RESEARCH MISCONDUCTS: A CRITICAL REVIEW OF PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN RESEARCH

*AMADI, NYEKACHI N., *Ph.D*

Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.
Tel: +2348033153505
E-mail: amadinyekachi@yahoo.com

**NWANYANWU, DENNIS H., *Ph.D*
Ken Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic, Bori, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Abstracts

Inexhaustibly, the paper critically reviewed misconducts in research based on concept of obeying professional and ethical issues. The paper related the contents of various regulations of professional bodies concerning research. Descriptively, ethics for engineering, science, humanities, law and sociological researches were highlighted. The point of argument was based on contravention to the laid down ethics and codes in research. Amendment of 2002 APA codes and ethics in 2010 removed clause considered inappropriate in and added value and content to governing laws and regulations guiding psychologists research activities. Non-inclusiveness of health impaired subjects was considered a limitation to quality research. The paper concludes that ethics and codes are unavoidable in researches. It was recommended that ethical violations and misconducts should be tamed through disciplinary actions for quality researches and protection of intellectual property.

Keywords: Misconduct, Critical, Review, Ethics, Professional Research

Introduction

In a bid to harmonize the conduct of research, as obtainable in other profession, academicians have in the recent time, come to institute a formidable approach to researches by setting out ethics and codes of research. These globally acceptable standards are considered best practices to be followed when carrying out researches (Graham, 2004). Within the confines of recognizing quality research that obeyed standards is found. Approaches to conducting researches vary from discipline to discipline and require adherence to the tenets of general ethics and one's profession. In the presences of research standards within the rules of Harvard and American Psychological Association (APA), academicians are at liberty to cue into the laid down ethical codes in conducting research. The conducts in research writing has embraced legal, social and natural aspects of constructive explanation of one's view without contradicting issues bordering on ethical misconduct. This is a fact considering that every researcher is opinionated. It spells and explains the fact that whatever conceived topic of research may have wholly or partly been addressed in the past. However, every researcher in making a point out of every conceived topic requires carving out a niche out of existing issue by addressing observed gap(s). As no researcher is alone in his/her work, it is essential that rules guiding research conduct must be obeyed. The end product to obedience to ethical conducts in research produces quality papers. Reliance to quality researches suggests ideas for solving social and economic challenges bedeviling the society. In the context of professionalism, scientific, technical and sociological researches are pined on ethics guiding each discipline (Grunwald, 1999). Individual professional misconduct must be avoided as every research work progresses into obedience to general research ethics. It must be in the purview of the researcher, to focus on avoiding the stipulated misconducts and maintaining government laws binding research conducts.

Key issues found in research ethical code addresses when, why and where misconducts must not be committed. These issues keep the rights of every research participant in check and clarify attractable facts and opinions. For instance, some degree of plagiarism may not be observed when conducting researches but can be disturbing at the end of the work. This calls for early obedience to research ethical codes. There exist policies and guidelines set by institutions towards creating responsiveness and integrity in research (Brey & Jansen, 2015). Such ethical values are more beneficial when deliverables of institutions' intellectual properties are considered side-by-side with others. "Researcher" is a "Psychologist" which is inter-changeably adopted in this paper.

Globally, there have been great break-through in science, technology, social and management science researches (Sieber, 1992). The undisputed nature of research considered the flux state of ethics and lack of mechanisms regulating research conducts in universities and other institutions of higher learning. While this fact is upheld, it is also non-contestable that there exists conflict of interests, plagiarisms, copyrights, lack of integrity, confidence, professionalism, honesty, competence etc. This explains further, the violation of engineering, technology, social and management sciences research ethics etc. Be it as it may, misconduct in research is like contravening rules of a game. Cases arising from such violations have either denied people job opportunities or caused expulsion and sacking of students and

lecturers. In different institutions, penalties have been prescribed as deterrent to offenders. The increase in violation has been considered as case of "either you publish or you perish" slogan in institutions of higher learning (Friedman, 1998). However, quality research works must be produced based on publication ethics and laws for educational institutions to maintain standards and certificates produced command global recognitions.

This paper focused on research misconduct and critically reviewed ethical issues in the conduct of researches. It specifically reviewed relevant ethical research misconducts based on American Psychological Association (APA) ethics code by addressing issues relating to; engineering, scientific and sociological research ethical conducts, "general research principles" and APA research amended ethics and codes.

