

## CODE OF RESEARCH ETHICS

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### PREAMBLE:

The Code of Ethics of the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DU) and hereafter DIAT (DU) articulates a common set of values upon which researchers (M.Tech, MS by research and PhD students) build their professional as well as scientific research work. The code is proposed to provide both the principles and the rules to cover professional situations encountered by the students. It has, as its primary goal for the welfare and protection of the individuals and groups with whom students work. It also serves to educate researchers, their students and others who would benefit from understanding the ethical principles and standards that guide researchers in their research era. It is responsibility of individual researcher to aspire to the highest possible standard of conduct in all working areas.

Adhering to a set of ethical standards for a researcher's work-related conduct requires a personal commitment to a lifelong effort to act ethically; to encourage ethical behaviour by faculty, students, supervisors, trainee officers, employers, employees and colleagues; and to consult with others as needed concerning ethical problems. Each researcher supplements, but does not violate, the values and rules specified in the ethical standards based on guidance drawn from related values, culture and experiences.

### BACKGROUND:

The Code of Research Ethics of the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DU) sets the principles and ethical standards that underlie researchers' responsibilities and conducts. These principles and standards should be used as guidelines when examining everyday professional activities. They constitute normative statements of ethical behaviour for researchers and provide guidance on issues that researchers may encounter in their professional work. Accordingly, from time to time, the Code of Research Ethics to ensure that the Code continues to educate and guide professionals as new issues or dilemmas arise regularly. This Code is accompanied by the Policies and Procedures of the DIAT (DU), DRDO HQ and the Government of India, which describe the procedures for handling complaints of unethical conduct on matters pertaining to the activities and programs of DIAT (DU).

DIAT (DU) commits all its concern to adhere this Code of Research Ethics and follow the Policies and Procedures of the DIAT Research Ethics Committee. All are advised of this obligation upon joining the Institute and are intimated that violations of the Code may lead to an imposition of sanctions, including relevant legal action against the violator. The responsible authority may review complaints of ethical misconduct and its related activities. Other bodies may choose to invoke these Ethical Standards in considering the professional conduct of all its concern. Private or personal activities having no connection to or effect on the institutional activities of their professional roles are not covered by the guidance provided in the Code of Research Ethics.

**ETHICAL PRINCIPLES:** The following Principles serve as a guide for faulty researchers in determining ethical courses of action in various contexts. Each is essential and together they exemplify the highest ideals of professional conduct.

1. **Academic Excellence-** The researchers strive to maintain the highest levels of competence in their work; they recognize the limitations of their expertise; and they undertake only those tasks for which they are qualified education, training, or experience. They recognize the need for ongoing education in order to remain professionally competent; and they utilize the appropriate scientific, scholarly, professional, technical, and administrative resources needed to ensure competence in their professional activities. They consult with other professionals when necessary for the benefit of their student, research participants, and clients.
2. **Academic freedom-** we should give every student a fair opportunity to learn, every faculty member a fair opportunity to teach and every member of the DIAT community a fair opportunity to explore, enlarge and evaluate human invention and knowledge.
3. **Academic responsibility-** we should maintain appropriate standards of accuracy, reliability, credit, candour and confidentiality in our work, whether for publication or internal use in class or office.
4. **Responsibility of scientific, Scholar and Professional Area-** All the researchers faculty, students & Staff adhere to the highest scientific and professional standards and accept responsibility for their work and value the public trust in research and are concerned about their ethical behaviour and the behaviour of other researchers that might compromise that trust. The researchers understand that they form a community and show respect for other researchers even when they disagree on theoretical, methodological or personal approaches to professional activities. While endeavouring always to be collegial, the researchers must never let the desire to be collegial outweigh their shared responsibility for ethical behaviour. When appropriate, they can consult with colleagues in order to prevent or avoid unethical conduct.
5. **Institutional responsibility-** When holding any office or other position of special trust within DIAT (DU), the institutional parts should always act in good faith, exercising at least as much care as possible in like circumstances would when seeking to serve the best interests of DIAT (DU).
  - 5.1. **Honesty:** we should avoid false or misleading statements in any official DIAT (DU) activity.
  - 5.2. **Conflict of Interest:** When acting on behalf of DIAT (DU), we should avoid influences that may undermine the independence of our judgment; or if we cannot avoid such influence, should disclose them to those who should know their harmful effects and refer to the competent authority for amicable solution.
  - 5.3. **Conduct of others:** When we observe what seems to be others taking DIAT (DU) resources for personal use or otherwise misusing them, we should so inform them and should that not end the apparent misuse, notify an appropriate authority.
6. **Human dignity-** Because every member of the DIAT (DU) community deserves the respect due every person, we should treat all associated with DIAT (DU) fairly— avoiding harassment, unjust discrimination, arbitrary treatment and intimidation in our own conduct and not tolerating them in the conduct of others.

