# RESEARCH
# POLICY

| | MALLA REDDY (MR) |
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| | **Deemed to be University** |
| | Recognized Under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 |
| | Approved by AICTE, New Delhi, Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade (Cycle- III) |

# RESEARCH POLICY

## 1.0 PREAMBLE

Malla Reddy (MR) Deemed to be University (MRDU) is committed to fostering a robust and vibrant research ecosystem that promotes academic excellence, innovation, ethical scholarship, and societal impact. As a multidisciplinary university, MRDU aims to serve as a hub of knowledge creation, technological advancement, and community transformation.

This Research Policy establishes a comprehensive framework governing research planning, governance, conduct, monitoring, funding, collaboration, and commercialization. It aligns with the UGC Regulations, NEP 2020, NIRF parameters, NAAC Criteria, National Research Foundation (NRF)/ANRF expectations, and international benchmarks such as QS.

## 2.0 POLICY STATEMENT

MRDU affirms its commitment to fostering a systematic, ethical, and outcome-oriented research ecosystem in accordance with the regulatory requirements of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Ministry of Education (MoE), and other statutory bodies. The University shall promote high-quality research, innovation, and scholarly activities across all disciplines through appropriate governance structures, adequate infrastructure, financial support, and capacity-building initiatives.

All research activities undertaken at MRDU shall adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, professional conduct, and ethical compliance, and shall operate within the framework of applicable national and international guidelines. The University shall ensure transparency, accountability, and responsible utilisation of research resources, and shall facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration, protection of intellectual property, generation of funded projects, and dissemination of research outcomes for societal and national benefit.

This policy shall serve as a guiding instrument for regulating research practices, strengthening institutional capabilities, and ensuring continuous improvement in research quality and impact.

## 3.0 SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy applies to:

- All faculty members (permanent/contract/adjunct/visiting)
- Ph.D. scholars and Postdoctoral Fellows
- UG/PG students engaged in research activities

- Research scientists and project staff
- Collaborators, consultants, and external partners involved in MRDU-approved research
- All Schools, Departments, Centers, and Research Units of MRDU

## 4.0. NEED / PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The Research Policy of MRDU establishes a structured, transparent, and enabling ecosystem that promotes high-quality, ethical, socially relevant, and multidisciplinary research. It aims to strengthen institutional research capacity, enhance innovation and technology development, promote collaborations and funded projects, and ensure compliance with statutory requirements such as UGC Regulations, NEP 2020, NIRF, NAAC, and national research ethics standards.

## 5.0 OBJECTIVES

Research is central to the mission of MRDU. At MRDU, research is not a peripheral activity it is the core engine that propels academic excellence, innovation, and societal transformation. Guided by global standards such as the QS World University Rankings, and national frameworks including NIRF, NAAC, and NBA, MRDU envisions a research ecosystem that is dynamic, inclusive, and impact-oriented.

The MRDU research objectives are to –

1. Strengthen a vibrant research culture across the University by promoting interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research integrated into all academic programs.
2. Embed inquiry-based, experiential, and participatory learning from undergraduate to doctoral levels through projects, innovation challenges, hackathons, internships, and research fellowships.
3. Provide state-of-the-art research infrastructure, digital resources, and collaborative hubs through the Directorate of Research & Innovation (DRI), Centres of Excellence (CoEs), IIC, and other institutional mechanisms.
4. Build the research capacity of faculty, scholars, and students through training programs, workshops, mentorship, and structured guidance in research design, proposal writing, data analysis, and publication ethics.
5. Promote externally funded research projects by facilitating proposal development and enabling participation in national and international funding schemes (UGC, DST, DBT, AICTE, DRDO, ICSSR, MSME and industries, etc.).
6. Ensure ethical, responsible, and transparent research practices through standardized ethics approvals, data management protocols, plagiarism checks, and compliance with national regulations.

7. Strengthen research governance and accountability by establishing committees, review systems, and monitoring frameworks that ensure quality, integrity, and timely reporting across the research lifecycle.

8. Support innovation, patenting, technology transfer, consultancy, and commercialization through dedicated IPR support, incubation facilities, and start-up development programs.

9. Facilitate high-quality research output including publications in UGC-CARE/Scopus/Web of Science journals, patents, prototypes, textbooks, and policy contributions.

10. Align the University's research agenda with national priorities and global frameworks such as NEP 2020, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Digital India, National Missions, deep-tech developments, and societal needs.

11. Enhance MRDU's national and global visibility by promoting international collaborations, joint publications with reputed institutions, global conferences, and academic indexing.

12. Ensure transparency and accessibility of research processes with clear guidelines for ethics, grievance redressal, audit trails, fund management, and performance tracking.

13. Contribute to societal development and industry advancement through problem-solving research, consultancy, community-oriented studies, and innovation-led outreach.

