Short-Duration Intensive Institute for
CEHAT and its collaborating partners
in
Research Ethics Matters in the arena of
Programmatic Interventions Research to respond to
Gender Based Violence (#ResEthicsGBV)
By
Health, Ethics and Law Institute (HEaL Institute) of Forum
for Medical Ethics Society (FMES) and Vidhayak Trust In
collaboration with
Center for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes (CEHAT)

Day and Date | Thu and Fri, Dec 9 and 10, 2021 | Time: 10.00 am to
5:00 pm
Venue: Virtual (Zoom platform) Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88603893614?pwd=VVdXT2M5aHFsbTNIam51TW5HQVl
Jdz09
Meeting ID: 886 0389 3614 | Passcode: 246583

FMES' legacy in bioethics trainings: It is since over about 15 years that FMES has been engaged with conceptualizing and organizing customized short duration training programs in various sub-fields of bioethics. The idea has been to respond to specific needs of researchers, interventionists, programmers, service providers in health and allied themes working in specific contexts. It requires wide ranging expertise from across disciplines with grounding in bioethics and the evolving scholarship in respective fields. FMES and now since 2018 through its programmatic platform namely Health, Ethics, and Training Institute (HEaL Institute) has been able to design such training programs as it draws upon its multidisciplinary network, bioethicists and scholars from allied thematics.

Collectively, over time, we have a created a pool of resources, especially ethics case studies from the Indian context drawing upon actual research studies and scenarios of ethical dilemmas researcher were confronted with. These serve as one of the key resources for the course. This continues to expand as we get opportunity to engage with diverse constituencies working in wide ranging context. As such, every training program we organize, provides us a peer learning opportunity.

This training program is steered towards facilitating participants to learn and equip themselves with foundations of research ethics and its operational or applied facets. The focus on the context and nature of their own work. The course participants would serve as significant human resource to take the learnings to their own ecosystems and facilitate knowledge transfer in research ethics.

Thematic modules: The course organized around two main thematic modules and sub-themes therein as below:

I.   **Foundations of research ethics:** This module comprises of five sessions to cover the foundational principles of research ethics, such as, respect to personhood, researchers' commitment to maintain

privacy and confidentiality of the research participants and information collected from them; concept of risks and benefits; publication ethics and research integrity; and a sneak peek at the history and origins of ethical concerns to help appreciate the salience of research ethics discourse in the cotemporary context of research and programs in the space of gender-based violence.

Vignettes and case scenarios for these sessions on foundational research ethics principles are drawn from VAW-GBV research and intervention spaces.

II. **Ethics of intervention research towards evidence-based advocacy and program**: This module consists of two sessions to cover the themes, namely, ethics of interventions research and prospective research studies which involves re-contacting individuals; developing evidence base using intervention/programmatic data on aspects of violence against women; and ethical considerations in using secondary data.

III. **Navigating through conflicting interfaces of law and ethics:** This module will comprise of one session in the form of a space for discussing diverse case scenarios on conflicting ethics and legal measures. Many a times ethics norms, principles, and values stand to be in conflict with legal frameworks. These pose challenges to researchers and interventionists/program teams/organisations. In such situations what takes precedence – law or ethics – is a key question, and ways to ensure survivors safety and dignity is upheld becomes central to a resolution.

Goal: To enable participants to appreciate the salience of research ethics in upholding scientific integrity of research enterprise in general; and identify and apply the methods of ethical reasoning to health research with special focus on intervention research in the spaces of gender-based violence/violence against women, use of intervention/program data for generating evidence to inform ongoing interventions and advocacy.

Specific objectives:

1. To learn about history and origins of research ethics discourse and principles in research ethics in social sciences and public health research and their relevance to contemporary research and interventions in the space of violence against women.
2. To strengthen the understanding of specific concepts in research ethics (social value, scientific validity, privacy, confidentiality, informed consent process, risks and benefits in research context); and appreciate research ethics challenges specific to research design, special groups with enhanced vulnerabilities; situational vulnerabilities in the context of research in the space of violence against women.
3. To learn the application of ethical reasoning to respond to the aforesaid challenges posed by social science and public health research; and enhancing skills in operationalizing research ethics principles in practice.
4. To learn Indian laws and regulations relevant to mHealth, and digital health technologies and its interfacing with research ethics obligations such as data sharing.

Course Director and core Faculty:
1. Sunita Sheel Bandewar, PhD (Anthropology) and Masters in Bioethics (Toronto, Canada), Independent Researcher, Pune; Working Editor, IJME; and Director, Health, Ethics and Law Institute of Training, Research and Advocacy, Mumbai-Pune [Course Director];
2. Anant Bhan, MBBS, PGDMLE, MHSc, Sr Health Researcher in Global Health and Bioethics; Adjunct Professor, Yenepoya (deemed to be University), Mangalore, India and Adjunct Faculty, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, India.

