

ENHANSING THE STANDARDS OF RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE STAFF OF SLIATE

PAPER FOR ACADEMIC SYNDICATE MEETING - SLIATE

Background

An opportunity to conduct fruitful researches was granted to SLIATE staff in September 2013 and research allowance was paid as per the circulars, No.44 of 2011 and 02/ 2014 of Department of Management Services. However, from 1st of January 2014, the effective circular is no. 02/ 2014. As per the circular, all the researchers, who are eligible for the research allowance payment are bound to provide all necessary documents on time. They are also bound to maintain the research ethics and professionalism. As the staff members of SLIATE are not very much exposed to research culture, there are some shortcomings in completing certain requirements by the researchers. However, they have been receiving the research allowance.

Rationale

The researchers are expected to conduct research in accordance with the requirements of the circular and follow appropriate methodology. Even though the allowances were continuously paid, several researches were not up to the standards. Therefore, stream lining the research is required to legalize the payment of research allowance. Further, it is required to maintain the ethics and professionalism among the researchers of SLIATE. In view of that, introducing research ethics and professionalism are proposed as in annex 01.

Recommendations

- I. Staff members of SLIATE who are entitled to get the research allowance payment should provide all the necessary documents and act according to the Department of Management Services Circular No. 02/2014. Further they should adhere to the policies of SLIATE.
- II. Researchers should strictly maintain the research ethics and professionalism in annex 01.
- III. The research allowance paid for the researchers who have not fulfilled the requirements can be recompensed or suspended or the allowance can be totally rejected.

Annex 01

1. Research Ethics

Research ethics involve the application of fundamental ethical principles to a variety of topics involving research, including scientific research. These include the design and implementation of research involving human experimentation, animal experimentation, various aspects of academic scandal, including avoidance of scientific misconduct (such as fraud, fabrication of data and plagiarism), regulation of research, etc.

Research ethics can be categorized as follows;

- A. Research ethics relation to participants
- B. Authorship and collaborative Research
- C. Avoiding of Research Misconduct
- D. Research publication

A. Research ethics relation to participants (mostly considered in social, medical researchers).

- 1) The principle of *voluntary participation* requires that people should not be forced into participating in research. Essentially, this means that research participants must be fully informed about the procedures and risks involved in research and must give their consent to participate.
- 2) The researchers should not put participants in a situation where they might be at *risk of harm* as a result of their participation. Harm can be defined as both physical and psychological.
- 3) Almost all research guarantees the participant's *confidentiality*. They are assured that identifying information will not be made available to anyone who is not directly involved in the study.

B. Authorship and collaborative Research

- 1) The list of authors establishes accountability as well as credit.
- 2) Policies in most scientific journals state that a person should be listed as the author of a paper only if that person made a direct and substantial intellectual contribution to the design of the research, the interpretation of the data, or the drafting of the paper.
- 3) The acknowledgment section can be used to thank those who indirectly contributed to the work.

Researcher / Author Responsibilities

- 1) Preparation and Submission of research proposal as per the format of circular no. 02/2014
- 2) Preparation and Submission of interim reports once in six months and Manuscripts / final research report (Follow general guidelines of SLIATE).
- 3) Ensure the creativity and originality of research.

- 4) Provide the agreement for that the proposal and manuscript to be examined by anonymous reviewers.
- 5) Make effort to publish the research findings in accepted international or national level publications or present in the symposium of philosophers and provide copies of the work submitted or published.
- 6) Obtain copyright permission if figures/tables need to be reproduced.
- 7) Include proper affiliation
- 8) Agree to accept and obey the recommendations and decisions of research management committee and research supervision committee.

C. Avoiding of Research Misconduct

Research misconduct means Fabrication, Falsification, or Plagiarism (FFP) in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. Research misconduct should be avoided by the researcher.

- 1) Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them.
- 2) Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results as such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

Data Manipulation:

- a. Researchers who manipulate their data in ways that deceive others are violating both the basic values and widely accepted professional standards of science. They fail to maintain professionalism.
 - b. They mislead their colleagues and potentially impede progress in their field of research.
 - c. They undermine their own authority and trustworthiness as researchers.
- 3) Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. Two type of plagiarism exist as follows;

Plagiarism: using the ideas or words of another person without giving appropriate credit

Self-Plagiarism: The verbatim copying or reuse of one's own research

Both types of plagiarism are considered to be unacceptable practices in scientific literature.

- d. Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion.

D. Research publications

- 1) Honesty: Honesty and integrity is a duty of each author and person, expert-reviewer and member of journal editorial boards.

- 2) Review process: The peer-review process contributes to the quality control and it is an essential step to ascertain the standard and originality of the research.
- 3) Ethical standards: Avoid unscrupulous activities.
- 4) Authorship: Who may claim a right to authorship? In which order, should the authors be listed? Normally this is done according to the hierarchy of responsibility to the research.

2. Professionalism

A researcher should adhere to three sets of obligations or professional standards.

- a) An obligation to honor the trust that their colleagues place on them.
- b) An obligation to themselves. Irresponsible conduct in research can make it impossible to achieve a goal.
- c) An obligation to act in the ways that serve the general public.



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SLIATE

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