

# ZISAJI PRESIDENCY COLLEGE KIPHIRE, NAGALAND

## CODE OF RESEARCH ETHICS

### **INTRODUCTION**

Zisaji Presidency College is committed to undertake and promote research that will benefit all the people of the country and the world. The college aimed at supporting societal goals and carry out researches under such terms and conditions that uphold the rights and dignity of the researchers. The code of research ethics is made available to all the researchers of Zisaji Presidency College to guide them in their research activity.

### **OBJECTIVE**

This Code of Research Ethics is intended to provide specific standards and guidelines to the researchers of the college in respect to carrying out all aspects of research activity such as gathering, processing and disseminating research information.

### **APPLICABILITY**

The policy applies to all persons affiliate with, but not limited to, faculty, students, trainees, and all members of the research staff.

In the event of serious misconduct allegedly committed the college may use the Code of Research Ethics procedures to resolve and address the allegations.

Persons found to have committed research misconduct are subject to discipline by documentation, including letters of reprimand, suspension, restitution of funds up to and including discharge or expulsion. In addition, the findings will, where appropriate, be reported to external entities or authorities for additional action. Disciplinary action proceedings shall be in accordance with applicable college policies, codes and procedures.

## **PRINCIPLES OF RESEARCH**

- **Beneficence and Non-maleficence**

Researchers will strive to benefit those with whom they work and take care to do no harm. They should try to safeguard the welfare and rights of those with whom they interact professionally and other affected persons. When conflicts occur among the researchers they should attempt to resolve these conflicts in a responsible fashion that avoids or minimizes harm. They must guard against personal, financial, social, organizational, or political factors that might lead to misuse of their influence. They should be aware of the possible effect of their own physical and mental health on their ability to help those with they work.

- **Fidelity and Responsibility**

Researchers must uphold professional standards of conduct, clarify their professional roles and obligations, accept appropriate responsibility for their behaviour, and seek to manage conflicts of interest that could lead to exploitation or harm. Researcher should try to contribute a portion of their professional time for little or no compensation or personal advantage.

- **Integrity**

Researchers should seek to promote accuracy, honesty and truthfulness in their respective field, teaching, and practice. They should not steal, cheat or engage in fraud, subterfuge, or intentional misrepresentation of fact. They should keep their promises and avoid unwise or unclear commitments.

- **Justice**

Researchers should recognize that fairness and justice entitle all persons to access to and benefit from the contributions of researchers. They should exercise reasonable judgment and take precautions to ensure that their potential biases, the boundaries of their competence, and the limitations of their expertise do not lead to or condone unjust practices.

- **Respect for People's Rights and Dignity**

Researchers should respect the dignity and worth of all people, and the rights of individuals to privacy, confidentiality, and self-determination. Researchers should respect cultural, individual, and role differences, including those based on age, gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, and socioeconomic status, and consider these factors when working with members of such groups. They should not knowingly participate in or condone activities of others based

upon such prejudices. Research and the pursuit of knowledge should never be regarded as the supreme goal at the expense of participants' personal, social and cultural values.

- **Transparency**

Before undertaking any research the researcher should ensure that the participants are clearly briefed on the aims and implications of the research as well as the possible outcomes and benefits of the research. Participants should also be informed of any additional factors that might reasonably be expected to influence their willingness to participate. No financial or other inducement should be offered to participants, whether children or adults, or parents/guardians of children, to ensure a particular research result.

## **RESEARCH MISCONDUCT**

Research misconduct occurs when a researcher fabricates or falsifies data, or plagiarizes or misrepresents information or ideas in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.

- Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them
- Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.
- Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. It includes self-plagiarism: reuse of one's own work without suitable acknowledgement or permission.
- Misrepresentation includes misrepresentation of data or interests, or inappropriate claims to authorship and/or attribution or work where there has been no significant contribution, or denial of authorship where the author has made a significant contribution.

Research misconduct occurs when the researcher deliberately, recklessly or by gross negligence discloses the information of the participants without their consent, does not take reasonable care to stop the risk and dangers, does not observe legal and reasonable ethical obligations or does not disclose conflicts of interests.

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

## **PROCEDURE OF SUBMITTING COMPLAINTS ON RESEARCH MISCONDUCT AND INVESTIGATION**

- Any complaints or grievances on research misconduct shall be submitted to the convener of Research and Publication Cell of the college with possible facts and documentation in a sealed envelope.
- On receipt of the complaint the Cell will investigate the matter and shall send its report to the Discipline Committee within fifteen days if possible, but in any case not beyond one month, for further action.
- The inquiry report shall contain name and position of the research respondent(s), description of the allegation of research misconduct, the grant support involved if any, description of data reviewed and interviews. The members of the cell will ensure that the investigation is both thorough and sufficiently documented and that it includes examination of all research records and evidence and interview with each respondent, complainant and any other person having reasonable information.
- In case of conflict of interests with the members of inquiry committee members may be substituted by the Principal with other members having necessary expertise.
- In case of false and frivolous complaint (if proved), the Cell will recommend Principal/ Discipline Committee to take appropriate action against the complainant.