CODE OF ETHICS FOR RESEARCH

Research is an essential component of higher education and plays a vital role in the advancement of knowledge, innovation, social development and national progress. H.H. The Rajah's College (Autonomous), Pudukkottai, is committed to promoting a research culture based on **academic integrity, honesty, transparency, accountability, objectivity and respect for human dignity and intellectual property**.

This Code of Ethics for Research establishes the principles and standards that shall guide all research activities undertaken by faculty members, research scholars, students and other persons associated with research in the College. The Code also seeks to ensure that research is conducted responsibly and ethically, in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, institutional policies and recognized national and international standards of research integrity.

Objectives

The objectives of this Code are to:

1. Promote the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct in research.
2. Ensure honesty, accuracy, objectivity and transparency in all stages of research.
3. Prevent plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, manipulation and other forms of research misconduct.
4. Protect the rights, dignity, privacy and safety of research participants.
5. Ensure responsible management and use of research data and resources.
6. Safeguard intellectual property rights and acknowledge the contributions of others.
7. Promote responsible authorship and publication practices.
8. Encourage responsible collaboration and professional conduct.
9. Establish mechanisms for addressing allegations of research misconduct.
10. Strengthen a culture of ethical and responsible research within the institution.

Scope

This Code applies to:

- Faculty members and researchers;
- Ph.D., M.Phil. and other research scholars;

- Postgraduate and undergraduate students undertaking research projects;
- Research supervisors and co-supervisors;
- Research assistants and project staff;
- Visiting researchers and collaborators;
- Any person undertaking research under the name, authority or facilities of the College.

It shall apply to all forms of research, including quantitative, qualitative, experimental, theoretical, field-based, laboratory-based, archival, digital and interdisciplinary research.

Ethical Conduct in Research

Researchers should:

1. Formulate research questions and objectives honestly and objectively.
2. Select appropriate and scientifically valid research methods.
3. Obtain necessary institutional approvals before commencing research.
4. Follow approved research protocols and procedures.
5. Maintain proper records of research activities.
6. Report results honestly, whether or not they support the researcher's hypothesis.
7. Clearly distinguish between original findings and information obtained from other sources.
8. Correct errors identified in published research without delay.
9. Maintain professional standards in all research-related activities.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Researchers should:

- Properly acknowledge all sources used in their research.
- Use appropriate citation and referencing methods.
- Obtain permission where copyrighted material requires permission.
- Use plagiarism-detection mechanisms where required.
- Ensure that submitted theses, dissertations, articles and research reports are original.
- Comply with the applicable regulations and institutional procedures relating to plagiarism.

Research scholars shall submit plagiarism reports wherever required by the College or the relevant regulatory authority.

Publication Ethics

Researchers should follow ethical standards in publishing research.

They should:

1. Submit manuscripts that are original and not simultaneously submitted to multiple journals unless permitted by the relevant journal policies.
2. Avoid duplicate and redundant publication.
3. Report research findings honestly.
4. Disclose conflicts of interest.
5. Acknowledge funding sources.
6. Give appropriate credit to collaborators and contributors.
7. Correct significant errors discovered after publication.
8. Avoid predatory or unethical publishing practices.
9. Follow the ethical requirements of the journal or publisher.

Researchers should comply with recognized publication-ethics standards and applicable institutional and regulatory requirements.

Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Tools

Researchers using Artificial Intelligence (AI), generative AI, automated analytical tools or other digital technologies shall use them responsibly.

They should:

- Verify the accuracy of AI-generated information.
- Not present AI-generated content as original human research without appropriate disclosure where required.
- Not fabricate references, data, quotations or research findings using AI tools.
- Protect confidential and sensitive research data when using external AI platforms.
- Ensure that AI tools do not compromise participant privacy or intellectual property.
- Maintain human responsibility for research design, interpretation and conclusions.
- Follow the policies of the institution, publisher, funding agency and relevant regulatory authorities.

The use of AI shall not diminish the researcher's responsibility for the authenticity, accuracy and integrity of the final research output.

H.H. THE RAJAH'S COLLEGE (AUTO) PUDUKKOTTAI 622 001.

Principal

15.9.22

PRINCIPAL
H.H. THE RAJAH'S COLLEGE (Autonomous)
PUDUKKOTTAI