

Short-Duration Intensive Training Program in Social Science and Public Health Research Ethics

Sept 6, 2022 to Nov 8, 2022

(Every Tuesday during this period between 1600 and 1930 hrs)

Virtual

FMES's Health, Ethics, and Law (HEaL) Institute of Training, Research and Advocacy

in collaboration with

Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai
and Vidhayak Trust, Pune



About the course

The course curriculum has a legacy of 15 years to which a number of scholars including those trained in bioethics have contributed. Over time they developed research ethics case studies from the Indian context. These serve as one of the key resources for the course.

The course aims to equip course participants with knowledge and skills in research ethics. They would serve as significant human resource to take the learnings to their own ecosystems and facilitate knowledge transfer in research ethics.

Specific Objectives

Goal

To enable participants to appreciate the salience of research ethics in upholding research integrity and identify and apply ethical reasoning to social science and public health research

1 To introduce and orient participants to research ethics in social sciences research in health and public health research; its history and origin; and relevance to contemporary research

2 To strengthen the awareness of participants of ethical issues in research involving human participants, and their appreciation of the need for research integrity

3 To draw upon the key resources in international ethics guidance such as the Tri-Council Policy Statement, Canada; the Helsinki Declaration, and other ethics guidelines issued by both national and international organisations, pertaining to the social sciences and public health fields; and help locate them in local contexts

4 To strengthen the understanding of specific concepts in research ethics (privacy, confidentiality, standard of care, informed consent process, collaborative research, publication ethics, research integrity); and appreciate research ethics challenges specific to research design, special groups with enhanced vulnerabilities; situational vulnerabilities in the context of research in social sciences in health and public health research

5 To learn to use ethical reasoning to respond to the aforesaid challenges posed by social science research in health and public health research; and enhancing skills in operationalising research ethics principles in practice

Who can apply?

The course is open to post-graduate students, researchers, teachers, and practitioners from across the disciplines who are engaged with social science research in health and public health research and members of ethics review board.

Learning methods

- Interactive methods involving case studies, short videos; and mock ethics review board meetings.
- Case studies sourced and developed from within India to be complemented by those involved in international collaborative research.
- Mock ethics review boards consisting of the training program participants conducting a mock ERB meeting to evaluate 2-3 anonymised research ethics protocols.

Course content

- Covers five broad thematic areas namely, (a) Research Ethics: History and theoretical approaches; (c) Research ethics principles and their translation in practice; (b) Research ethics obligations and issues in relation to research design and research methods; (d) Research Ethics Governance, Legal and Regulatory Regimes; (e) Reporting of research, integrity and publication ethics.
- Comprises 20 sessions of 90 minutes each, spread over five days with focus on small group work to discuss case studies
- Additionally, we will offer 2-4 webinars on special themes of relevance outside of the core curriculum of 20 thematics. These will be organised in-between Saturdays.



Research ethics in social sciences (in health), Public health, and Biomedical research: Key units	
<i>Unit Theme</i>	<i>Unit Sub-themes/Modules</i>
Unit 1: Research ethics: History and theoretical approaches	<p>a. History of ethics: learning from historical controversies in medical science, public health and social science research</p> <p>b. Variations across disciplines: Disciplines and their theories - basic sciences, medical or clinical sciences, social sciences, public health</p> <p>c. Methods of moral reasoning: Understanding facts, value, duties, morality, ethics and law</p> <p>d. Theoretical approaches to bioethics: Deontology, Utilitarianism (consequentialist), Virtue ethics, communitarianism, solidarity, ethics of care</p> <p>e. Theoretical approaches to bioethics: Balancing act – principlism: eight benchmarks of ethical research, population research and community engagement</p>
Unit 2: Translating Research Ethics Principles into practice	<p>a. Privacy and confidentiality: Understanding concepts; levels of ensuring confidentiality; Legal obligations of privacy; ethics guidelines; and examples such as large scale data collection operations (Census, NFHS, NSSO) and the politics of data use; Use of medical records; Health insurance as a driver of data collection and compilation; etc.</p> <p>b. Informed consent in research: Understanding concepts and components; process of consent taking; guidelines and laws; and specific challenges in the social science, public health and medical research; and Informed consent and its discontents - relevance and respect in non-positivist disciplinary traditions</p> <p>c. Risk-benefit analysis: Understanding concepts and methods of analysis; specific challenges in social science and public health research</p> <p>d. Ethical challenges in research methods: Ethics of research methods using positivist and non-positivist approaches; ethical challenges in experimental (intervention) research in medical, public health and social science research</p>
Unit 3: Research ethics obligations and issues in relation to research design and Research Methods	<p>a. Overview of various research designs and research settings with case examples of research across the following streams – social science and public health research</p> <p>b. Relationship between type of research design and research ethics obligations and issues in research across the following streams – social science and public health research</p> <p>c. Translating ethics guidelines into practice in various research settings in research across the three streams</p> <p>d. Research ethics challenges specific to research designs relevant to research and interventions; and working toward responding to them</p>

Unit 4: Research Ethics Governance; and Legal and Regulatory Regimes	<p>a. The Ethics Review Committee: Role and the responsibilities (ethical and legal) of the ERC and its members; present legal requirements of an ERC; the functioning of the ERC, Standard Operating Procedures of the ERC</p> <p>b. Continuing Review and monitoring of the research: Legal and ethical requirement of oversight of research; stoppage rules for research; data safety and monitoring of research</p> <p>c. Local and international Legal and Regulatory frameworks, case laws, and their implications for research ethics practices</p> <p>d. Ethics of collaborative research</p>
Unit 5: Reporting of research, integrity and publication ethics	<p>a. Reporting requirements: Qualitative research (COREQ); Need to report negative findings</p> <p>b. Research misconduct, violation of Integrity: Plagiarism, fabrication, falsification (unethical data manipulation), violation of professional ethics</p> <p>c. Conflict of interest: Financial and other types of conflict of interests</p> <p>d. Publication ethics: authorship credit rules, gift authorship, denial of authorship, ghost writing, salami publications</p> <p>e. Publication ethics specific to collaborative research initiatives</p>

