

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

WHAT IS ETHICS?

- ❖ **“The subject of ethics is best thought of as the critical examination of moral thought and morality as it affects our ideas of right conduct”**

RESEARCH ETHICS

- ❑ **Research ethics is a **very controversial /hot** area!**
- ❑ **Different ethical challenges depending on:**
 - Social norms
 - Practices
 - Cultural values
 - Biomedical needs

PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS

There are **three basic ethics principles**:

1. Respect for persons

- Autonomy
- Informed consent
- Confidentiality

2. Justice

3. Beneficence

RESPECT FOR PERSONS

1. Autonomy

- ❑ It refers to the obligation to respect each participant as a person capable of making a decision regarding participation in the research
- ❑ Persons with diminished autonomy should have special attention

2. Informed Consent

It is:

- A process
- Acknowledging respect for persons

It is NOT:

- A legal document
- A risk management tool for an

CONT ...

❖ **Informed consent should be analysed in terms of containing three basic elements:**

- **information,**

-

comprehension/understanding and

- **voluntarism**

CONSENT FORM ...

❖ **Generally the consent form should explicitly indicate the following:**

- Purposes of the research**
- Duration of the research**
- Procedures**
- Foreseeable risks and discomforts**
- Extent of confidentiality**
- Expected benefits**
- Compensation to possible injuries**
- Address of appropriate ethics monitoring bodies**
- Participants are free to withdraw any time.**

CONSENT FORM ...

- ❖ In some cultural contexts it may also be appropriate to obtain agreement from the **community** or a **senior family member**
- ❖ The ethically significant requirement is that consent **must be *genuine***. This requires that it be:
 - Appropriately informed
 - Voluntary
- ❖ Sometimes verbal consent may be enough

INFORMED CONSENT PROCESS

- **Who?**
- **When?**
- **How?**

Who?

- **Sufficiently trained and knowledgeable about the study**
- **Has no relationship with the potential subject**

....should be obtained by 'a well-informed physician who is not engaged in the investigation' and is 'independent'

WHEN?

- ❖ **Before research study is begun**

- ❖ **Whenever there is significant new information that may affect the subject's voluntarily participation**

HOW?

- **Quiet, comfortable, and private setting**
- **Give info and make sure the subject understands**
- **Enough time to consider all options**
- **Answer all questions**
- **Free from coercion/ undue influence**
- **Continue to consent during changes**
- **Written or verbal**

CONFIDENTIALITY

- ❑ **The researcher should assure the participant that confidentiality is kept in order to decrease harm**
- ❑ **The privacy of participants should be respected**

2. JUSTICE

- ❑ **Justice implies fairness and equity, and concerns in the distribution of benefits and burdens of research**
- ❑ **It demands equitable selection of participants**
- ❑ **Prisoners and institutionalized children have to be given special attention**

3. BENEFICENCE

- ❑ **It refers to the obligation to attempt to maximize benefits and minimize risks**
- ❑ **A honest and thorough risk benefit calculation must be performed**

ETHICAL RULES

- ❖ These rules essential for the development of trust between researchers and study participants.

Veracity

- ❖ All subjects in any research project should **always be told the truth.**

Privacy

- ❖ Subjects enroll in a research study, they grant access to themselves, but this is not unlimited access.

SOME IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

- ❑ **Protection for people with diminished autonomy**
 - Institutionalized people
 - Prison inmates
 - Children
 - Pregnant women, etc.
- ❑ **Inducement is shame**
- ❑ **Harm is multifaceted**
 - Physical
 - Psychological
 - Social and cultural
 - Financial

PRETEST AND PILOT STUDY

PRETEST AND PILOT STUDY

- ❑ A **pretest** usually refers to a small-scale trial of a particular research component.
- ❑ A **pilot study** is the process of carrying out a preliminary study, going through the entire research procedure with a small sample.

WHY DO WE CARRY OUT A PRETEST OR PILOT STUDY?

- ❖ A pretest or pilot study serves as a trial run that allows us **to identify potential problems** in the **proposed study**.
- ❖ Although this means extra effort at the beginning of a research project, the pretest or pilot study enables us, if necessary, to **revise the methods and logistics** of data collection before starting the actual fieldwork.
- ❖ As a result, a good deal of time, effort, and money can be saved in the long run
- ❖ **Pre testing is :**

■ Simpler

01/14/2026
By Digafe Ts.

■ Less time consuming and less Costly

WHAT ASPECTS OF THE RESEARCH CAN BE EVALUATED DURING PRE TESTING?

1. **Reactions of the respondents to the research procedures can be observed in the pretest**
2. **The data-collection tools can be pre tested**
3. **Sampling procedures can be checked**
4. **Staffing and activities of the research team can be checked, while all are participating in the pre-test**
5. **Procedures for data processing and analysis can be evaluated**
6. **The proposed work plan and budget for research activities can be assessed**

CONT'D ...

When do we carry out a pre-test?

- ❑ Pre-testing the data collection and data-analysis process should be done **1-2 weeks before** starting the fieldwork
- **Pretest was done on 5% of the sample size (20-50 people)**

Who should be involved in the pre-test

- ❑ The research team headed by the principal investigator and any additional research assistants or data collectors that have been recruited.

CONT'D ...

❑ **How long should the pre-test or pilot study last? Determined by**

- The size and duration of the research project
- The complexity of the methodology used in the research project.