

13/3/22

Minutes of the First Meeting of Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) held on 03rd March, 2022 at 11.30AM in the Conference Room, Vice Chancellor's Office, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi-110068.

The Meeting was attended by the following members:

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| 1. Prof. Satyakam, Pro- Vice Chancellor | Chairperson |
| 2. Prof. P. Prakash, former VC, SRM University | External Member |
| 3. Prof. Bharat Fozdhar , Professor, SOS | Member |
| 4. Prof. Jaideep Sharma, Professor, SOSS | Member |
| 5. Dr. Bijayalaxmi Mishra, Director (I/c), Research Unit | Convener |

Prof. Rashmi Sinha, Director, SOSS, Prof. Sujatha Verma, Director, SOS, Prof. Suhas Shetgovekar, Dr. Monika Misra, faculty of Psychology, Dr. P. Venkataramana , faculty of Anthropology , Prof. Neera Kapoor, faculty of Life Sciences and Dr. Abdul Kareem, faculty of Bio-Chemistry were also present as special invitees. Dr. Satish Gaikawad, Assistant Director, Research Unit was present to assist in the proceedings of the Meeting of IEC.

The Chairperson of the Committee welcomed all the members to the first meeting of Institutional Ethics Committee and highlighted the importance of ethical review of research proposal, stating that the need for the IEC in research establishments was to affirm to the human rights as a prerogative to all members of the society and therefore the SOP prepared by the Research Unit was the need of the hour and a step in the right direction. He also emphasized on the good academic practices in Research as envisioned in the NEP 2020. He suggested to include concerned Research Scholars in the IEC Meetings for better deliberations on ethical issues involved in their proposals. He further explained how IGNOU, in consonance with the guidelines of Regulatory Bodies constituted the Institutional Ethics Committee. The Chairperson of the Committee then requested the Convener to present the agenda items.

Accordingly, the Convener of the Committee presented the following agenda items :

Item No. IEC 1 : To Consider the approval of the Standard Operating Procedure for submitting proposals for Ethical Clearance by Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC)

1. The Convenor presented the agenda in detail. She apprised the members about the Code of Conduct for Research scholars as approved by the Research Council of IGNOU which *interalia* included the Ethical considerations in Research and laid down the procedure for constituting the Institutional Ethics Committee. During the deliberations, the Chairperson stated that grievances of the Research Scholars / Supervisors related to ethical violations should also be brought before the IEC, if the Grievance Committee felt so. Speaking on the scope of the SOP,

he said that animals / human participants as well as flora and fauna may be included in the scope. Prof. P. Prakash highlighted the importance of professional ethics in conduct of Research Degree Programme and all the Schools / Disciplines while conducting research must ensure the adherence of professional ethics as apart institutional ethics. He advised the concerned faculty members present in the meeting to refer to the recommendations of Prof. Ranganathan's Committee on anti-dissection while dealing with animals as the subjects of research study.

With the permission of the Chair, the Convener of the Committee presented the draft formats :

1. Application for PhD students for obtaining permission to study on Human Subjects, Animal / Human medical / flora and fauna
2. Application for sponsored projects for obtaining permission to study on Human Subjects, Animal / Human / medical / flora and fauna for smooth functioning and easy submission before the IEC.

The Committee examined all the formats and decided to circulate the same amongst the faculty members, seeking their inputs/feedback for improvising the SOP. It was also decided that medico legal expert as and when required may be nominated to the IEC on case to case basis.

