



HIMACHAL PRADESH NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY SHIMLA

*Ph.D. Course Work Examinations***Subject: Publication and Research Ethics**

Ph.D. Course Work

15th September, 2021

**Time: 2hrs and 30minutes (Writing Examination- 10:00 am -12:00 pm; Scanning & Uploading Answer-sheets-
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm)**

Maximum Marks: 50*Instructions:*

The Question Paper has two Sections. Attempt any two questions from Section-A. Each question in Section-A carries five marks. Attempt any two questions from Section-B. Each question in Section-B carries twenty marks.

SECTION-A (Short-Answer Type)**(4x5=20 Marks)**

- Q. 1 A.** For preventing plagiarism, various software tools like Urkund, Turnitin etc. have been developed. However, many a times, researchers use paraphrasing tools and other methods to hide plagiarism. In this backdrop, suggest how these tools can be better used to prevent plagiarism? Also suggest how to interpret the reports of these software?
- B.** “The immense pressure to publish papers in journals for academic and professional benefits have led to the increasing scope for predatory journals. Academic community is now facing a threat of unethical publications in these predatory journals”. In this backdrop, suggest how academicians can saved themselves from predatory journals?
- C.** Mr. Z wrote a paper which was published in a reputed journal. Thereafter, he published another paper in a different journal which majorly contained the same content with some changes here and there. Whether the act of Mr. Z is within permissible norms? If not, explain why?
- D.** Open access publishing has become popular and it has its own advantages of making publications easily accessible to all. However, with the increasing number of open access journals, it becomes difficult for researchers to identify which of these journals are worth publishing keeping in view publication standards and review process. In this backdrop, suggest ways and means to identify the journals suitable for publication.
- E.** Various qualitative tools have been developed to assess the quality and impact of research papers. However, questions have been raised about the efficacy of each of these tools. Analyse the efficacy of various research metrics in assessing the quality of research papers and research journals.

SECTION-B (Long-Answer/Descriptive/Analytical Type) (2x15= 30Marks)

- Q.2** “In the context of social interactions humans classify things and behaviors in two basic categories i.e. right and wrong or good and bad. This leads to humans making moral judgments in almost every sphere of life be it research, publications or other aspects of human interaction with the society. Various thinkers have studied morality in order to understand its implications for social behavior. Study of moral philosophy and morality brings to surface various questions pertaining to evolution of morality and morality in the context of social interactions. Moral dilemmas have become a standard methodology for research on moral judgment”. Analyse the statement in the context of research and publications.
- Q.3** “One of the fundamental duties of a researcher is to ensure that the research is responsibly conducted and research is aimed at seeking answers to specific questions rather than just collecting and compiling data. According to Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), good research should be well adjusted, well-planned, appropriately designed, and ethically approved. It is claimed that conducting low research may constitute misconduct”. In this backdrop analyse the parameters, modes and methods to ensure that the research is ethically approved.
- Q.4** Ms. X was conducting research on the use of IT in handwriting analysis and handwriting forensics. She was working on using computer tools in identifying, comparing and giving results of handwriting samples written in local language. During her research she came across a research work which was conducted in the same field but the study was with reference to some other language. Without acknowledging the contribution of the researcher, she used the ideas and tools used in that work and completed her research. She also published the data tables fabricating the data tables of the other researcher. Analyse the fact situation and the conduct of the researcher Ms. X. Also discuss what actions can be contemplated against Ms. X?