Conceptual Issues

Research and experimentation are age long activities in the academic field which dates back to 18th century and regulated to avoid exploitation or abuse of opportunities and conflict of interest not long after 1940 experiments. Research ethical conduct was popularized after the "Nuremberg Code of 1947" and later, "The Belmont Report (1979) which resulted from Nazi experiment and emerged as the leading codes, regulating academic research activities (Eric & Kerim, 2004). The code focused on "liberty to withdrawal to from on-going research work, protection from mental and physical harm, or death and suffering, voluntary informed consent, risk- benefit balance" etc. However, the non-therapeutic research was initiated and included in the code by Helsinki declaration of 1964 which emphasized on the protection and well-being of both participants and non-participants (Stangnor, 2011).

Codes and Ethics

Both codes and ethics are two unique words associated with good behavior. When the two words are put together "code of ethics", they represent value statement. In a simplified form, while "code of ethics' governs decision-making, "code of conduct" denotes action. All are therefore, considered regulatory by implication. It may be known in principles as constitution guiding behavior or "outlined set of principles" that affect choice of decision-making. Considering the similarity in the interchangeable usage of both, "code of ethics and code of conduct" spore people to discipline in their activities as an encouragement to specific behaviors.

Ethics and Codes are used in regulating people's behavior. The dissimilarity is that ethics entails wide range of values in fostering regulated actions while conduct and code are mean but direct information on likely penalties that may be incurred for disobedience. Both words can be used together to enshrine principles and forbidden actions in activity or environment. Misconduct in research is the violation of social standard, moral conducts and regulations binding research. It addresses negligence to legal laws of research as it affects study area (Yip, Nian-Lin & Ban, 2016). On the contrary, conduct is deduced to mean compliance to codes or set of regulations of ethics and negligence to established ethics and codes is seen as misconduct. When misconduct or disobedience is attributed to societal laws, it is termed indiscipline or deviation from normalcy in system.

Chubin (1985) posited that it behoove researchers to investigate into the questions of what should be;

- "The extent of interaction with another to address pressing obligations to other researchers.
- When and where they should be prepared to inquire on the conduct of science to meet their research obligations and those of the society?
- The pattern of research to meet their obligations of promoting and preserving integrity of research findings.
- The extent of interaction with academic and the society at large".

In pursuit of responses to the obligations of academicians in researches processes, methods of conducting researches in different fields such as "auto-ethnological and participatory action" emerged and remarkably inclusiveness of vulnerable individuals; persons with cognitive disabilities, the homeless, children, persons without legal status and institutionalized individuals which generated contextual questions in research (Greener, 2008). In attempt to demystifying this intrigue within academic domains, ethicist researchers became challenged to investigate limitations of research conducts involving privacy protection and other issues in the face of advancing studies mostly with the capabilities of internet. Aside the introductions of philosophical and epistemological issues into the research field, researchers are faced with anecdotal issues when conducting individual research and mostly when conducting social, legal and political researches.

Globally, in compliance, specific policies, rules, regulations have been adopted by professional bodies and universities to streamline research conducts and other experiments. The reason is that institutions are poised to enthrone discipline integrity, sincerity, fairness humility, respectfulness, courage etc., in research conducts.

Ethical Conducts in Engineering
Engineering ethics is subject to guidelines that are applicable to non-applied studies in natural science field. Relevant research principles and ethics involve; institutional integrity, social responsibility, collegiality, data integrity, scientific integrity, human protections, social responsibility and animal welfare in cases where human subject are involved. Susan (2000) was of the view that the nature of technology ethics involving "top-down" formal application of principles comes from "normative ethics" and erodes inherent consequences in investigations by creating technological development possibilities. In this twenty-first century, focus is towards increasing "applied ethics or formal principles" with computer and information ethics (professional ethics) to balance engineering ethics.

Ethics in Engineering involves ethical codes and principles found in other engineering professions which were enacted by several bodies guiding engineering practice. These bodies include;

Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)

Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) stipulated ethical Codes for professional engineers with the following fundamental principles aimed at upholding and advancing the integrity, dignity and honor of the engineering profession by:

i)   "Giving support to technical societies and their profession.
ii) Being impartial and honest, and serving the public and their employees with fidelity.
iii) Using their skill and knowledge to enhance human welfare.
iv) Ensuring increased prestige and competence in engineering profession".