**6.1. Mutual respect:** we should recognize the contribution of all DIAT (DU) researchers to education, invention, research, scholarship and governance that differences in perspectives experiences and handling or dealing with.

**6.2. Diversity:** we should cultivate an environment in which differences in perspective, experience and management can flourish individually and combine productively in common projects.

**6.3. Community and criticism:** Because opinions in any healthy community tend to differ, with wisdom never anyone's monopoly, we should consult those whom our decisions may affect, suggest to appropriate persons opportunities for improving DIAT (DU) when we think we see them, offer our suggestions in ways unlikely to distract from merit, accept the dissent of others from our views as an opportunity to learn and protect dissenters even from mistreatment their dissent seems to have provoked.

7. **Social Responsibility-** All researchers are aware of their professional and scientific responsibility to the communities and societies in which they are live and work. They apply and make public their knowledge in order to contribute to the public good. When undertaking research, they striving to advance scientific and scholarly knowledge and to serve the public good. DIAT(DU) follows the same pattern.

#### ETHICAL STANDARDS:

**1. Scientific, Scholarly, and Professional Standards:** All faculty, students, research scholar, trainee officer, supervisors adhere to the highest possible standards that are reasonable and responsible in their knowledge, research, teaching, practice and service activities. They rely on scientifically, scholarly, professional driven knowledge and act with honesty and integrity.

#### **2. Competence**

(a) All DIAT(DU) concern conduct research, teach, practice and provide service only within the boundaries of their competence, based on their education, training, supervised experience, or appropriate professional experience.

(b) All faculties, students, research scholar, trainee officer, and supervisor conduct research, teach, practice, and provide service in new areas or involving new techniques only after they have taken reasonable steps to ensure the competence of their work in these areas or areas of interest to ministry of defence (DRDO).

#### **3. Use and Misuse of Expert area**

(a) In research, teaching, practice, service or other activities where DIAT(DU) researchers render professional judgments or present their expertise, they should accurately and fairly represent their areas and degrees of expertise.

(b) The DIAT (DU) concern do not accept grants, contracts, consulting or work assignments from individual or organizational clients or sponsors that appear likely to compromise their ability to adhere

to the standards in this Code of Research Ethics. We, dissociate ourselves from such activities when we discover a violation and are unable to achieve its correction.

(c) The researcher's scientific, scholarly, professional judgments and actions may affect the lives of others; therefore, DIAT(DU) researchers are alert to and guard against personal, financial, social, organizational or political factors that might lead to misuse of their knowledge, expertise and influence.

(d) Faculty, student, research scholar, trainee officer and supervisor who engage in research, teaching, practice, or service maintain awareness of current scientific, scholarly and professional information in their fields of activity and undertake continuing efforts to maintain competence in the skills they use.

#### **4. Fabrication, Falsification, and Plagiarism**

The DIAT researchers should not engage in fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results in national and international journals / magazines.

(a) The faculty, students, Research scholar, trainee officer, supervisors should not falsify or fabricate data, data sources, findings, claims, or credentials.

(b) In their publication, presentations, teaching, practice, and service, education researchers explicitly identify, credit, and reference the author(s) when they take data or material verbatim from another person's work, whether it is published, unpublished, or electronically available. And they do not present others' work as their own whether it is published, unpublished or electronically available.

#### **5. Avoiding Harm**

The faculty, students, Research scholar, trainee officer, supervisors take reasonable steps to avoid harm to others in the conduct of their professional work. When unanticipated negative consequences occur, they take immediate steps to minimize harm, including, if necessary, terminating the work.

#### **6. Non-discrimination**

The faculty, students, Research scholar, trainee officer, supervisors do not engage in discrimination in their work based on race; ethnicity; culture; national origin; gender; sexual orientation; gender identity; age; religion; language; disability; health conditions; socioeconomic status; marital, domestic, or parental status; or any other applicable basis proscribed by law.

#### **7. Non-exploitation**

(a) Whether for personal economic, or professional advantage, DIAT(DU) concern do not exploit person(s) over whom they have direct or indirect supervisory, evaluative or other authority such as faculty/officers, students, supervisors, employees or research participant.

(b) The faculty/officers, students, supervisors, employees, or research participants do not directly supervise or exercise evaluative authority over any person with whom they have a romantic, sexual, or familial relationship, including students, supervisees, employees, or research participants.

## **8. Harassment**

The faculty/officers, students, supervisors, employees or research participants do not engage in harassment of any person, including students, supervisees, employees or research participants based on factors such as race; ethnicity; culture; national origin; gender; sexual orientation; gender identity; age; religion; language; disability; health conditions; socioeconomic status; or marital, domestic or parental status. Harassment consists of a single intense and severe act or of multiple persistent or pervasive acts which are demeaning, abusive and offensive and which creates a hostile professional, workplace or educational environment. Harassment may include unnecessary, exaggerated or unwarranted attention or attack, whether verbal or nonverbal. Sexual harassment is sexual solicitation, physical advances, verbal or nonverbal conduct that is sexual in nature.

