

# Ethics in Research

- What is Ethics?
- A set of moral principles that define what is good and what is bad
- It involves honesty in your research project.
- Honesty towards yourself, before anyone else.

- What is research?
- studious inquiry or examination especially : investigation or experimentation aimed at the **discovery** and **interpretation of facts**, **revision** of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical **application** of such **new** or revised theories or laws. - Merriam Webster

- Research endeavour is the endeavour to raise new questions or to develop new ways to look at the things, **with detached** view.
- At the same time, researcher never claims the finality for his observations.
- It is the field of intellectuals. Budhijivi. To think, and to keep thinking critically is a life time endeavour.
- Scholarship and money we take from government is given for the job of thinking. Thinking is different from taking tension. Chinta and Chintan.
- We owe it to the poor.

- Research is creative, but no creativity is possible without genuine interest.
- Creation is eternally new. Life evolves and new ideas come in. but to receive them, a person must be on creative wavelength that comes from being an authentic person.
- It is not only a thing of courage to stick to a new idea that challenges the conventions, but also a duty of a researcher.
- Ideas can never be created by force. Only authentic person can have new ideas.
- New ideas always challenge the conventions.

- Research is a creative process. It is artistic in nature. As curiosity is naturally ingrained in human-beings, research is a joyful and must be a joyful activity. If it is not joyful, one must critically check the reasons as they can be political or any kind of biasness.

- To find new facts, or to do fair investigations, a researcher must be free of preconceived notions. Or he must explain and critically analyse his own position with respect to his methodology and tools and choices available in the research project. This will define the limitations of the researcher.

- Limits to re-presentation:
- Limits to information.
- Limits to perception.
- Limits to communication.
- Limits to explanation.
- Limits to understanding.
- Limits to human creativity.



- The vast existence has no meaning. We, human beings, give it a meaning .
- All boundaries are human construction.
- We have to question/re-question the meanings to find the better truths.
- Better truths are the versions that challenge the boundaries that human beings create.
- More the boundaries, lesser the ethics.
- That which is unethical, can't be artistic, cant be a creation.

- To be a good researcher, one must be a good human being.

- Research misconduct:
- Plagiarism
- Forceful interpretation of data
- Not acknowledging the help
- Nepotism, sycophancy, political influence
- Doing research merely for degree or credits.
- Refusal to go to obvious explanations if they contradict your theory/ideology

- Dare to be original:
- It is your right
- It is your duty
- It is your responsibility towards next generation
- It is the only way to enjoy genuinely

Journey is a pleasure.

Never expect any external award.

Beware of sponsored research, where money is involved, they generally have self-interest

Free time is a privilege, especially for girls in patriarchal society.

- Thinking tools:
- Observe things around
- Question systems that hamper free thinking, e.g. blind faith
- Go to new situations to re-activate the mind deadened by habit

**“HERE’S TO THE CRAZY ONES**

**THE MISFITS. THE REBELS. THE TROUBLE MAKERS**

**THE ROUND HEADS IN THE SQUARE HOLES**

**THE ONES WHO SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY**

THEY’RE NOT FOND OF RULES & THEY HAVE NO RESPECT FOR THE STATUS QUO

**YOU CAN QUOTE THEM, DISAGREE WITH THEM**

**GLORIFY OR VILIFY THEM**

**THE ONLY THING YOU CAN’T DO IS IGNORE THEM**

**BECAUSE THEY CHANGE THINGS**

**THEY PUSH THE HUMAN RACE FORWARD &**

**WHILE SOME MAY SEE THEM AS THE CRAZY ONES**

**WE SEE GENIUS**

BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE CRAZY ENOUGH TO THINK

**THEY CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**

**ARE THE ONES WHO DO.” JACK KEROUAC**

- जो नहीं हो सके पूर्ण-काम  
मैं उनको करता हूँ प्रणाम।

कछ कण्ठित औ कछ लक्ष्य-भ्रष्ट  
जिनके अभिमन्त्रित तीर हुए  
रण की समाप्ति के पहले ही  
जो वीर रिक्त तूणीर हुए !  
उनको प्रणाम !



- जिनकी सेवाएं अतुलनीय  
पर विज्ञापन से रहें दूर  
प्रतिकूल परिस्थिति ने जिनके  
कर दिए मनोरथ चूर-चूर !  
उनको प्रणाम !

# Reference:

- Central ideas are adopted from the lectures by Prof. Mehar Singh Gill, Dept. of Geography, Patiala University and Prof. Jayanti Dutta, HRDC Dept., Punjab University, Chandigarh.