The fundamental cannons of ABET specified that;

1) "Engineers shall act in such manners that can enhance and uphold their professional integrity, honor and dignity.
2) Engineers shall act as faithful agents or trustees in professional matters for their employers or client and avoid conflicts of interest.
3) Professional performance services shall be only in competence areas.
4) Engineers shall continue their professional development throughout their careers and provide opportunities for the development of engineers under their supervision.
5) In the performance of their professional duties, engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
6) Professional reputations shall be built by engineers on the merit of their services without unfairly competitions with one another.
7) Public statements can only be issued in a truthful and objective manner."

National Society for Professional Engineers (NSPE)

Fundamental Canons outlined that Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

1. "Avoid all acts that are deceptive.
2. Perform services only in areas where they are competent.
3. Hold to a high esteem, the health safety and welfare of the public.
4. Conduct themselves lawfully, honorably, ethically and responsibly so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.
5. Act as faithful trustees or agents for their clients or employers.
6. Only issue statements in a truthful and objective manner."

Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE)

Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), in recognition of the importance of technologies affecting the quality of life throughout the world, and in accepting a personal obligation to their profession, its members and the communities they serve, committed themselves to the highest ethical and professional conduct and agree to;

a) "Reject all forms of bribery.
b) Avoid injuring others, their reputation, property or employment by false or malicious action.

c) Accept responsibility in making consistent engineering decisions on the safety, health and welfare of the public, and to promptly.

d) Disclose factors that might endanger the environment or the public. Disclose perceived conflicts of interest whenever possible to affected parties when they do exist.

e) Assist co-workers and colleagues in their professional development and to support them in obeying the professional code of ethics.

f) Be realistic and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data.

g) Improve on appropriate understanding and application of technology, and potential consequences.

h) Seek, accept, and acknowledge correct errors and offer honest criticism of technical work, and to properly credit the contributions of colleagues.

i) Treat all persons fairly regardless of such factors as age, disability, race, religion, national origin, gender etc.

j) Maintain and improve technical competence and to undertake technological tasks after full disclosure of pertinent limitations."

American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)

Code of Ethics of Engineers from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) has a semblance of stipulated that engineers should uphold and advance the integrity, honor, and dignity of the Engineering profession by;

i) "Being impartial, honest and serving with fidelity the public, their employers and clients,

ii) Using their knowledge and skill for human welfare enhancement and,

iii) Striving to increase the prestige and competence of the engineering profession."

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) has a semblance of National Society for Professional Engineers (NSPE) cannon principles. The ASME fundamental principles of ethical conduct spelt out that Engineer shall;

a) Act faithfully as agents and trustees to their employers in professional matters and avoid conflicts of interest.

b) Perform services only in their areas of their competence.

c) Hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public in the performance of their professional duties.

d) Build their professional reputations on the merit of their services and avoid unfair competition with others.

e) Associate on with reputable organizations or persons.

f) Only issue public statements in a truthful and an objective manner.

g) Continue their professional development throughout their careers and shall provide opportunities for the professional development of those engineers under their supervision.

Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) Professional Obligations

Biomedical engineering is a "learned profession that combines expertise and responsibilities in engineering, science, technology, and medicine." The Society identifies in its Code, principles of ethical conduct in professional practice, health care, research, and training (Kilpi & Tuomala, 1989). This Code reflects voluntary standards of professional and personal practice recommended for biomedical engineers. The Biomedical engineers are not limited to the following in the fulfillment of their professional engineering duties;

1. Shall use their abilities, knowledge and skills, to enhance the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
2. Strive by influence, action and example to increase the prestige, honor and competence of the biomedical engineering profession.

Biomedical Engineering Health Care Obligations

It is the responsibilities of Biological Health Care Engineers in the course of their activities to;

i.   Regard as primary concern, the responsibility toward and rights of patients, including those of confidentiality and privacy.
ii. With regard to cost, availability, and delivery of health care, consider the broader consequences of their work.

Biomedical Engineering Research Obligations: It is the responsibility of biomedical engineers involved in research to;
1) "Publish or properly present credible results of research clearly and accurately.
2) Comply fully with legal, ethical, institutional, governmental, and other applicable research guidelines by respecting human and animal subjects, colleagues, the scientific community and the general public."

Training Obligations Training Obligation of Biomedical Engineers

Biomedical engineers entrusted with the responsibilities of training others shall;
1. Keep training methods and content free from inappropriate influence of special interests.
2. Honor the responsibility not only to train biomedical engineering students in proper professional conduct in performing research and publishing results, but also to model such conduct before them.

