

# **Alagappa University, Karaikudi**

## **Code of Ethics in Research**

### **Ethical and Unethical Pathways in the Realm of Ethics, Malpractice and Intellectual Property Violation:**

The Research supervisors and Research Scholars of Alagappa University are required to adhere rigorously to the standards of academic integrity and originality set forth by the institution and the University Grants Commission (UGC). The Alagappa University abides by the provision established by UGC in its draft policy "Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions Regulations, 2018". The University places a high priority on encouraging its faculty members and research scholars to abhor actions that potentiate deleterious consequence for the stakeholders or which might undermine the discipline's repute.

**Ethics** refers to the moral principles that guide a person's behaviour or the performance of an activity by a person. Alternative terms for morality include moral code, norm, principle, ideal, and value. Research is to be conducted in an ethical manner ensuring dignity, rights, safety, and privacy within the researcher ecosystem.

**Malpractice** has various forms, including "misconduct," "unprofessional contact," illegal acts, improper behaviours, poor management, negligence. In the conduct of the researcher and the supervisor, as well as the institution involved in their research endeavors, as well as in their personal conduct, research work, publications and data thereto. Unprofessional contact can include unethical, unprincipled, dishonorable, immoral, harsh, or vulgar actions/ behaviors/ characters in the exhibit by anyone—the supervisor or scholar, or both. "Misconduct" can include any sort of favoritism or bias or misdeed, and "unprofessional contact" can include any form of favoritism or ill intention.

#### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism, cheating, collusion and fabrication attempting to obtain an unfair academic advantage are entirely unacceptable and not allowed. These forms of academic misconduct will be subject to strict disciplinary actions.

#### **Collusion**

Collusion is an agreement between people to act together secretly or illegally to deceive or cheat someone.

#### **Fabrication**

Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them.

The regulations of Alagappa University classify all malpractice/plagiarism issues as disciplinary offenses that are subject to specified corrective measures following a thorough investigation of the facts and to Check Malpractices and Plagiarism in Research.

## **Publication**

The researchers should strive to publish research articles in SCI/WoS/Scopus/Social Science Citation Indexed journals and book chapters in a reputed publication house. Avoid wasteful and duplicative publication. The appropriate credit should be given to the centers, research labs, funding organizations, and any other facilities that were utilized for the research activity in the publications.

**Standards of Academic Integrity** include certain things. That is, the University is committed to teaching, research and innovation.

Each member has a responsibility to follow the regulations and avoid any conflicts of interest between their numerous duties.

### **A. An autonomous system that ensures ethical behaviour in research endeavours without external oversight.**

The most ideal behaviour for researchers, including Research Guides, Research Scholars is a willing and obedient commitment to the integrity of action in research and such other pursuits as research presentations in public forums, publications, and all.

## **Objectives**

- I. Establishing an ethical standard that compels all parties involved to ardently follow the utmost standards and rules of ethics as described above.
- II. Enhancing both conscious and unconscious behavioural inclinations for a superior quality work will help people stay mentally strong.

## **Mechanism**

- I. Exposure to, involvement with, or advocacy of conduct based on values in academia, administration, consulting, and related fields.
- II. Systemic Integrity in administrative procedures, paradigms for study, project cultures, faculty behaviour, and similar concerns.

### **B. A proactive system for upholding ethical conduct in pursuit of research objectives while staying within the designated boundaries set by monitoring equipment or mechanisms.**

An ongoing adherence to the prescribed mechanism ensuring the regulated adherence to the purity of action in research/project and such other pursuits including research presentations in any public forum, publications and similar places is the subsequent most effective form of conduct for researchers—Research Guide, Research Scholar, Principal Investigator, Project Fellows, Research Associates, and others of their kind.

## Objectives

- I. Creating a structure/body which will set the boundaries and ensure it is followed during the course of research
- II. Reducing any intentional research misconduct or plagiarism by severe deterrence

## Mechanism

- I. Forming (1) Departmental / Centre Research Advisory Committee, (2) Ethics Committee
- II. Close looping the research policy, collaboration/MoU policy, consultancy policy, listed malpractices and instances of plagiarism by not providing any space for open-ended functionality that allows for the inclusion of additional instances of plagiarism and other malpractice that may emerge, by notifying the severe repercussions on the website.
- III. Following a procedure for reviewing each research proposal, as well as the execution of research, reporting of results, and similar activities, such as "Minute and File" for meetings, decisions, and attendance of (a) guides/research scholars, (b) principal/co-investigators/research associates/fellows, (c) department/centre research committees, (d) ethics committees.
- IV. Prior to beginning any publication, adjudication process, or the like, it is necessary to subject all research works to appropriate plagiarism detection software, get the report attached to the research report, and obtain a legally binding confirmation from the stakeholders of the research work that the research work is original and the individual to face consequences for the result of their committed independent pursuits and irrevocable subscription, of any error found later.

### **C. Corrective mechanism to Adhere to Purity of Action Pertaining to Research Goals with strict action taken as a form of retribution for violations of ethics in proven cases of malpractice or plagiarism.**

In order to avoid repeated occurrence of malpractices/plagiarism, certain punitive measures are supposed to be implemented and constant vigilance only will help in curbing any recurrence.

## Objectives

- I. Having a mechanism to identify any unethical behaviour through the use of suitable software as well as reporting.
- II. Punishing those involved in any failure to adhere to the norms of ethics, set by a thorough inquiry into the deliberate offense of malpractice or plagiarism in research and warning them of harsh penalties in the event of a recurrence.

## **Mechanism**

- I. Having a structure in place to create a committee with the authority to conduct fact-finding investigations, validate the existence of ethical shortcomings, and recommend disciplinary actions for perpetrators with solid legal foundations and natural justice
- II. Implementing the penalties into action and monitoring the behavioural change in the offending person or persons in the expected notion.

## **D. Strategies for Deterring Plagiarism**

If the phrase, notion, or information is not your own, simply quote it and properly cite the source. This gives your work more significance because it contains the language and concepts of established researchers!

## **E. Ethics Involved in Research involving Human participants/ GE organisms/Hazardous Microorganisms**

The Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) (for Human Research) was established in June 2008 at Alagappa University (AU), Karaikudi. The Alagappa University Institutional Ethics Committee reviews the ethics involved in research involving human participants for ongoing projects as well as the ones submitted to various funding agencies, to ensure that experiments involving human participants are conducted in compliance with ICMR, India guidelines.

- I. The biomedical and health research involving human participants, human biological material, and the associated data should be conducted following the basic and general ethical principles outlined in the revised “National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research Involving Human Participants, 2017” issued by the ICMR, India.
- II. The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) of Alagappa University was established in the year 2020, as per the regulatory reforms provided by Department of Biotechnology, India to engage in research, use & applications activities related to GE organisms (including microorganisms, animals, plants, arthropods, aquatic animals, etc.) and hazardous microorganisms (including parasites, protozoa, algae, fungi, bacteria, virus, prions etc.) and products produced through exploration of such organisms. The proposals submitted by the individual users in the IBKP portal(<https://ibkp.dbtindia.gov.in/>) is reviewed by the committee members to take account of the risks involved. The proposals are approved based on the risk group of the organisms involved and the experimental design of the proposal submitted.