

Chapter 10

Research Ethics Among Undergraduates of the Social Sciences

Shazia Shahab Shaikh

University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan

Abdulrazaque Chhachhar

University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

At the beginning of the 21st century, issues concerning the social sciences research design and data collection are dominant. However, social scientists have found some remedies for the pitfalls of post-graduate and graduate students. Although the authors have found published literature at internationally recognized data-based publishers, very little literature reviewed undergraduates in the faculty of social sciences. The purpose of this chapter is to empower undergraduates, and to guide them in research ethics, particularly in the social sciences. Undergraduate students or supervisors who deal with social sciences research ensure to follow the precautions of the ethical principles to increase the benefits of the research for society and country development at large. Overall, undergraduate students need to understand the problem which systematically can be resolved through research. Moreover, in data collection sampling must be identified properly.

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-1726-6.ch010

INTRODUCTION

Over the last two centuries, considerable advances in social sciences research. To do ethically good research is a key principle of scientific research. The scientific research methods and observations have shown unethical ways of research (Hosseini, Wieczorek, & Gordijn, 2022). Besides this, ethical considerations and related issues that emerged in dissertations are not adequately addressed (Kjellstrom, et al. 2010). Ethical issues concerning social sciences research are dominant (Bernard A Fischer, 2006).

However, social scientists have found some remedies for the pitfalls of research ethics and ethical issues related to undergrad and post-graduate students. we have found in published literature at internationally recognized data-based publishers, very little literature was reviewed regarding undergraduates in the social sciences.

The purpose of this chapter is to empower and guide undergrads students in research ethical principles, particularly in social sciences research. This chapter will describe the ethical principles and issues faced by undergrads in social sciences research.

This chapter will be written according to the following sub-headings:

Sub-head 1: Ethical principles among undergrad students in social sciences research based on dissertation or project.

Sub-head 2: To focus on ethical issues faced by undergrads students in social sciences research.

Undergrad students are the primary researchers, who apply the research techniques at the initial stage of their dissertation or project. The most vital approach is to improve research ethics instruction in graduate school (Kjellström, Ross, & Fridlund, 2010). Students must learn how to conduct ethically sound research from the first stages of planning and execution to writing up the results, and their potential and ability to report and reflect on ethical aspects of the research process must be strengthened (Kjellström, & Fridlund, 2010). Undergrad students usually perform a thesis or project in the final year of the graduate programs in many varsities of the world. Most of the time, they do not determine the ethics in research, particularly in the field of social sciences. Additionally, their fundamental concepts are unclear despite learning fundamentals of research in the sixth and seventh semesters of the graduate program; such as ‘fundamentals of research in social sciences’. However, supervisors play a vital role in the practices of the ethical principles in the dissertation.

Research ethics is the application of an ethical set of principles and professional codes of conduct in the collection of data, analysis, reporting, and publication of research (Cox, et al., 2023). There is a professional ethical principle for researchers particularly in the field of social science (APA, 2016). Professional ethical research frequently establishes guidelines for researchers in social sciences (Cannella, & Lincoln, 2011). Ethical principles implemented by each university’s research board

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