



**VINAYAKA MISSION'S
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

(Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956)

Policy for Academic Research Integrity & Ethics

January 2023

Sub: Policy for Academic Research Integrity & Ethics in VMRF (DU)

1. Introduction:

- Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation - Deemed to be University (VMRF (DU)) had improved its research outcomes Viz. Publications, Patents, Extramural Projects, Clinical Trials etc. significantly in the last few years. Also the University is providing Seed Money grants to the faculty, Student Research grants, giving various research incentives, awards to the faculty for their contributions. It was felt that we shall have written policy for Academic Research Integrity & Ethics in VMRF (DU). This policy gives broad guidelines that shall be followed by all the faculty, Full time Research Staff, Ph.D Scholars, students and collaborating institutes. The details are available in respective policies of the University.
- While nurturing integrity, creativity, research freedom and striving for excellence and achieving high productivity in its research activities, VMRF (DU) is committed to ensuring highest ethical standards in its publications, Patents, execution of Seed Money Projects, Extramural Projects, clinical trials conforming to the principles of honesty, fairness and scientific integrity.
- The Policy will be implemented in letter and spirit by the Institutional Research Committees of the institutes concerned and will be overseen by Research Ethics Committee of the University. HoI or his/her nominee is responsible to implement this policy in their institute.
- This Policy is issued based on the Good Academic Research Practices issued by UGC (Ref.1).
- All the faculty members shall ensure that the complete IPR rests with the University/Institution and IPRs are protected. The IPR of all the research work carried out as part of dissertation/thesis/projects by students belong to VMRF (DU).

2. Guidelines for authorship & Ethics in Publications/Conference Papers:

Scientific/technical inputs in the form of experimental work, results analysis & interpretation, theoretical inputs, originator of idea, guidance and review are some of the major criteria for the basis of authorship. All those who have contributed should find a place in the list of authors. The nature of contribution of each co-author should be verified by the person delegated and all major contributors shall find a place in the manuscript. The lead author of the paper should be the person who is the main contributor or the person who is responsible for executing the work. Any one of the following can be the basis for assigning authorship.

- Substantial contributions to conception and design, Simulation or modelling
- Experimental arrangement, data acquisition, analysis and interpretation of data
- Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content
- First author should have a substantial contribution and should be the one having domain expertise in that area.

- In general, in all publications made by the faculty members, it is preferable to have the first author as the communicating/corresponding author.
- In all manuscripts submitted based on the work of the Full time Research staff/Ph.D Scholar/ Student, he/she shall be the first author. The guide shall be the corresponding author.
- The names of the faculty members from other institutions shall be included only if they had contributed.
- All the manuscripts, Books & Book Chapters shall be checked for Plagiarism and it shall be at a minimum level and shall be less than prescribed by the journal.
- The first author and corresponding author shall ensure that there is no falsification or fabrication of data.
- In case of authorship dispute, IRC shall resolve it before the paper is communicated.
- When the manuscript is accepted or requires revision or rejected, the first/corresponding author shall inform all co-authors.
- In case of any dispute/complaint from other institutions/organizations/individuals, the same may be suitably resolved at the earliest by the HoI with the knowledge of or help of University Research Ethics Committee.
- In case the Publisher/Indexing Database “Retracts” any paper after Publication after finding unethical means by the author while publishing, the author shall inform to the University Research Ethics Committee through HoI within 15 days.
- In case the research is funded by the University/external funding agencies, the same shall be acknowledged under Acknowledgements para.
- Predatory and cloned journals shall be avoided for publication.
- In case any inputs are taken from other publications, the same shall be cited.
- All publications shall necessarily contain institute & University affiliation.

3. Execution of Seed Money Projects/Extramural Projects/PG/Ph.D thesis:

- While executing the seed money projects/extramural projects, the investigators shall avoid falsification, fabrication, or misrepresentation of data and shall report actual observations. If required they shall repeat the experiments and look at the interpretations. All research work carried out as part of dissertation/thesis shall adhere to the same. Sanctioned time/money shall not be the reason for falsification or fabrication of data.
- The investigators shall report all the findings and should not withhold them in part or full for their subsequent use.
- Any IPR which is patentable, shall be done at the earliest before making any publication or presenting in any conference.
- All the Seed Money projects shall be converted to at least two indexed publications. All the projects shall lead to extramural projects and faculty shall apply for the external grants based on the results.
- While executing extramural projects the guidelines given by the funding agencies shall be followed including for publications, patents etc.

4. Patents:

- All efforts shall be made by the faculty to patent any new findings of their research after thorough patent search. The seed money projects may be converted to patents wherever possible.
- The original contributor to the invention/design shall be the first inventor in the patent.
- The actual contributors to the invention/design shall only be included in the list of inventors in the patent.
- No falsification or fabrication or misrepresentation of data shall be attempted.
- Unless they had contributed, the faculty from other institutes shall not be included in the inventors list.
- Consent to be one of the inventors shall be given to the patents filed by other institutes only if the respective faculty had contributed. Faculty shall keep in mind that in case of any legal disputes all inventors will be held accountable.

5. Clinical Trials:

- All the regulatory clinical trials shall be approved by the respective Institutional Ethics committee (IEC) and the trials can be carried out only after registering in Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI) and approval by respective statutory authorities Viz. Central Drug Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). (Ref.2)
- In case of academic clinical trials, the trials shall be approved by respective Institutional Ethics committee and registered in CTRI. If IEC recommends CDSCO approval, the same shall be obtained.
- The approval of Institutional Animal Ethics committee and other statutory committees shall be obtained wherever applicable.
- All guidelines prescribed by the respective agencies shall be followed while transporting clinical samples within the country and outside. Hols shall ensure that.
- The obligations as specified in the agreement with the funding agency with respect to disclosure of results, publications, conference presentations shall be scrupulously followed.
- All the guidelines given by statutory bodies from time to time shall be implemented in letter and spirit.

These Guidelines for Research Ethics come in to force with immediate effect. All the faculty/Full time Research staff/Ph.D scholars/Students shall follow these guidelines. Any violation will invite disciplinary action against them by the institute/University.

References:

1. Guidance document on Good Academic Research Practices by UGC – Sept. 2020.
2. ICMR Policy on Research Integrity and Publication Ethics- 2019