

Ethics in research

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Ethics in research refers to standards that govern the decisions of researchers while conducting research experiments. Ethics are not determined by feelings, religion, cultural practices or science. Hence, this fact makes it hard to identify the basis of ethics. Ethics contain a set of moral rules and professional codes of conduct that must be abided by every researcher. However, ethical dilemmas may arise which require effective decision-making by the researcher. Several philosophers have put forth five principles that can be considered for ethical decision-making in research. They are the utilitarian approach, the common good approach, the justice approach, the virtue approach and the rights approach. Each method provides researchers with information to determine what is morally right in specific circumstances. Ethics in regulatory frameworks are essential to ensure that humans, animals and the environment are protected in the course of research. Human life is treated with respect and informed consent is assured when an ethical regulatory framework is in play. The welfare and autonomy of animals are also taken care of, as ethical frameworks in research contain various principles that ensure so. Conservation of biological diversity as well as the sustainability of the environment, are governed under ethical frameworks. These frameworks also extend to the consumers of the products that arise from research by ensuring the products' safety and affordability to the general public. Therefore, ethics are an integral part of research and are essential for ensuring the development and safety of society as well as the environment.

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