West Bengal State University
Department of Anthropology

Name of the course: Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)

Duration: 30 hours

Credit: 2 credit course

ELIGIBILITY

M.Phil, Ph.D. students and interested faculty members.

OVERVIEW

This course has total 6 units focusing on basics of Philosophy of science and ethics, research integrity, publication ethics. Hands on sessions are designed to identify research misconduct and predatory publications. Indexing and citation databases, open access publications, research metrics (citations, h-index, Impact Factor, etc.) and plagiarism tools will be introduced in this course.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course comprises of six modules listed in table below. Each module has 4-5 units.

Type	Unit title	Teaching hours
Theory	Philosophy and Ethics	4
	Scientific Conduct	4
	Publication Ethics	7
Practice	Open Access Publishing	4
	Publication Misconduct	4
	Database and Research Metrics	7
TOTAL		30

SYLLABUS IN DETAIL

THEORY

Unit-I: PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

1. Introduction to Philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches

2. Ethics: Definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgements and reactions

3. Bioethics: History, basic principles

Unit-II: SCIENTIFIC CONDUCT

1. Ethics with respect to science and research

2. Intellectual honesty and research integrity

3. Scientific misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication and Plagiarism (FFP)

4. Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing

5. Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data

6. ICMR ethical guidelines

Unit-III: PUBLICATION ETHICS

1. Publication ethics: definition, introduction and importance;

2. Best practices/standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME etc.

3. Conflicts of interest

4. Publication misconduct: Definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa, types

5. Violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributorship

6. Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals

7. Predatory publishers and journals

8. Plagiarism and UGC guidelines

PRACTICE

Unit-VI: OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING

1. Open access publications and initiatives

2. SHERPA/RoMEO online resource to check publisher copyright & self-archiving policies

3. Software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU

4. Journal finder/journal suggestion tools viz. JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggester, etc.

Unit-V: PUBLICATION MISCONDUCT

A. Group Discussions

1. Subject specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship

2. Conflicts of interest

3. Complaints and appeals: examples and fraud from India and abroad

B. Software tools

1. Use of plagiarism software - Turnitin

Unit-VI: DATABASES AND RESEARCH METRICS

A. Databases

1. Indexing databases

2. Citation databases: Web of Science, Scopus etc.

B. Research Metrics

1. Impact factor of journal as per Journal Citation Report, SNIP, SJR, IPP, Cite Score

2. Metrics: h-index, g index, i10 index, altmetrics

PEDAGOGY:

Class room teaching, Guest Lecturers, group discussions and practical sessions.

EVALUATION:

 Continuous assessment will be done through tutorials, assignments, quizzes and group discussions. Weightage will be given for active participation. Final written examination will be conducted at the end of the course.