Ethical Conducts in Sociological Research

Under the sociological research conduct, ethical issues relating to participation by scholars were more guided by stipulated ethics based on APA recommendations. The question of importance of ethics in research borders on an individual's moral judgements about rights and wrongs. In the words of Susan, (2000), "more guided is the American Sociological Association's (ASA's) code of ethics that underlie conducts and professional responsibilities

of sociologists which constituted statements that are normative and, provided structured five ethical principles". The five ASA's ethical codes and principles were explained as;

Integrity: Sociologists in honest form, practice show respect to people in the course of their professional research activities without intentionally jeopardizing the professional welfare of others. Conducts and statements of Sociologists are must be confidence and trust inspiring and devoid of deceptions and misleading.

Social Responsibility: Researches in the field of sociology must be guided by their professional responsibility to societies and communities within their immediate environment. They have to expose their knowledge of advanced sociological science as contribution to the public.

Professional Competence: It is imperative for Sociologists to strive towards high competence and recognize expertise limitations by conduct such researches that there are competent and qualified based on their education, experience and trainings. In the cause of their research, there should be regard to appropriate professional, scientific, administrative and technical resources to ensure accuracy of results.

Respect for Diversity, Dignity and rights of people: Sociologist must have regard for peoples' dignity without bias in carrying out their professional activities and avoid discriminations based on 'race, origin, sexual orientation, health conditions, ethnicity, disability, age, religion, marital status, status of parents, gender etc. They are careful and mindful of individual role differences and cultural sensitivities in their teaching and studying people that possess different qualities or characteristics.

Professional and Scientific Responsibility: In line with the tenets of sociological research, Sociologists must maintain professional and scientific standards and integrity through their personal, theoretical and methodological approaches to activities. Their ethical behavior must be outweighed by personal desire but encourage collaboration with colleagues.

Ethical Issues in Management Research
Ethical Issues relating to management research is seen as an adaptation of ethics and conducts in Social research. Bell & Bryman, (2007) reviewed several laws on researches based on the codes of conducts, ethical principles and guidelines issued by world known professional organizations in academics such as; "Academy of Management, American Sociological Association, British Psychological Society, British Sociological Association, Social Research Association, Association of Social Anthropologists of UK and Commonwealth, Market Research Society and American Anthropological Association" between 1999 – 2003. Ethical Issues stipulated by these professional bodies were found to be binding on both sociological and management researches. The ethical codes and principles governing the conduct of researches in management sciences were shown to have repeatedly emphasized on "confidentiality, privacy, misrepresentation, harm to participants, informed consent, affiliation, dignity, reciprocity, honesty and transparency, deception and anonymity, as contained in the paper.

Ethics in Medical Research

From the work of Salman, London & Guraya, (2014), The Nuremberg code of 1947 which was an outcome of the trial of Nazi medical doctors has remained the commonly acceptable medical research ethics and the Helsinki declaration of 1964 have remained fundamental document containing the ethics government research in medical sciences. Reports of the two committees later became the source of document that enshrined what is today known and called Medical Research Ethics. Statements contained in the report are briefly discussed in the table below;

a) Level of risk should not exceed that stipulated by humanitarian importance of the problem to be handled.
b) Where continuation of research is likely to be risky, researchers can be allowed to end the experiment especially where continuation may result to death, disability or injury to subject.
c) Avoid unwarranted mental and physical injuries.
d) Any research conducted would yield good results for the benefit of the society not procurable by other methods.
e) Researches to be conducted should be based on prior knowledge through experiment animals.
f) There should be no death when conducting experiment.
g) Scientifically qualified persons with required care and skills should be allowed to carry out researches.
h) Individuals be allowed to conclude initiated researches if found mentally or physically qualified where continuation of research is possible.
i) Adequate protection facilities should be provided against disability, injury or possible death.
j) Consent to be voluntarily based on adequate knowledge, duration, methods, nature, purpose, effects, inconveniences and research hazards.