Item No. IEC 2 : To Consider approval / clearance of the proposal received from the research scholars of Psychology discipline

The Convener presented the agenda in detail. With permission of the Chair, the concerned Faculty members Prof. Suhas Shetgovekar and Prof. Monika Misra presented the following proposals seeking ethical clearance.

| S.No | Name of the Programme/ Discipline | Name of Student | Name of Supervisor | Research Topic | Remarks |
|------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1. | Ph.D Psychology SOSS | Ms. Megha Sharma 202493394 | Prof. Suhas Shetgovekar | Psychosocial Factors as Predictors of Professional Competence among Practicing Psychologists | Recommended by DRC |
| 2. | Ph.D Psychology SOSS | Ms. Selene Khosla 188500410 | Dr. Monika Misra | Enhancing Subjective Well-Being among young adults using Positive Psychology Interventions' | -do- |
| 3. | Ph.D Psychology | Ms. Aditi Bansal 202493237 | Dr. Monika Misra | 'Effectiveness of Efficacy of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Intervention in Adults with Anxiety Disorders and Insecure Attachment' | -do- |

After deliberations on the matter, the Committee suggested that the chairperson of the IEC may be authorized to approve constitution of sub-committee(s) by the concerned discipline(s) in consonance with the stipulations of concerned Regulatory bodies. Alternatively, the committee suggested that an undertaking from the external expert and supervisor may be made mandatory in case of such research proposals requiring ethical clearance which would be placed before the IEC for approval. This will be in the form of a joint declaration signed by the external expert, supervisor and the Director of the concerned School to be placed for approval of the Chairperson of the IEC. Such declarations are to be routed through the Research Unit. The Research Unit will prepare the format of undertaking.

Item No. IEC 3 : To consider approval / clearance of the proposal received from the research Scholar of Anthropology discipline.

The Agenda was presented by the Convener. The faculty of Anthropology explained in detail the ethical issues involved in the proposal under submission. After discussion on the agenda in detail, the Committee resolved to constitute a separate Sub-Committee in similar manner as proposed for Psychology discipline in Item No. IEC 2.

Item No. IEC 4 : To consider the matter pertaining to renewal of registration of Animal House Facility by Discipline of Life Sciences, Bio-Chemistry, School of Sciences, IGNOU

The convener presented the Agenda by giving a brief background of the Animal house facility existing in SOS prior to 2017 which stood expired. The members expressed their apprehension about such facility whether being considered for fresh registration currently. After detailed deliberations, the Committee suggested the following:

2. In the researches requiring animal experiments, the concerned research supervisor(s) and the concerned Discipline / School should take all the necessary measures to avail services of Animal House facility available with other Institutions with the permission of the competent authority of IGNOU.
3. The animal ethical committee may be formed at the discipline level by nominating experts either from IGNOU or other institutions which may be placed before IEC for approval.
4. In case of research topics/proposal involving animal experiments and having an external expert as Co – supervisor, an undertaking needed to be taken from the Co- supervisor to the effect that the requisite norms of animal ethics as per the norms had been complied. A copy of such undertaking would be provided by the School / Discipline concerned to the Research Unit for record.
5. Regarding the renewal of registration of Animal House facility, the Committee directed the concerned School to revise the list of members and submit a response to the show cause notice from Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) at the earliest through Research Unit for further necessary action.
6. Proposals involving basic research may be cleared at the DRC by adopting one legal expert and one external expert from the concerned domain/ clinical or medical professional. Research involving animal experiments / Human trails involving human samples may be referred to the

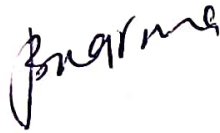
IEC for ethical clearance. The Research Unit would issue the circular to all the Schools concerned to reiterate the role of DRC to decide on the matters/ research proposals that needed to be forwarded to IEC.

7. Anti-plagiarism certificate may be made mandatory at the level of submission of synopsis too.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks.



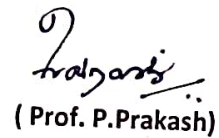
(Prof. Bharat Fozdhar)



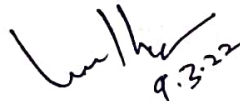
(Prof. Jaideep Sharma)



(Dr. Bijayalaxmi Mishra)



(Prof. P. Prakash)



(Prof. Satyakam)
