

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICES

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Research Ethics in the Digital Age: Foundations and Emerging Dilemmas

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Abstract

Research ethics serves as the normative basis for academic inquiry, directing responsible knowledge creation and safeguarding human dignity, especially in the social sciences where research often engages human participants and delicate societal circumstances. Ethical standards, including respect for individuals, beneficence, fairness, and integrity, are vital for sustaining public confidence and academic reputation. Notwithstanding the presence of established ethical norms and regulatory frameworks, researchers consistently encounter enduring ethical challenges, including informed permission, voluntary involvement, secrecy, fraud, plagiarism, and conflicts of interest. The persistent obstacles have been exacerbated by the swift digitalization of research methodologies and the growing implementation of artificial intelligence, which have raised new issues about authorship, originality, transparency, and academic integrity. This chapter examines the meaning, historical progression, theoretical underpinnings, and evolution of research ethics, subsequently addressing both classic and modern ethical dilemmas. The discourse emphasizes the necessity for continual ethical reflexivity to tackle developing issues in a progressively digital research landscape.

Keywords: Ethics, Research Ethics, Ethical Delima, Plagiarism, Artificial Intelligence.