remain true to three key elements: integrity, clarity and respect (41). Integrity ensures that research work is compliant to the principles that govern it in a consistent and truthful manner. The adherence to this element of ethical research ensures that researchers are compliant to established rules as well as norms of the society. It also ensures that they uphold the highest moral standards in their work ensuring the quality of their work. The element of clarity ensures that the results of research work are clear to all. This prevents ambiguity from hindering the understanding of research work. It is very important that

clarity is observed as understanding is the main goal of research. Researchers should also observe respect in all aspects of their work. This is very important as they deal with information that may bear great significance to people's fate. It is vital that the privacy of people be respected and that citizen's rights are accorded respect as well. Researchers who are respectful are unlikely to engage in practices such as copyright infringement which is a major issue in the research profession. These elements provide a comprehensive framework for ethical research work.

The observance of these elements of ethical research can be achieved in several ways. These include the enactment of rules to govern their work and the membership of bodies whose code of conduct put emphasis on these elements. One such body is The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). This organization, established a code of ethics in 1984 that controls its members' professional conduct. Five maxims are stipulated as the guide for all its members' actions. They provide guidelines on their profession, their personal integrity, the treatment of public interest, the rules that their organizations follow as well as their relationship with the constitution and law of the country. The comprehensive nature of this code of ethics makes it highly applicable to research professionals who strive to carry out ethical research.

Researchers' relationship with public interest is central to ethical research. This is because the results of research often have huge implications on members of the public. The ASPN code of conduct, if observed, goes a long way in ensuring that researchers place public interest above any other during the dispensation of their duty. This ensures that interests that may compromise their work e.g. political interests do not manifest themselves in any aspect of their work. This is particularly important in today's world where such interests have significant

influence on research work. This guideline also will go a long way in ensuring that all members of the society will have their fair share of representation in the research process. As such, bias in the research process will be eliminated. Researchers who pledge allegiance to this code of conduct are also barred from harassing people. Needless to say harassment is detrimental to ethical research as it could cause researcher work to bear harmful consequences.

The ASPN code of conduct principle that is concerned with the rule of law is also very applicable for the researchers of want to go about their work in an ethical manner. This is because it holds that professionals adhere to the constitution as well as to all laws of the country in the course of their work. As a consequence of this, Researchers who observe the ASPN code of ethics will be bound to avoid conflict with legislation. This will facilitate the enactment of legal aspects of ethical research e.g. illegalities such as plagiarism will be eliminated

The highest levels of personal integrity are also a requirement of members of the ASPN. As such, this principle, when applied to the partakers of the research profession will ensure that honor is always placed above the prospect of personal gain. This is very aspect of ethics in research as practices arising from lack of integrity such as dishonesty often compromise research quality. The code of conduct will also ensure ethical research by requiring researchers to give credit where it is due. Information collected by researchers who are members of the ASPN will be respected. As a rule, researchers will also strive to respect human rights during their work. This demonstrates the importance of the ASPN code of conduct among researchers.

Incompetence is a big obstacle to enforcement of ethics among researchers. This is because incompetent researchers may be ignorant of required professional practices thus resulting in unethical tendencies. They are less likely to see the importance of following laid down rules due to their limited professional know-how. This makes ethical research among them difficult to achieve. The ASPN code of conduct can help alleviate this issue. This is because the researchers who are members of the ASPN are required to improve their competence. The code also stipulates that its members encourage fellow professionals to improve their competence. This will lead to a collective effort to improve competence amongst researchers consequently improving the ethical standards of research work.

The functions of research organizations whose members observe the ASPN code of conduct will also be affected by the same. They will observe greater accountability thus enhancing honesty. They will also enact organizational rules that promote ethical research therefore enhancing its practice.

As illustrated, the ASPN code of conduct can be employed to facilitate the observance of ethics among researchers. This is due to the relevance of its guidelines to the work of researchers. Researchers can therefore join the ASPN if they want a guide for their profession.

I place a lot of emphasis on the elements of ethical research. The Arar University's Institutional Review Board's emphasis on high ethical standards makes it a very ideal partner for me in my work as a researcher with the Arar University community of scholars. I pledge to comply with all its requirements during the course of my work.



References

Kothari, Christine. *Research Methodology: Methods and techniques*. New York, NY: New Age International, 2008. Print.