

## CODE OF ETHICS IN RESEARCH

The Code of Ethics in Research incorporates the basic principles of ethical conduct directed towards the attainment of the ideals of research, foremost being perusal of truth and benefits to the community. It is imperative that Taki Government College, like any other Institution, has its own set of principles to guide the faculty and students, at the same time according a definite degree of academic freedom. We, the faculty of this College, consider it our duty to uphold this pursuit of truth within the stipulated framework of ethical conduct.

The main principles underlying our **Code of Ethics in Research** have been formalized after consulting the code of ethics of various Institutions. The principles are:

### **I. Principle of Honesty**

- 1. Accuracy of facts and data-** Ensure that all data are accurate and any error in published work is later rectified, if possible, through issuance of erratum. No use of misleading data or information to support presupposed or preferred results will be entertained. This is more vital in case of commissioned and/or financed research.
- 2. Acknowledgement of sources of information-** All research work is to be accompanied by acknowledgement of all data and information. Hiding such sources of information with the intention of passing it off as one's own work is gross misconduct and amounts to '*Plagiarism*'. The Committee dealing with this matter will have the freedom to test this aspect through the internet, accessing articles on that topic, and using plagiarism detection softwares where possible. Necessary steps will be taken in cases of, both, minor and major plagiarism.
- 3. Acknowledgement of others' contributions** – Ensure that the research work cites the contribution of co-authors and others in accordance with the degree of their inputs. Also it is compulsory to acknowledge the funding agency.

### **II. Principle of Legality**

- 1. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)** – IPR, such as copyright, patents and trademarks, influence the use of research products. Therefore it is mandatory that research workers abide by the legal norms related to the publication of the research. It is to be seen that legal ownership of the products of research are fairly distributed among all stakeholders (author/authors, Institution, funding agency). Often, in case of commissioned research, IPR may rest with the external agency if previously specified. Project IPR may accrue from joint ventures in a project. In such cases, it is imperative that the terms and conditions related to access of resource products, their distribution and utilisation are legally agreed upon prior to the commencement of the project.

### **III. Principle of Safety**

- 1. Safe conduct of research-** Ensure that the research methods do not pose any danger to the community as for example, through the disposal of harmful chemicals.
- 2. Responsible conduct of research** – Ensure that undue pain is not inflicted upon any human or animal in experimental stage. Humane conduct and minimizing of pain is to be kept in mind.

### **IV. Principle of Openness with regard to Findings of Research**

- 1. Dissemination of knowledge:** Once the research work is concluded and published, it should be made available to the community with clarity and transparency as the ultimate goal is benefit to the community. Any conflict of interest arising from the research should be made public.

### **V. Principle of Fairness and Respect**

- 1. Behaviour towards fellow researchers:** Ensure respectful behaviour towards colleagues and fellow research workers, especially in team projects where a collaborative approach is necessary. Building up of a team spirit, transcending personal issues, is the first step in this direction. The judicious sharing and utilisation of research expertise is the norm.
- 2. Maintaining confidentiality:** It is expected that we refrain from making public the confidential data sources entrusted to us to facilitate our research.