

Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation

(Deemed to be University estd, u/s. 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

(NAAC Accredited "A++" Grade University)

Code of Ethics



A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to be "K. Lakshmaiah".

Registrar

REGISTRAR

Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation
(Deemed to be University)
Green Fields, VADDESWAREM-522 302
Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh.

Code of Ethics for Research

Preamble

Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation is committed to fostering a culture of ethical research that upholds the highest standards of integrity, honesty, and responsibility. This Code of Ethics outlines the principles and standards that all researchers at KLEF are expected to adhere to.

Research Practices at KLEF:

1. Integrity and Honesty
 - Researchers must maintain honesty in all aspects of their research, ensuring accurate data collection, analysis, and reporting.
 - Fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism are strictly prohibited.
2. Respect for Intellectual Property
 - Proper acknowledgment must be given to the contributions and ideas of others.
 - Researchers must obtain necessary permissions for using copyrighted materials.
3. Transparency and Accountability
 - Research processes and findings should be transparent and open to scrutiny.
 - Researchers should maintain comprehensive records of their research activities.
4. Collaborative Responsibility
 - Promote a collaborative research environment that encourages sharing of knowledge and resources.
 - Respect the contributions of all collaborators and co-authors.
5. Respect for Participants
 - The dignity, rights, and welfare of all research participants must be respected.
 - Informed consent must be obtained from participants, and they should be fully informed about the nature, purpose, and potential risks of the research.
 - Confidentiality and privacy of research participants must be maintained unless explicit consent has been given for disclosure.
6. Responsibility to Society
 - Researchers should ensure that their work contributes to the public good and avoids causing harm.
 - Research findings should be disseminated responsibly, ensuring that the information is accessible and understandable to the public.
 - Researchers should engage with the community and consider the societal impacts of their research.

7. Respect for the Environment

- Research activities should be conducted in a manner that minimizes environmental impact.
- Sustainable practices should be adopted wherever possible to protect natural resources.

8. Professional Responsibility

- Researchers should strive for excellence and rigor in their research, maintaining a high level of competence.
- Collaboration and cooperation with fellow researchers, both within and outside KLEF, should be encouraged to advance knowledge.
- Mentorship and training of students and junior researchers should be prioritized, fostering an environment of growth and development.

9. Compliance with Legal and Institutional Requirements

- Researchers must comply with all relevant laws, regulations, and institutional policies governing research.
- Any research involving human subjects, animals, or hazardous materials must receive appropriate ethical and safety approvals before commencement.

10. Reporting Misconduct

- Researchers are obligated to report any suspected misconduct or unethical behaviour to the appropriate authorities.
- Whistleblowers should be protected from retaliation and treated with respect.

11. Continuous Improvement

- Researchers should engage in continuous professional development and stay updated with advancements in their field.
- Ethical standards and practices should be regularly reviewed and updated in light of new knowledge and societal changes.

Implementation at KLEF

Curriculum Integration

1. Inclusion of Ethics in Research Methodology Coursework

- a. Ethics in education is integrated into all research methodology courses.
- b. Case studies and real-world examples should be used to illustrate ethical dilemmas and solutions.

2. Training Programs

- a. Regular workshops and seminars on research ethics should be conducted for students and faculty.
- b. Online modules and resources on research ethics should be made available.

Appointment of Ethics Committee

1. Formation and Composition
 - a. An Institutional Research Ethics Committee (REC) should be established, comprising members with diverse expertise.
 - b. The committee should have Chairman, Convener and other members from all the disciplines in the Institute.
2. Roles and Responsibilities
 - a. The REC is responsible for reviewing and approving research proposals to ensure ethical compliance.
 - b. The committee should provide guidance on ethical issues and monitor ongoing research.
3. Regular Meetings
 - a. The REC should meet regularly to review new proposals and ongoing projects.
 - b. The REC should discuss on Research Publication and IPR policies
 - c. Minutes of the meetings should be documented and made available to stakeholders.

Animal Ethics Committee

1. Formation and Composition
 - a. An Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) should be constituted with veterinarians, scientists, and non-scientific members.
2. Ethical Guidelines for Animal Research
 - a. Researchers must obtain AEC approval before commencing any research involving animals.
 - b. The welfare of animals must be a primary consideration, adhering to the principles of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement).
3. Monitoring and Reporting
 - a. Regular inspections of animal facilities should be conducted to ensure compliance.
 - b. Any adverse events must be reported to the AEC promptly.

Biosafety

1. Biosafety Committee
 - a. A Biosafety Committee should be established to oversee research involving hazardous biological materials.
 - b. The committee should include experts in biosafety, microbiology, and related fields.
2. Risk Assessment and Management

- a. Researchers must conduct thorough risk assessments and implement appropriate containment measures.
 - b. Training in biosafety protocols is mandatory for all personnel involved in the research.
3. Compliance and Inspections
 - a. Regular audits and inspections should be conducted to ensure adherence to biosafety regulations.
 - b. Non-compliance must be addressed immediately with corrective actions.

Waste Disposal

1. Safe Disposal Procedures
 - a. All research waste must be disposed of according to university and regulatory guidelines.
 - b. Special attention must be given to hazardous and biohazardous waste.
2. Training and Awareness
 - a. Researchers and lab personnel should be trained in proper waste segregation and disposal methods.
 - b. Regular refresher courses should be conducted to reinforce safe practices.
3. Environmental Responsibility
 - a. Minimize waste generation through efficient use of resources.
 - b. Implement recycling programs where applicable.

Plagiarism Check

1. Anti-Plagiarism Policy
 - a. All research submissions must undergo plagiarism checks using reliable software.
 - b. Clear guidelines on acceptable similarity indices should be provided by R&D Cell.
2. Consequences of Plagiarism
 - a. Instances of plagiarism must be addressed with appropriate disciplinary actions.
 - b. Researchers found guilty of plagiarism may face sanctions, including retraction of publications and academic penalties.
3. Education and Resources
 - a. Provide resources and training on proper citation practices and avoiding plagiarism.
 - b. Promote a culture of originality and intellectual honesty.

Publication Guidelines

1. Authorship Criteria
 - a. Only those who have made significant contributions to the research should be listed as authors.
 - b. Clear criteria for authorship and order of authors should be established.
2. Disclosure and Transparency
 - a. All potential conflicts of interest must be disclosed in publications.
 - b. Funding sources and contributions from all parties must be acknowledged.
3. Open Access and Data Sharing
 - a. Encourage open access publication to increase the visibility and impact of research.
 - b. Researchers should share data and findings in accordance with ethical guidelines and sponsor requirements.

By adhering to this Code of Ethics, researchers at KLEF commit to upholding the highest standards of ethical conduct. This Code serves as a guiding document, ensuring that research activities contribute positively to the advancement of knowledge and the well-being of society.



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