Ethics in scientific Research

As posited by Giesen, (2015) "for various areas of science, there is existing general codes of conduct which hitherto, tend to be a general statement. The meeting of a small group of Scientists in 1981, in Uppsala University was to fashion out ethical codes in scientific research; medicine, technology, theology, law and natural sciences. Outcome of the meeting contributed greatly to formulation of code of ethics for scientists which was first circulated in 1982. And in 1984, the final version of the code was published (Gustafsson, Ryden, Tibell & Wallensteen, 1984). However, Ryden, (1984) pointed out that there may have been earlier codes of ethics concerning scientific research but, greater number relied on research guideline; Nuremburg Code that was "a conduct within professional associations", and Hippocratic Oath which was established to deal with relationship between patients and doctors. Statements in these cods were usually general (Mappes & Zembaty, 1981).

The undertone in the code and ethics of scientific research stems from the fact that it is believed justifiable that since there is immense contribution of science in resolving challenges confronting humanity; human and environmental damages, greater focus of this code of ethics is on "individual scientist, war and ecology," and spelt out punishments for, whom in the event of unethical activities assesses the consequences (Gustafsson *et al.*, 1984). Therefore, though not comprehensive, the following major ethical issues were considered in the ethics of scientific research;

a) "That application and consequences of research shall significantly not cause ecological damages.
b) Activities of research shall not subject present and future generations to difficulties rather to secure existence of inhabitants than aim at oppression or wars, nor generate conflicting consequences that may trample on human rights in violation of international agreements on cultural and social, political, economic and civil rights.
c) It is the responsibility of scientist to carefully access influence or effects of his or her research activities and publicize them.
d) There should be discontinuation of any on-going conflicting research activities with the code and ethics and make know to the public the reason for such decision."

Ethics in Law Research
It is understood that research ethics do not serve the same as law; rather it is a norm or set of standard for conducting researches without contravening the laid principles of academic exercise. Conducting research in law is considered to operate within what is obtainable in social sciences and humanities based on APA ethics and codes. Ethics of law profession pertains to legal or judicial conduct governing the behavior of law practice and not law research. The questions of integrity, confidentiality, competence etc are also applicable to law research.

Five Major APA Ethics and Codes
The uniqueness about APA ethical codes is the inclusion of salient ethics and codes in research which made it globally accepted as a standard in research conducts. Lincoln & Guba, (1989) cited in Bell & Bryman, (2007) emphasized that the difficulty posed by the voluminous ethics of research has become a nightmare to researchers. Their emphasis was on the clarification of the "extent ethical code would assist researchers in overcoming research conduct difficulties. And APA code is considered as too detailed but could not comprehend other subsisting issues that are general to "ethical research practice" (Lincoln & Guba, 1989). This section, gave a synopsis of APA Ethical Code regarding general issues guiding conduct of research.

Aside the general five APA principles; fidelity, non-maleficence and beneficence, respect for dignity and rights of people, integrity and justice, APA maintains ten standards or sections which are found within the framework of competence, therapy, education and publication, assessment, human relations, revolving ethical issues, advertising and other public statements, record keeping and fees, and research obligations. Each section includes

subsections that spell out different situations for applications of the standard as briefly reviewed in the underneath this paragraph;

Table 1. APA Principles, Ethics and Codes

Section	Issue Discussed	Point made (Brief)
▪ **Principle A:**	Beneficence & No maleficence	Strive towards safety and benefit of people; co-researchers and subjects.
▪ **Principle B**	Fidelity & Responsibility	Researchers to uphold the profession by instilling trust and accept appropriate behavior.
▪ **Principle C**	Integrity	Researchers should strive towards promoting honesty, integrity and avoid fraud.
▪ **Principle D**	Justice	Be fair, just and teat subjects equally.
▪ **Principle E**	Respect for peoples' right and Dignity	Recognize the worth of all people and their right to privacy.

Source: Five Principles of APA Ethics

General Principles of APA, Ethics and Codes

In this section, though inexhaustible, few research principles are discussed. Principles for Research Ethics pertain to principles which provide guidelines to protect study participants in studies from not being harmed, physically, psychologically, emotionally, legally, socially, or financially due to their participation in a study and to ensure a high ethical standard. Recommendation of APA's Science Directorate is to guide researchers against array of ethical quandaries such as;

Honest Discussion of Intellectual Property: to honestly report procedures, data, methodology and status of publication, Psychologists should not manipulate, misrepresent or fabricate the procedures and results of research. The academic slogan of "publish-or-perish" intentions must not becloud the credibility of publishing genuine works. It is believed that before a research work is published, psychologists must ensure it has met stipulated ethical criteria.

