

## **ANNEXURE**

### **A COMPOSITE CODE OF ETHICS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHERS**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

#### **1. GENERAL ISSUES RELATED TO THE CODE OF ETHICS**

1. The social scientist(s) in charge of a research project is (are) responsible for all decisions regarding procedural matters and ethical issues related to the project whether made by themselves or subordinates (7)
2. Teachers are responsible for all decisions made by their students related to ethical issues involved in research (1)
3. All actions conducted as part of the research should be consistent with the ethical standards of both the home and host community (1)
4. Ethical issues should be considered from the perspective of the participant's society (2)
5. If unresolved or difficult ethical dilemmas arise, assistance or consultation should be sought with colleagues or appropriate committees sponsored by professional associations (2)
6. Any deviation from established principles suggests: (a) that a greater degree of responsibility is being accepted by the investigator, (b) a more serious obligation to seek outside counsel and advice, and (c) the need for additional safeguards to protect the rights and welfare of the research participants (2)

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<sup>19</sup> Reinard, 2001:16-19

## 2. DECISION TO CONDUCT THE RESEARCH

7. Research should be conducted in such a way as to maintain the integrity of the research enterprise and not to diminish the potential for conducting research in the future (3)
8. Investigators should use their best scientific judgment for selection of issues for empirical investigation (1)
9. The decision to conduct research with human subjects should involve evaluation of the potential benefits to the participant and society in relation to the risks to be borne by the participant(s) – a risk-benefit analysis (2)
10. Any study which involves human subjects must be related to an important intellectual question (4)
11. Any study which involves human subjects must be related to an important intellectual question with humanitarian implications, and there should be no other way to resolve the intellectual question (2)
12. Any study which involves human participants must be related to a very important intellectual question if there is a risk of permanent, negative effects on the participants (2)
13. Any study involving risks as well as potential therapeutic effects must be justified in terms of benefits to the client or patient (2)
14. There should be no prior reason to believe the major permanent negative effects will occur for the participants (1)
15. If the conduct of the research may permanently damage the participants, their community, or institutions within their community (such as indigenous social scientists), the research may not be justified and might be abandoned (2)

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### **3. CONDUCT OF THE RESEARCH**

16. All research should be conducted in a competent fashion, as an objective, scientific project (4)
17. All research personnel should be qualified to use any procedures employed in the project (2)
18. Competent personnel and adequate facilities should be available if any drugs are involved (4)
19. There should be no bias in the design, conduct or reporting of the research – it should be as objective as possible (4)

### **4. EFFECTS ON AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PARTICIPANTS**

#### **INFORMED CONSENT**

##### **4.1 General**

20. Informed consent should be used in obtaining participants for all research; investigators should honor all commitments associated with such agreements (10)
21. Participants should be in a position to give informed consent; otherwise it should be given by those responsible for the participant (2)
22. Informed consent should be used if the potential effects on participants are ambiguous or potentially hazardous (7)
23. If possible, informed consent should be obtained in writing (1)
24. Seek official permission to use any government data, no matter how it was [sic] obtained (1)

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#### **4.2 Provision of Information**

25. Purposes, procedures, and risks of research (including possible hazards to physical and psychological well-being and jeopardisation of social position) should be explained to the participants in such a way that they can understand (7)
26. Participants should be aware of the possible consequences, if any, for the group or community from which they are selected in advance of their decision to participate (1)
27. The procedure used to obtain the participant's name should be described to him or her (1)
28. Sponsorship, financial and otherwise, should be specified to the potential participants (2)
29. The identity of those conducting the research should be fully revealed to the potential participants (2)
30. Names and addresses of research personnel should be left with participants so that the research personnel can be traced subsequently (1)
31. Participants should be fully aware of all data gathering techniques (tape and video recordings, photographic devices, physiological measures, and so forth), the capacities of such techniques, and the extent to which participants will remain anonymous and data confidential (2)
32. In projects of considerable duration, participants should be periodically informed of the progress of the research (1)
33. When recording videotapes or film, subjects have the right to approve the material to be made public (by viewing it and giving specific approval to each segment) as well as the nature of the audiences (1)

#### **4.3 Voluntary Consent**

34. Individuals should have the option to refuse to participate and know this (1)
35. Participants should be able to terminate involvement at any time and know that they have this option (3)
36. No coercion, explicit or overt, should be used to encourage individuals to participate in a research project (6)

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## **5. PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF PARTICIPANT**

