Research Ethics

Course instructor: Jibril H. Yusuf PhD.

E-mail: jibril.habib@tiu.edu.iq

Course: **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY/BIOSTATISTICS (MA 322)**

Summer-Class

Week 1

Date 13-8-2025

Outline

- Definition Research Ethics
- Why Research Ethics is important
- Core Principles of Research Ethics
- Common Ethical Issues in Research
- Institutional Review Boards (IRBs)

Objectives

❖By the end of this lecture, students should be able to:

Define research ethics and explain its importance in scientific research.

Identify the core principles of research ethics.

Recognize common ethical issues in research and how to address them.

Understand the concept of informed consent and confidentiality.

❑ What is Research Ethics?

- Refers to the set of principles, norms, and standards that guide responsible conduct in research.

- It ensures that researchers conduct their work with integrity, honesty, and respect for participants, colleagues, and the wider society.

❖ Why Research Ethics is important?

1. Protects the rights, dignity, and welfare of research participants.

2. Promotes trust in research findings.

3. Prevents misconduct and harm.

4. Ensures compliance with laws and institutional regulations.

❖ Core Principles of Research Ethics:

- The Belmont Report (1979) outlines four basic principles that form the foundation of modern research ethics:

a) Respect for Persons (Autonomy)

b) Beneficence (Maximize benefits, minimize harm)

c) Justice (Fair selection of participants)

d) Confidentiality and Privacy (Protect participant information)

❖ Common Ethical Issues in Research:

1. Informed Consent

- Participants must voluntarily agree to participate, understanding the purpose, risks, and benefits.

- **Example:** Signing a consent form before participating in a nutrition study.

2. Confidentiality and Privacy

- Protecting personal data and keeping identities anonymous.
- Example: Using ID codes instead of names in survey data.

3. Plagiarism

- Using someone else's ideas or words without proper acknowledgment.
- Example: Copy-pasting text from a published paper without citation.

4. Fabrication and Falsification

- Fabrication: Making up data that never occurred.
- Falsification: Manipulating data or results.
- Example: Altering experimental results to fit a hypothesis.

5. Conflict of Interest

- When personal or financial interests could affect research judgment.
- Example: A researcher funded by a pharmaceutical company manipulating results to favor the company.

❖ Institutional Review Boards (IRBs):

- Committees that review and approve research proposals involving human subjects.

- Ensure that ethical standards are met before research starts.

- Example: A study on mental health interventions in schools must be reviewed by an IRB before starting.

References

1. National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research. (1979). The Belmont Report.
2. World Medical Association. (2013). Declaration of Helsinki.
3. Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS). (2016). International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research Involving Humans.

Thanks