Multiples Roles Consciousness: it is stipulated in the APA Ethics Code that Psychologists are to avoid engaging in multiples relationships likely to impair the performance of their profession, harm or exploit others. However, multiples relationships that do not adversely affect others are not considered harmful such as teaching, mentorship, lab supervision of students. In these regard, Psychologists are expected to be cautious about multiples

relationships**.**

Competence: in the field of learning, there is constant improvement. It is important that professional expertise and competence should be improved by Psychologists through learning and lifelong education.

Duplication of Publication Data: previously published original data need not be published by Psychologists but this excludes data republication when it is acknowledged properly.

Objectivity: Psychologists should strive to avoid data analysis, experimental design, interpretation, personal decisions, grant writing, expert testimony, peer review, and other aspects of research bias.

Fellow Informed-Consent Rules: the essence of this is to ensure the voluntary consent of participating researcher on the purpose and research duration, their rights to remain or give up on activities, participation incentives, confidentiality limits etc.

Respect Confidentiality and Privacy: one of the tenets of research work is to privately and confidentially uphold the works of people by the Psychologists. It is the duty of researchers to inquire into the willingness of subjects to discuss sensitive issues or not without trampling on peoples' privacy. It means that, for example, it is inappropriate to obtain contact information of members of a support group to solicit their participation in research.

Skills of the Researcher: It is essential that Psychologist must be careful and possess the skills and competence in writing quality papers. The involvement of human, cultural, societal and environmental values make it pertinent for ethical issues in research to be considered in the conduct of research irrespective of the discipline.

Institutional Approval: when conducting institutional research, approval of the proposal by the institution is required prior to carrying out the main research. The research must follow approved protocol set by the institution.

Deception in Research: Psychologists should avoid deception in research. It is only permissible where use of such techniques is justifiable based on the study's significant perspective, educational, applied value, scientific or where procedures of non-deceptive are not practicable. It is not feasible to deceive participants or subjects if results of the research are capable of causing emotional distress or physical pain. Any likely feasible deception must be explained from the on-set of the research or conclusion of data collection and allow data withdrawal by participants.

Maintain Test Security: In adherence to ethics of research ethics code, Psychologists strive towards maintaining material security, integrity and assessment techniques.

Reporting Research Results: it is un-ethical for Psychologists to fabricate of falsify results of their study. Significant errors found after data publication should be reasonably resolved

through appropriate publication means, erratum, and error in a correction or retraction.

Further steps that should be taken by Researchers include: When there is conflict between ethics and law, Psychologists should clear the conflict between general principles and ethical standards of the code.

Misuse of Psychologists' work: Researchers should avoid misrepresentation of work.

Informal Resolution of Ethical Violations: Ethical violations between Psychologists must be made known to affected parties and confidentiality rights resolved.

Conflict between Ethics and Law, Regulations or other Governing Legal Authorities: When there is conflict between ethics and law, Psychologists should clear the conflict between general principles and ethical standards of the code.

Reporting Ethical Violations: Apparent unresolved ethical violation resulting to harm should be reported to nation committee on professional ethical violation but not when authorized to review other's work.

Cooperating with Ethics Committees; Psychologists should corporate with ethics committee during investigations as stipulated by APA or affiliated bodies. Non-corporation constitutes ethical violation.

Improper Complaints: Complaints by Psychologists must be based on facts and not with ignorance or disregard to set rules.

Unfair Discrimination against Complaints and Respondents: Programmes or academic admissions, advancement, employment, promotions, tenure etc., are not denied to people by Psychologists based on reports to ethics committee, but does not preclude indictment upon committee's report.

Boundaries of Competence: Boundary competence emphasized the;
    a) Services, teachings and research conducted by Psychologists should be within their areas of competence.
    b) Within the considerations of gender, identity, race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, economic status etc are necessary for the training of Psychologists.
    c) Psychologist must be qualified by training, education etc. to be competent to be consulted, and qualified for proper implementation.
    d) Psychologists services as established by APA ethics. Psychologists can stand in for others that have not relevant trainings and competence when hired or requested. This is to avoid denial of services to be rendered to clients by haired colleagues.
    e) Psychologists should protect colleagues hired to render services in emerging area where general trainings and knowledge is not common as to maintain competence.
    f) In the event of forensic studies, Psychologists should be conversant with the laws

governing their role in such studies.

Providing Services in Emergency; Services provision under emergency to individuals with health & mental disability by Psychologists for which not training is obtained requires protection by colleagues to denial of such services. But services are discontinued after at the end of the emergency.

