CODE OF ETHICS IN RESEARCH

1. PREAMBLE

Besides being an academic institution focusing on quality education, Athalye-Sapre-Pitre (A.S.P.) College, Devrukh is also actively involved in research. The college has a "Research Committee" which looks into the planning and execution of encouraging and enhancing research among faculty members and students. To streamline the processes the committee has formulated a policy document on "Promotion of research".

The research policy of college explains the processes used to promote research on campus. The policy document highlights research policies for faculty members and students and gives the framework for the development and implementation of initiatives taken to promote research at ASP college.

2. OBJECTIVES

1. Create a conducive research environment
2. Promote research culture amongst teachers and students
3. To create awareness on research related ethical requirements of the college
4. To enhance research paper publications and presentations
5. Encourage faculty to obtain research projects or points and consultancy works.

3. GUIDELINES ON RESEARCH ETHICS

As an academic and research institution, the college has formulated guidelines on 'Research Ethics' which governs the standards of conduct of research on the campus. While carrying out research, it is important to adhere to ethical principles in order to protect the dignity, rights and welfare of research participants. It is also important to curb plagiarism and conform to the requirements of quality of research publications.

I. Ethical clearance: Research proposals on social and biomedical research in the college involving human participants need to be cleared by the institutional ethical committee (IEC) to safeguard the welfare and the rights of the participants. The IEC has entrusted the task of reviewing the proposed 'research protocol' prior to submission of project proposal and thereafter for monitoring the approved programs to foresee the compliance of the ethics during the period of the project. The IEC approval form and related documents are available on the research portal of the college website.

a) Researches (Teachers / Research Scholars/ UG / PG students) working with human objects should obtain ethical clearance from the institutional ethics committee (IEC) of the college before conducting any research project.

b) Students conducting surveys for their research work need to follow guidelines as laid by IEC.

c) Duly filled ethical clearance application should be submitted by researchers/group of researchers to IEC as per guidelines given.

II. Avoiding plagiarism: Academic integrity requires the individual to undertake academic activities responsibly and honestly. One of the most common practices of breaching the policy of academic integrity is the act of plagiarism. All teachers and students of ASP college are expected to be conscious of 'plagiarism' as academic dishonesty and work towards avoiding plagiarism in academics and research. Postgraduate students, PhD scholars, researchers and faculty members will be governed by the UGC regulations, 2018 (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions)

For curbing plagiarism, the college has laid the following guidelines:

i. All researchers/students need to submit a 'Plagiarism check report' for any submission based assessments as is given in the course policy by course faculty.

ii. If research papers are intended to be communicated for publishing or to be presented in a conference, Plagiarism check report need to be submitted as is required by the publisher.

iii. Free online plagiarism checkers may be used for generating reports
  - Plagiarismsoftware   - www.plagiarismsoftware.net
  - Plagscan   - www.plagscan.com
  - Quetext   - www.quetext.com
  - Duplichecker   - www.duplichecker.com
  - Grammarly   - www.grammarly.com
  - Plagiarism Detector   - https//plagiarismdetector.com
  - Copyleaks   - https//copyleaks.com
  - Smallseotools   - https//smallseotools/plagiariam.checker/

iv. Researchers can also avail plagiarism check services of Mumbai University library, for Urkund check reports.

v. Upon publication / presentation of the paper, researchers are expected to submit information of the same with DOI to the college repository by email in the same to the research committee at dspmaspresearch@gmail.com.

vi. Researchers are required to give Institutional affiliation for all Research Publications obtained as a result of work done by them as faculty members / researches of ASP college.

vii. Teachers / Researchers are advised to refrain from resorting to self-plagiarism. Reproduction, in part, or whole, of one's own previously published work without adequate citation and proper acknowledgement and claiming the most recent work as new and original for any academic advantage amounts to 'text recycling' (also known as self-plagiarism) and is not acceptable.

viii. UGC regulations/ notices governing Research and academic integrity:

  i. UGC notice on self-plagiarism:

  https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/2284767_self-plagiarism001.pdf

  ii. UGC guideline document on good academic research practices:

  https://www.ugc.ac.in/e-book/grap_29092020/mobile/index.html

  iii. https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/7771545_academic-integrity-regulation2018.pdf

III. Quality Publications: Researches are encouraged to publish their research findings in peer reviewed journals listed by Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE) of UGC or indexed in Scopus or Web of Science. College organises workshops on creating awareness about 'Predatory Journals' and for encouraging researchers to publish their research findings in peer reviewed journals listed by UGC-CARE.

a) The UGC care list of quality journals can be assessed from:
https://ugccare.unipune.ac.in/apps1/home/index
b) To view the journals listed in UGC-CARE, register yourself at
https://ugccare.unipune.ac.in/Apps1/User/WebA/CAREList
c) After your registration you can login to access the list of journals listed in UGC-CARE of your specific discipline.
d) While choosing the journals impact factors listed in Journal Citation Reports (JCR) may be assist from Web of Science.
e) Clarivate Analytics (Thomson Reuters) site may also be used to ensure the scientific quality of a journal.
f) Use SCIMAGO journal rank (SJR) to screening good journals.

This will enable researchers to obtain information of citations and h-index as and when asked by the college for the purpose of NIRF and NAAC.

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Principal