Recruitment to course: Application based

Certification: Jointly by HEaL Institute, IGIDR, and Vidhayak Trust

Fee Structure: INR 5000/- plus 18% GST (INR 5900/-) for the Ten-day program

Screening and awards: The selection committee will consider the following factors

- **The place of origin:** Although it is open to candidates from all over India, preference will be given to those from the northern and eastern region of India;
- **Background /current area of expertise:** The training program is aimed at those involved or interested in bioethics, including researchers, REC/IRB members, policy-makers, health workers, health reporters/journalists and lawyers. We seek representation from different disciplines and different professional backgrounds;
- **Experience of ethics:** Applicants need not be experts in bioethics, but should have an active interest in the field;
- **Reasons for attending the training:** We hope to attract participants who will be able to actively contribute to the meeting and who can have an impact on bioethics in their area of work and in their own institution.

Payment mode: NEFT (If you are selected, we will intimate you via email along with payment instructions (for those self-supported) to the email ID provided in this form).

Application instructions:

To fill the application form [click here](#)

or send the filled application forms to **fmescentre.events@gmail.com**

or Fill the application form attached and post it to the address:

Forum for Medical Ethics Society

C-3, Third Floor, Nav Bhavna CHS,

SVS Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025

Number of seats available:

The total number of seats available for the course is 50.



Forum for Medical Ethics Society (FMES)

The Forum for Medical Ethics Society (FMES) emerged from a unique combination of activism and education/sensitization at the interface of the healthcare system and society's needs; drawing concerned professionals from healthcare and from related fields such as the social sciences, humanities, and law; as well as activists from civil society to work together. Over the years, FMES has been able to establish three platforms:

- FMES carries out its programmatic work in the area of health, ethics and law in the form of bioethics trainings, research, and advocacy.
- Publication of the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics
- National Bioethics Conferences (NBCs) platform: NBC has been organised every two years. Seven NBCs have been organised so far.

Health, Ethics and, Law Institute (HEaL Institute)

As an organisation, HEaL Institute conceives of health in its widest and most comprehensive scope that includes safeguarding the health of the planet. With this broader conception of health, the goal is to work towards contributing to the well-being of people via research, advocacy, training and action. It also aims to serve as a bridge between academia and activism for promoting and safeguarding people's democratic and constitutional entitlement to health, as an outcome of wide-ranging social – economic – political –environmental determinants. Its scope of work also encompasses ethics and human rights of health, health care delivery, health research, health policies and programs, and health economics.

Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research

Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) is an advanced research institute established and fully funded by the Reserve Bank of India for carrying out research on development issues from a multi-disciplinary perspective.

IGIDR was registered as an autonomous society on November 14, 1986 and as a public trust in January 1987. Subsequently, the Institute has been recognized as a Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act.

Starting as a purely research institution, it rapidly developed into a full-fledged teaching cum research organisation when it launched a PhD programme in the field of development studies in 1990. The objective of the PhD programme is to produce researchers with diverse disciplinary backgrounds who can address issues of economics, energy and environment policies. In 1995, the institute initiated the MPhil programme. The institute, in 2003, started the MSc programme in economics to introduce students to the world of research at an earlier stage. The institute has so far awarded 133 PhD, 120 MPhil and 364 MSc degrees.

Vidhayak Trust

We are registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950. We work in the area of health, education, and matters that adversely impact in pronounced manner the disadvantaged individuals and communities. Our programmatic areas are: Women and Health; Bioethics; and Innovations towards Social Inclusion. In all three areas we are committed to systematic research towards creating evidence and contributing to scholarship in the respective fields of enquiry; advocacy for contributing to systemic improvements and legal reforms; policy analysis; program evaluation; and capacity strengthening in health and ethics. One of the pursuits, amongst others, at Vidhayak Trust is to exploring innovative ideas towards making a difference to lives of marginal and disadvantaged individuals and communities.

Application form

* Mandatory Fields

Full name*:

Name of Current Organisation/University:

Current designation (if any):

Work experience (in years):

Age*:

Gender:

Email id*:

Contact number*:

Postal address*:

District*:

***State:**

Names and email addresses of 2 academic referees:

1)

2)

Please send in your CV (up to two pages)*

Statement of purpose (500 words)*: Please explain your reasons for participating in the proposed training program and mention your expectations from the course

Do you require scholarship support (✓): Yes (full) Yes (Partial)

Statement to support your request for scholarship (up to 150 words)

How did you first hear about this course? (✓)

FMES website

Social Media (Facebook/Twitter/Whatsapp/LinkedIn)

Email

From friends

Internet search

Others

Is it okay for FMES to include this information into its data base which is primarily used to disseminate information? (✓)

Yes

No

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Important dates:

Mode of training session: Virtual (e-platform)

Closing date for receipt of application forms: Aug 15, 2022

Communication on selection: Aug 25, 2022

Training program: Every Tuesday during the period between Tuesday, Sept 6, 2022 and Tuesday, Nov 8, 2022

**For additional information and
queries, please email us at:
fmescentre.events@gmail.com**