Maintaining Competence; Continuous efforts should be made by Psychologists to maintain and develop competence in their disciplines.

Bases for Scientific and Professional Judgements; Works of Psychologists should be based on scientifically proven professional knowledge of the discipline.

Delegation of Work to Others; Psychologists must not delegate work assistants or subordinates;
   a) with multiple relationship with clients
   b) who are competent and have acquired knowledge through training, education, experience and
   c) Can competently work with less supervision.

Personal Problems and Conflicts: Should conflict arise;

   a) Psychologists should refrain performing activities that will be affected by existing problems.
   b) Adequate measures or consultations should be sort in the event of personal problems that may interfere with Psychologists' activities.

Unfair Discrimination; In performing activities, Psychologists should avoid discriminations such as culture, race, age, ethnicity, gender, religion, socio-economic status origin, sexual orientation, nationality, disability etc.

Sexual Harassment; Pervasive acts such as sexual harassment either verbal or non-verbal conduct should be avoided when carrying out activities. Psychologists are under obligation not to indulge in interactions that endanger the sanctity of participants, persons or subjects; age, identity, religion, origin, sex etc to sexual acts.

Avoiding Harm: it is within the context of research ethics that Psychologists are to take appropriate steps to avoid harm such as;
   a) Steps are taken by Psychologists to avoid harming clients, organizational clients, patients, supervisors, students, research participants, and foreseeable harm should be minimized.
   b) Avoid assisting or engaging in torture, cruel degrading or dehumanizing acts that could inflict intentional mental or physical pains on participants.

Multiples Relationship; Involving in another role with same person, same time with another

person closely related in professional relationship and your client. Such multiples relationship is considered exploitative or harmful.

Conflict of Interest; Psychologists should avoid engaging on activities or relationships capable of impairing effective performance, objectivity, and competence or intentionally expose client or participants to exploitation and harm.

Third-Party Request for Services; Roles of the Psychologists when requested by a third party to provide services such as consultancy, therapy, diagnosis etc. to agencies, individuals or organizations should be clarified from on set as to identify the limits of the involvement.

Exploitative Relationship; There should be no form of exploitation of clients or participants by Psychologists.

Cooperation with other Professional; There should be cooperation with Psychologists and other colleagues as to effectively serve research participants, students, patients, clients and employees etc.

Informed Consent- this stipulated that;

a) Consent should be obtained of individuals or participants of any research with communicable language that is understood.
b) Where communication is difficult, legal authorization should be obtained from appropriate authority.
c) Where permission is not assessed, Psychologists should take reasonable actions or step to protect participant's right.
d) Where court authorization is obtained, the individual participant should be informed on the nature of research or services to know the level of confidentiality.
e) In furtherance, written document to should consent approval of individual should be obtained by Psychologists.

Interruption of Psychologists Service; Unless covered by agreement, effort should be made by Psychologists to deliver services on time in the event of interruption such as death, relocation, illness, lack of finance or retirement.

Maintaining Confidentiality; Information obtained by Psychologists through any medium while services should be kept confidential bearing in mind that confidential information encountered during service delivery is under regulation and protection by law.

Recording; Permission should be obtained from persons or their legal cronies before recording voices or images of such individuals.

Minimizing Intrusions on Privacy; the APA ethics and codes specified that;

a) Genuine documented/written and oral reports of communication regarding activities are made by Psychologists and,
b) Clearly discuss what transpired only for relevant professional and scientific reasons.

Disclosures;
under disclosures;
a) Information considered confidential can only be disclosed with the consent of client/individual, organization or their legal authorizations.
b) Confidential information without authorization is possible where such is stipulated by law.

Consultations: Information that can lead to identification of partners, clients, patients, research subjects, organizations with whom the Psychologist has relationship. Only information that can assist in achieving the work purpose of consultation are allowed for disclosure.

Use of Confidential information for other Purposes; Identifiable information or identities concerning clients, students, patients, research subject etc., are not disclosed by Psychologists in their writings.

Avoidance of False or Deceptive Statements: it is stipulated that;

a) Psychologists do not intentionally make act fraudulently or make deceptive statements concerning their research practice or concerning persons, activities, organizations or their affiliates.
b) It is wrong for Psychologists to falsify their credentials, competence or experiences, degrees, scientific, clinical results and fees, research findings and institutional affiliations.
c) Can only claim credentials of health services where such is earned from reputable and accredited educations institutions and where the basis for psychological licensure by the state in which they practice.