### **5.1 General Issues**

37. The dignity, privacy, and interests of the participants should be respected and protected (8)
38. The participants should not be harmed; welfare of the participants should take priority over all other concerns (10)
39. Damage and suffering to the participants should be minimised through procedural mechanisms and termination of risky studies as soon as possible; such effects are justified only when the problem cannot be studied in any other fashion (8)
40. Potential problems should be anticipated, no matter how remote the probability of occurrence, to ensure that the unexpected does not lead to major negative effects on the participants (1)
41. Any harmful aftereffects should be eliminated (4)
42. The hopes or anxieties of potential participants should not be raised (1)
43. Research should be terminated if danger to the participant arises (3)
44. The use of clients seeking professional assistance for research purposes is justified only to the extent that they may derive direct benefits as clients (1)

### **5.2 Deception**

45. Deceit of the participants should only be used if it is absolutely necessary, there being no other way to study the problem (3)
46. Deception may be utilized (1)
47. If deceit is involved in a research procedure, additional precautions should be taken to protect the rights and welfare of the participants (2)
48. After being involved in a study using deception, all participants should be given a thorough, complete, and honest description of the study and the need for deception (5)

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49. If deception is not revealed to the participants, for humane or scientific reasons, the investigator has a special obligation to protect the interest and welfare of the participants (1)

### **5.3 Confidentiality and Anonymity**

50. Research data should be confidential and all participants should remain anonymous, unless they (or their legal guardians ) have given permission for release of their identify (15)
51. If confidentiality or anonymity cannot be guaranteed, the participants should be aware of this and its possible consequences before involvement in the research (4)
52. Persons in official positions (studied as part of a research project) should provide written descriptions of their official roles, duties, and so forth (which need not be treated as confidential information) and be provided with a copy of the final report on the research (1)
53. Studies designed to provide descriptions of aggregates or collectivities should always guarantee anonymity to individual respondents (1)
54. “Privacy” should always be considered from the perspective of the participant and the participant’s culture (1)
55. Material stored in databanks should not be used without the permission of the investigator who originally gathered the data (1)
56. If promises of confidentiality are honored, investigators need not withhold information on misconduct of participants or organisations (1)
57. Specific procedures should be developed for organising data to ensure anonymity or participants (1)

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### **5.3 Benefits to Participants**

- 58. A fair return should be offered for all services of participants (1)
- 59. Increased self-knowledge, as a benefit to the participants, should be incorporate as a major part of the research design or procedures (1)
- 60. Copies or explanations of the research should be provided to all participants (2)
- 61. Studies of aggregates or cultural subgroups should produce knowledge which will benefit them (1)

### **5.4 Effects on Aggregates or Communities**

- 62. Investigators should be familiar with, and respect, the host cultures in which studies are conducted (1)
- 63. Investigators should cooperate with members of the host society (1)
- 64. Investigators should consider, in advance, the potential effects of the research on the social structure of the host community and the potential changes in influence of various groups or individuals by virtue of the conduct of the study (1)

## **6. INTERPRETATIONS AND REPORTING OF THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH**

- 65. Investigators should consider, in advance, the potential effects of the research and the report on the population or subgroup from which participants are drawn (1)
- 66. Participants should be aware, in advance, of potential effects upon aggregates or cultural subgroups which they represent (1)



67. The interests of collectivities and social systems of all kinds should be considered by the investigator (1)
68. All reports of research should be public documents, freely available to all (4)
69. Research procedures should be described fully and accurately in reports, including all evidence regardless of the support it provides for the research hypotheses; conclusions should be objective and unbiased (14)
70. Full and complete interpretations should be provided for all data and attempts made to prevent misrepresentations in writing research reports (6)
71. Sponsorship, purpose, sources of financial support, and investigators responsible for the research should be made clear in all publications related thereto (3)
72. If publication may jeopardise or damage the population studied and complete disguise is impossible, publication should be delayed (2)
73. Cross-cultural studies should be published in the language and journals of the host society, in addition to publication in other languages and other societies (2)
74. Appropriate credit should be given to all parties contributing to the research (9)
75. Full, accurate disclosure of all published sources bearing on or contributing to the work is expected (8)
76. Publication of research findings on cultural subgroups should include a description in terms understood by the participants (2)
77. Whenever requested, raw data or other original documentation should be made available to qualified investigators (1)
78. Research with scientific merit should always be submitted for publication and not withheld from public presentation unless the quality of research or analysis is inadequate (1)