Research and Ethics

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Ethics is the way of conduct and the reasonable norms of moral life to understand the demarcation between right and wrong as well as to behave and guide in a healthy manner. Ethics is related to but different from laws, cultural norms, beliefs, religion, feelings, livelihood and even the scientific derivations.

Similarly a research is destined to create a new knowledge for the benefit of society that would be objective, verifiable, accessible and reasonably accurate. Such new knowledge is published to convey message for the scientific visibility. This is expected not only to be a scientifically accurate and relevant but also appear ethically sound. Trustworthy relationship between science and society is the foundation of ethical practice; but social behaviour may deviate from being ethical so it should not be the thing whatever society accepts.

Disseminating a falsified, fabricated and misleading information is to deceive our society. Information derived with disrespect and insecurity to life either human or animal is always unethical. That's why the ethical principles have been derived in terms of rules, guidelines, codes, statement or declaration in order to protect right, provide justice and respect of research participants. A responsible conduct of research will be guided by individual conviction, institutional policies, professional codes and state rules and guidelines.

'Ethical principles can illuminate key issues, values and options but can't guarantee total agreement; it can indicate relevant evidence but can't always provide ideal solutions; it can help to rule out some options but can't eliminate tough choices; and it can offer basis for agreement on substance and process but can't reconcile or resolve arguments about evidence.' Thus the ethics can't always address a gray line between right and wrong but guides us towards right doings.

There are historical documents like Nuremberg Code developed after second world war, the Declaration of

Helsinki developed by World Medical Association and the Belmont Report produced after US Public Health Service syphilis study that influence the conduct of human research currently.

Journal editors have to have a consensus to follow the universally applicable standards of research integrity or practice mentioned by International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and the International Council for Science.

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