Statement by Others: the regulation is that;
a) It is unethical for Psychologist to engage others for the purpose of promoting the practice of their profession, products or services to retain professional responsibility.
b) Employees are not compensated for communication or media publicity items.
c) Paid advertorials relating to activities of Psychologist must be stated clearly.

Plagiarism: presentation of portions of another person's data or work by Psychologist is unethical. Other proms of intellectual property such as copyrights and patents should be honored. Unpublished data should not be used without permission or credit to the original owner.

Publication Credit: According to Whitesides, (2004), "any research that does not generate

papers is as well as not been conducted, interesting and unpublished is equivalent to non-existent". In publication, institutional position does not constitute authorship while minor contributions are appropriately acknowledged. However, under exceptional circumstances such as multiple-authored works, student is included as principal author. But, credit and responsibility is taken by Psychologists for works they really performed or contributed substantially.

Salient Steps in Conducting Research

1. **Practical Security Measures:** with limited access, recorded reports that are confidential are to be secured and stored. They could be striped for information identification where necessary. The awareness of adverse effect of breach of confidence is to properly understand especially discussions in unsound proofed rooms.
2. **Discussing the Limits of Confidentiality:** Psychologist should ascertain from clients/participants who are incapacitated on providing information or through their legal representatives the confidentiality limits and foreseeable, utilization of information they may provide, especially information through electronic transmission.

Tap into ethics Resources: knowledge of existing ethics is important in research. Psychologists are bound to be conscious of ethics of their profession and remain abided by them.

Know the Federal and State Laws: sufficient knowledge of laws of the land (Federal and State) as it applies to research is essential. For instance, in law and medical sciences, reporting of abuse and neglect are required to be reported by researchers such as Journalists etc. In this regard, consultation or advice should be received by Psychologist from the legal departments of their institutions. It becomes important for researchers to adequately plan for such situations should they arise.

Knowledge of Internet Limitations: with the evolving web technology, experience of internet usage is important to enable researcher understand the limits of data sharing. This is necessary since electronic information is sometimes released fully. Because most data or information is not properly protected, it is left for Psychologists to consider boundaries of information to be shared or adopted for research use.

Consider sharing of data from the research on-set: under consent process, researchers wishing to share data should specify modalities of sharing and whether anonymity will be involved. For instance, sensitive data from people with mental disability could be difficult to share because researchers may have failed to request for permission from subjects or participants. And cloaking identity is entirely impossible where data was generated through video recording.

Amended APA Principles, Ethics and Codes of Conduct 2010

The American Psychological Association's Ethics Committee's report, 2009 released between July and August, 2010 in APA's publication of Volume 65(5) was an amendment to APA 2002 ethics and codes. In the publication, changes were made concerning "Revolving Ethical Issues" section 1, sub-sections 1.02 and 1.03 which bordered on;

1) "Introduction and Applicability
2) Conflicts Between Law and Ethics
3) Regulations, or other Governing Legal Authorities
4) Conflicts between Organizational Demands and Ethics".

It is suggested in the 2010 amendment for the harmonization of issues surrounding resolution of possible conflicts likely to arise during research activities conducted by psychologist.

Conclusion

Ethical principles addressed by various codes highlighted the objectivity, honesty, carefulness, integrity, respect for intellectual property, openness, confidentiality, mentoring, legality, respect for publication, social responsibility, respect for colleagues, competence, protection of human subjects and animal care. Disobedience to stipulated ethics and codes is termed misconduct, indiscipline or deviation from normalcy in system. The issue about the ethical concern whether or not vulnerable groups or people should be made "research subjects" was pointed is perceived essential considering their deficiencies and deformities. The point of argument was based on contravention to the laid down ethics and codes in research. Amendment of 2002 APA ethics and codes in 2010 was a boost to misguided perceptions about conflicts Between Ethics and Law, regulations, or other governing legal authorities and conflicts between Ethics and Organizational Demands".

Recommendations

The paper makes the following recommendations not limited to;

(a) There should be laid down sanctions for failure to adhere to professional and ethical conducts.

(b) Institutions should make available, plagiarism testing software to all academic staff. This will enable them test their works themselves before publications.

(c) Hand books containing comprehensive ethical codes and conducts should be provided for both academic staff and students and the departmental level and professional offices and secretariats to give firsthand information on rules and principles in every profession.

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