RESEARCH POLICY

Research is a fundamental function of higher education and plays an important role in creating, advancing, disseminating, and applying knowledge. H.H. The Rajah's College (Autonomous), Pudukkottai, is committed to promoting a vibrant and sustainable research culture that encourages academic excellence, originality, innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, ethical conduct and social responsibility. The College recognises research as an essential means of strengthening teaching and learning, developing critical and analytical thinking, addressing contemporary societal challenges and contributing to national development. This Research Policy provides an institutional framework for promoting, facilitating, conducting, monitoring and evaluating research activities undertaken by faculty members, research scholars and students of the College. All research activities shall be carried out in accordance with applicable rules, regulations and guidelines issued by the UGC, Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu, affiliating university, statutory and regulatory authorities, funding agencies and other competent bodies.

Vision and Mission

The vision of the Research Policy is to develop H.H. The Rajah's College (Autonomous), Pudukkottai, as a centre of quality-driven, innovative, ethical, socially relevant and interdisciplinary research that contributes to academic advancement and sustainable development. In pursuit of this vision, the College have created a conducive research environment, encourages faculty and students to undertake meaningful research, facilitates research leading to quality publications, patents, innovations and societal applications, promotes externally funded and collaborative research, strengthens research infrastructure and digital resources, develops research capacity through training and faculty development programmes, and encourages research addressing local, regional, national and global challenges.

Objectives

The primary objective of this Research Policy is to promote excellence, integrity and innovation in research and to establish an effective institutional mechanism for planning, promoting, supporting, monitoring and evaluating research activities. The College encourages faculty members and students to undertake original and quality research, publish their findings in recognised scholarly journals and academic platforms, apply for research grants, develop patents and innovations, undertake consultancy and extension activities, establish academic and industry collaborations, and participate in national and international research networks. Particular emphasis has been given to interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and socially relevant research that contributes to sustainable development, evidence-based policymaking and the welfare of society.

Research Governance

The college established the **Research Advisory Committee** for the effective governance and coordination of research activities. The committee functions as the principal advisory body for matters relating to research and advises the college on research planning, research policies, Ph.D. regulations, research infrastructure, funding opportunities, research collaborations, publications, intellectual property rights, innovation, research ethics, and quality enhancement. The Committee also monitors the progress of research activities and recommends appropriate measures for strengthening the institutional research ecosystem. Departments actively promote research through departmental research groups, seminars, journal discussions, faculty research presentations, student research projects, collaborative research initiatives, and research methodology programs.

Promotion of Faculty Research

Our college encourages faculty members to undertake individual and collaborative research in their respective disciplines and emerging interdisciplinary areas. Faculty members are encouraged to publish research findings in quality peer-reviewed journals, present papers at reputed conferences and seminars, write books and research chapters, undertake consultancy, develop patents and innovations, guide postgraduate and doctoral research, participate in research networks, and apply for funding from government, academic, industry, and other recognized agencies. The college facilitates opportunities for faculty members to enhance their research competencies through workshops, faculty development programs, seminars, conferences, and training programs on research methodology, academic writing, statistical analysis, data management, publication ethics, intellectual property rights, and emerging research technologies.

Research Funding and Institutional Support

Our college encourages faculty members and departments to submit research proposals to national and international funding agencies, government departments, industries and other recognised organisations. Researchers have been encouraged to seek financial assistance from agencies such as the UGC, ICSSR, DST, DBT, CSIR, ICHR, ICMR, TANSCHE and other appropriate funding bodies, subject to their respective eligibility criteria and guidelines. The College may, subject to the availability of funds and approval of the competent authority, provide seed money for initiating research activities.

Student and Doctoral Research

Our college promotes research among undergraduate and postgraduate students through project work, dissertations, field studies, internships, mini-projects, seminars, conferences, research paper presentations, innovation activities and other appropriate academic initiatives. The college provides students with suitable guidance in research methodology, academic writing, data analysis, citation practices, and research ethics. Doctoral research is carried out in accordance with the applicable Ph.D. regulations of the affiliating authority – Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli.

The college also facilitates research supervision, research advisory mechanisms, progress monitoring, pre-submission seminars, access to research facilities, and other requirements prescribed for doctoral research.

Research Ethics

The college upholds the highest standards of academic integrity and research ethics in all research activities. Researchers are asked to maintain honesty, objectivity, transparency, accountability, and professional responsibility throughout the research process. The college maintains a strict policy against plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, manipulation of data, misrepresentation, duplicate publication, unethical authorship, and other forms of research misconduct. Researchers are asked to acknowledge all sources appropriately, maintain originality, preserve research records, and comply with applicable academic-integrity regulations. The Code of Ethics for Research adopted by the College forms an integral part of this Research Policy.

Research Publications

The college encourages researchers to publish their findings in quality, peer-reviewed and recognised academic journals, books, edited volumes and other credible scholarly platforms. Researchers are given priority to the quality, originality and academic contribution of publications rather than merely increasing the number of publications. Researchers are advised to avoid predatory journals, duplicate publications and unethical publishing practices.

Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

The institution promotes the ethical and appropriate use of artificial intelligence and other digital technologies, acknowledging its growing importance in research. Appropriate AI tools can be used by researchers for genuine tasks including data analysis, language enhancement,

literature finding, coding support, research planning, and other research-related tasks. Nonetheless, researchers will continue to bear complete accountability for the precision, uniqueness, honesty, and adherence to ethical standards of their study findings. AI cannot be used to create false references, manufacture or alter data, misrepresent authorship, violate intellectual property rights, or break confidentiality. When it comes to the proper use and sharing of AI-assisted research, researchers must abide by the regulations set forth by the institution, funding organizations, and publishers.

Research Misconduct and Grievance Redressal

The Research Advisory Committee was created by the college to handle complaints of research misconduct. Fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, data manipulation, misrepresentation, duplicate publishing, unethical authorship, citation manipulation, misuse of research funds, and unauthorized use of private information are examples of research misconduct. In compliance with relevant institutional regulations and natural justice principles, complaints are investigated in a fair, impartial, and private manner. In order to voice legitimate concerns about research supervision, facilities, funding, authorship, research ethics, intellectual property, and other research-related issues, researchers have access to the correct channels. Subject to appropriate regulations, people who raise legitimate concerns in good faith will be shielded from victimization, harassment, and reprisal.

Research Outreach and Social Responsibility

Through knowledge sharing, policy engagement, extension initiatives, community-based research, and public-oriented research communication, the institution encourages scholars to share their results outside of academic venues and make a positive impact on society. Whenever feasible, research tackles current social, economic, environmental, technological, and developmental issues. Research pertaining to inclusive growth, sustainable development, gender equality, rural development, poverty alleviation, employment, entrepreneurship, digital inclusion, educational development, environmental sustainability, and other areas of public importance has received special support.

Review and Amendment

This Research Policy will be reviewed periodically by the Research Advisory Committee in consultation with the IQAC and other pertinent institutional authorities. Amendments may be proposed in response to changes in statutory and regulatory requirements, emerging research practices, technological developments, institutional priorities, recommendations of competent authorities and feedback from researchers and stakeholders.

Institutional Commitment

H.H. The Rajah's College (Autonomous), Pudukkottai, is committed to creating a research ecosystem in which academic freedom, research excellence, integrity, innovation and social responsibility are mutually reinforcing. The College continuously strive to strengthen research capacity, improve the quality and impact of research, encourage innovation and collaboration, and transform research findings into meaningful academic, economic, technological and social outcomes. Every member of the institutional research community is expected to uphold the principles of **quality, integrity, originality, accountability and social responsibility** in all research activities.

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