Chapter 3
Ethics in Research and Teaching:
Ethics for Academics

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ABSTRACT

The chapter aims to explain the importance of ethics in research and teaching. First, it focuses on ethical studies. It expresses the implications that are necessary for a study to be ethical. The researcher has a vital role in conducting an ethical research. There are some critical points, which the researcher should take into account. For each field, various research methods are used. Therefore, different ethical codes and implications should be adapted in accordance with the research method in order to have ethical studies. In addition to research ethics, researchers also have a responsibility as an author to share his/her research with others by publishing it. Unethical behaviors such as fabrication, falsification, plagiarism will be explained. Lastly, a lecturer is responsible for giving lectures, teaching, and assessing the students. For a lecturer to assess its students fairly, s/he should be ethical. The lecturer should provide ethics in teaching.

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INTRODUCTION

In the last decade, ethics has become a hot topic worldwide. Particular attention is given to ethics as experiencing the negative consequences of the ethical scandals that took place in late 90’s. In addition to this, academicians have also given priority to ethics. Research as being a crucial part of academic life, ethics in research should be considered by academicians and universities in order to prevent unethical behavior such as plagiarism and fabrication. For experiments or studies to be ethical, a researcher should consider many steps and implications as well. Besides researches, academics are also responsible for teaching at universities. Therefore, they also have to be ethical in teaching as being lecturers.

This chapter aims to explain the importance of ethics in research and teaching. Firstly, it would focus on ethical researches. The researcher has a vital role in conducting an ethical research. There are some critical points, which the researcher should take into account. Researches has taken in a lot fields such as social sciences, engineering, medicine…etc. For each field, various research methods are being used. Each research method has unique techniques. Therefore, different ethical codes and implications should be adapted in accordance with the research method in order to have ethical researches. In addition to research ethics, researcher has also responsibility as an author by sharing his/her research with others by publishing it. Secondly, the chapter would emphasize the importance of ethics in teaching. Thus, the outline of the chapter will be formed of three parts.

In the first part of the chapter, ethics will be defined. Definitions regarding ethics will be given. Ethical behavior will be explained. In addition to this, ethical conflict would be defined. Ethical conflict should be well grasped by the individual because s/he may experience ethical conflict at any step of the research or teaching. The individual should know how to manage with the ethical conflict in order to be ethical.

Following the first part, ethics in research will be identified. Experimental research and research methods will be explained. The necessary steps to conduct an ethical experiment will be specified. Ethical issues and ethical misconducts in experiments will be discussed. Then the chapter will proceed by explaining the implications and ethical codes that are necessary to prevent unethical behavior in any kind of research. Quantitative and qualitative research methods will be explained separately in details. Ethical violations that can take place in any research will be considered in this part. Publication ethics will also be considered in this part. Ethical violations and unethical behaviors presented in both research and publication will be given in this part. The last part would consist of ethics in teaching. As it is known, lecturer is responsible for giving lectures, teaching and assessing the students. All the factors affecting the lecturer regarding the ethics of teaching would be considered in this part of the chapter.
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