3. [Amar Jesani](#), MBBS, Independent Researchers and Consultant, Pubic Health and Bioethics, Mumbai; and Editor, Indian Journal of Medical Ethics ([IJME](#))
4. [Lakshmi Lingam](#), M.A. (Andhra University); Ph.D. (IIT, Bombay), Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai campus; Dean, School of Media and Cultural Studies
5. [Mala Ramanathan](#), PhD, Masters in Medical Anthropology, Bioethics (Harvard), AMCHSS, SCTIMST, Trivandrum; Working Editor, IJME; Member Secretary, IEC

Learning methods: Interactive methods involving small group case studies, short videos, and ample discussion space. Case studies sourced and developed from within India to be complemented by those involved in international collaborative research.

GDrive Resources | Sessionwise available: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1krzcXH48KxidXpUtZObB8tCXENOnj4NV?usp=sharing		
DAY 1 | Thursday, Dec 9, 2021		
Hours & Session no	**Topic & Faculty**	**Learning Objectives**
1000-1015	Opening of the training program **Dr Sanjida Arora,** CEHAT	• Welcome, • Overview of CEHAT's collaborative project in GBV
1015-1030	**Dr Sunita Sheel,** FMES-HEaL Institute; and	• Course overview • Round of Introduction
Module I: Foundations of research ethics		
Session 1 1030-1200	Importance of Ethics in Human Health Research and Morality, ethics, human rights and law: Challenges posed in research across disciplines	**Film Screening** ➢ History of ethics violations/challenges & Learnings ➢ To learn about the concept of ethics, facts, value, duties, morality, ➢ To recognize the relationship between ethics and law; ➢ Ethics and various disciplines - Basic Sciences, Medical or clinical Sciences, Social Sciences, Public health
12.00-12.15	**Tea Break**	
Session 2 1215-1345	Research ethics principles and Benchmarks; and Respect to personhood and Informed consent (IC) **Dr Sunita Sheel**	**Film Screening** ➢ To learn the foundation of the principle of autonomy and IC ➢ To learn various components of IC process – voluntariness, information, comprehension, documentation ➢ To recognize process of consent taking and its salience ➢ To learn IC in various situations, and permissibility of IC waivers ➢ To know guidelines and laws; and specific challenges **Group work for case studies or case study-based discussions in plenary**
1345-1415	**Lunch**	

Session 3 1415-1545	Privacy and confidentiality **Dr Anant Bhan**	**Film screening** ➢ To recognise the need for privacy and confidentiality in a research process ➢ To identify the challenges to privacy and confidentiality in both qualitative and quantitative research and ➢ To suggest some examples of good practices to meet such challenges to privacy and confidentiality in research **Group work for case studies or case study-based discussions in plenary**
Session 4 1545-1700	Risks and Benefits assessment of research **Prof Mala Ramanathan**	➢ Ethics principles and risk/benefits ➢ Various types of risks – frequency of their occurrence and magnitude ➢ Risk benefit analysis **Case examples embedded in the presentation**
	**End of Day 1 | Thursday, Dec 9, 2021
	DAY 2 | Friday, Dec 10, 2021**
**Module II: Ethics of intervention research towards evidence-based advocacy and program**
Session 5 1000-1130	Intervention research and research ethics issues **Dr Sunita Sheel**	➢ To learn about the intervention research ➢ To know about specific research ethics issues in intervention research ➢ Specific issues, challenges, and ethical concerns in IS/R
11.30-11.45		**Tea Break**
Session 6 1145-1300	Ethics of data sharing, re-using program/intervention data, secondary data, and re-connecting with program participants in prospective research **Dr Sunita Sheel**	➢ To learn about what comprises of 'data' ➢ To learn about the concept of data sharing and underlying ethics principles ➢ To learn about the risks involved in data sharing, and re-use of data ➢ To learn about data transparency, including the public archiving of data for reanalysis by others from the peer community and/or using secondary data sources
1300-1330		**Lunch break**
**Module III: Navigating through conflicting interfaces of law and ethics**
Session 7 1330-1500	Conflicting ethics and legal frameworks **Prof Lakshmi Lingam**	➢ To know the broad legal and regulatory frameworks in India relating GBV, POCSO, CLA-2013 with focus on clauses conflicting with ethics principles ➢ To know about interfacing legal and ethics issues in using case scenarios ➢ To learn to respond to these complex and conflicting scenarios
1500-1515		**Tea Break**
**Module I: Foundations of research ethics**
Session 8 1515-1645	Integrity in research: Research misconduct, authorship credits **Dr Amar Jesani**	**Film screening** ➢ To learn the concept of research integrity ➢ To learn the relationship between research and society's trust ➢ To recognize various types of research misconduct: Plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, violations of participants' rights

		➢ To learn about publication ethics: Rights and obligations to publish, authorship credit and authorship sequence, and ghost authorship
1645-1700	Valedictory	• Closing remarks • Feedback from the course participants • Certificate of participation issuance (virtually)
END OF DAY 2 | Friday, Dec 10, 2021 End of the Training Program		