

Evaluation and Assessment of Instructional Design



Module #1

Educational Research Fundamentals and Ethics

Part 3: Ethical Issues in Educational Research Studies

Module 1, Part 3 Introduction



Having awareness of research fundamentals are important to the application of the topic of ethics.

- Definition of ethics and its importance in educational research.
- Ethical Norms
- Institutional Guidelines Applicable to Educational Research

Generalities of Ethics



Ethics is commonly confused with integrity and honesty by definition. In fact, it applies these common traits one has as shown below:

- Most commonly noted for determining behaviors which are acceptable and not acceptable (norms).
- Stronger in childhood but wane as one matures.
- Standards of conduct.
- Very important to educational research and instructional design.

Reasons To Behave Ethically



- Regarded as required behaviors to perform and execute a research study in any discipline.
- Promotes the pursuit of knowledge in a truthful and engaging manner.
- Acceptance of errors and omissions are plausible which are respected when admitted.
- Research studies tend to be foundation for future works and studies proving/disproving results.
- Social responsibilities.

Reasons Researchers Don't Behave Ethically



- 'Bad Apple Theory'
 - Desperation for something (i.e. money, power, recognition, or psychologically challenged).
 - Invincibility until they get caught (in time).
- Conflicts of Interest
 - Competitive advantages for funding, additional research, or credit of work.
 - Personal versus professional gains
- Unawareness of ethical behavior policies and procedures
 - Resides on leadership (academic/professional) to conduct trainings on ethics.

– Resnik (2011)

Ethical Principles Applicable to Educational Research



Dr. David Resnik (2011) outlines a number of ethical principles in his piece that can apply to educational research – including...

- Honesty & Integrity
- Carefulness and Confidentiality
- Social Responsibilities and Non-Discrimination
- Respect for Intellectual Property & Publicizing Responsibly
- Protection of Human Subjects In Research
- Openness For Feedback, Criticisms, & Future Research Opportunities
- And so on.

Ethical Principles Applicable to Educational Research



Alternately, the *American Psychological Association's* (APA) article by Deborah Smith (2003) provides five (5) main principles for research ethics as shown below:

1. Converse about publishing rights and credits prior to a research project taking off.
2. Awareness of multiple roles in a research study.
3. Follow pre-established informed-consent rules for studies.
4. Respect confidentiality and participation of persons in one's research study.
5. Enrich oneself in ethical resources.

Ethical Principles Applicable to Educational Research



Specific to the educational community, the *Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)* of 1974 can apply here as well:

- Use of student's information in order to conduct analyses or track metrics in some way.
- Accessing of student records for intended purposes only when attending a college or university.
- Distribution and sharing of information without expressed written consent