## **9. Employment Decisions**

All have an obligation to adhere to the highest ethical standards when seeking employment, when participating in employment-related decisions, or when planning to resign from a position.

## **10. Conflicts of Interest**

The faculty/officers, students, supervisors, employees avoid where possible or otherwise disclose and manage conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest arise when concern's personal, professional or financial interests prevent them from performing their professional work in an unbiased manner. In research, teaching, practice and service, education researchers are alert to the situations that might cause a conflict of interest and take appropriate action to prevent conflict or otherwise disclose and manage it.

## **11. Public Communications**

The researchers adhere to the highest professional standards in public communications about their professional services, credentials, expertise, work products or publications, whether these communications are from themselves or from others on their behalf.

## **12. Confidentiality**

The faculty/officers, students, supervisors, employees ensure that confidential information is protected. They do so to ensure the integrity of research and the open communication with research participants and to protect sensitive information obtained in research, teaching, practice and service. When gathering confidential information, they take into account the long-term uses of the information, including its potential placement in public archives or the examination of the information by other individual or organized body.

## **13. Informed Consent**

Informed consent is a basic ethical tenet of scientific research on human populations. The education researchers do not involve a human being as a participant in research without the informed consent of the participant or the participant's legally authorized representative. The researchers recognize the possibility of undue influence or subtle pressures on research activities that may derive from others, and they take this into account in designing informed consent procedures.

#### **14. Research Planning, Implementation and Dissemination**

We have an obligation to promote the integrity of research and to ensure that they comply with the ethical tenets of research in the planning, implementation and dissemination of research. They do so in order to advance knowledge, to minimize the possibility that results will be misleading, and to protect the rights of research participants.

#### **15. Authorship Credit**

(a) We ensure that all who have made a substantive contribution to an intellectual product are listed as authors.

(b) Education researchers take responsibility and credit, including authorship credit, only for work they have actually performed or to which they have contributed.

(c) We ensure that principal authorship, authorship order, and other publication credits are based on the relative scientific or professional contributions of the individuals involved, regardless of their status. Education researchers specify the criteria for making these determinations at the outset of the writing process.

(d) A student or principal research adviser is usually listed as principal author on any multiple-authored publication that substantially derives from the student's dissertation or thesis.

#### **16. Publication Process**

We adhere to the highest ethical standards, including standards of competence, when participating in publication and review processes as authors or reviews.

#### **17. Responsibilities of Reviewers**

We adheres to the highest ethical standards, including standards of competence, when serving as reviewers for publication, grant support or other evaluation purposes.

(a) In reviewing material submitted for publication, grant support, or other evaluation purposes, education researchers respect confidentiality of the process and the proprietary rights in such information of those who submitted it.

(b) We disclose conflicts of interest or decline requests for reviews of the work of others where conflicts of interest are involved.

(c) If asked to review a manuscript, book, or proposal they have previously reviewed, we make it known to the person making the request (e.g., editors, publishers) unless it is clear that they are being asked to provide a reappraisal.

#### **18. Teaching, Training, and Administering Education Programs**

The experts who serve as teachers, trainers, or administrators of education and training programs perform their responsibilities conscientiously, competently and with integrity.

## 19. Supervision

(a) We provides proper training and supervision to faculty/officer, students, supervisees, and employees and takes reasonable steps to see that such persons perform services responsibly, competently and ethically.

(b) We delegate to the faculty/officers, students, supervisors, employees only those responsibilities that such persons, based on their education, training, or experience, can reasonably be expected to perform either independently or with the level of supervision provided.

(c) We fairly evaluates the performance of our faculty/officers, students, supervisors, employees and communicates that evaluation fully and honestly.

## 20. Adherence to the Ethical Standards of the DIAT (DU)

We have an obligation to confront, address and attempt to resolve ethical issues that arise under this Code of Ethics, i. e.

- a. Familiarity With the Code of Ethics
- b. Confronting Ethical Issues
- c. Fair Treatment of Parties in Ethical Disputes
- d. Reporting Ethical Violations of Others
- e. Improper Complaints
- f. Cooperating With Ethics Committees

## References:

1. UGC's Policy on Conflict of Interest and Ethics and Code of Conduct
2. UGC regulation on the maintenance of standard in Higher Education
3. Code of Ethics of the Association for Institutional Research
4. Policy document University of Delhi
5. Pondicherry university act 1985 and the status of the University
6. Policy document of Aligarh Muslim University
7. Research policy & Code of Ethics of the IIT Kanpur, IIT Chennai,
8. The Ethical Challenges of Academic Administration Elaine E. Englehardt · Michael S. Pritchard · Kerry D. Romesburg · Brian E. Schrag Editors [ISBN 978-90-481-2840-2 e-ISBN 978-90-481-2841-9 DOI 10.1007/978-90-481-2841-9 Springer Dordrecht Heidelberg London New York]