## 5.1. Alignment of MRDU Research Policy Objectives with NEP 2020 and SDGs

This section maps the core objectives of MRDU's Research Policy with the corresponding priorities outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The purpose of this alignment is to ensure that MRDU's research ecosystem is fully integrated with national higher-education reforms, global development frameworks, and sustainable knowledge creation practices.
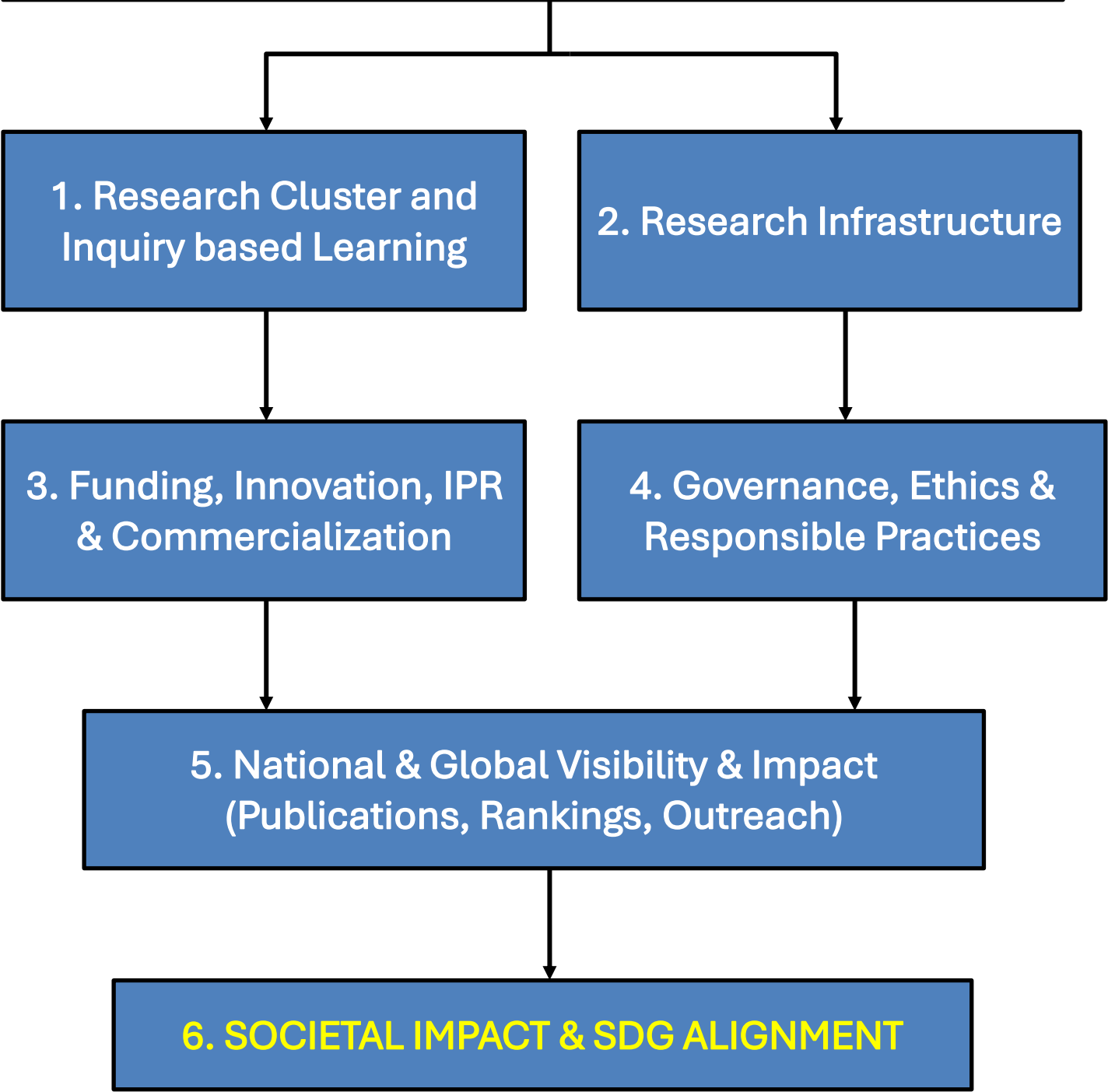
| MRDU Research Theme | NEP 2020 Alignment | SDG Linkage |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Interdisciplinary Research Culture** | Multidisciplinary and holistic research-oriented higher education | SDG 4: Quality Education |
| **2. Inquiry-Based & Experiential Learning** | Experiential, discovery-based learning and research integration | SDG 4: Quality Education |
| **3. Research Infrastructure & CoEs** | Strengthening research ecosystems and facilities in HEIs | SDG 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure |

| 4. Research Capacity Building | Faculty and student development, research training, skill enhancement | SDG 4: Quality Education |
|---|---|---|
| 5. Externally Funded Research Projects | Promotion of national missions, research participation, collaborations | SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 6. Ethical & Responsible Research | Academic integrity, research ethics, transparent processes | SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions |
| 7. Research Governance & Accountability | Quality assurance, institutional governance, monitoring frameworks | SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions |
| 8. Innovation, IPR & Entrepreneurship | Innovation ecosystem, incubation, start-ups, technology development | SDG 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure; SDG 8 (Conditional) |
| 9. High-Quality Research Outputs | Emphasis on research productivity and knowledge creation | SDG 4: Quality Education |
| 10. Alignment to National & Global Priorities | National development focus, societal relevance, sustainability | SDG depends on research theme (e.g., SDG 3/6/7/11/13) |
| 11. Internationalization & Global Visibility | International collaborations, global partnerships, exchanges | SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals |
| 12. Transparency in Research Processes | Governance, ethics, grievance redressal, audit mechanisms | SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions |
| 13. Societal & Industry-Oriented Research | Community engagement, industry relevance, problem-solving research | SDG aligned to research focus (e.g., SDG 3/7/11/13) |

## 5.2 Integrated Research Policy Alignment Model

This model illustrates how MRDU's research ecosystem aligns its core policy components : governance, ethics, infrastructure, funding, capacity building, innovation, and societal impact—into a unified strategic framework. It visually maps the interconnections between research objectives, regulatory requirements, and implementation mechanisms. The model serves as a guide for ensuring coherence, accountability, and continuous improvement across all research activities at MRDU.

## NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION PRIORITIES
## NEP 2020 | NHEQF | NCrF | SDGs | Atmanirbhar Bharat

**1. Research Cluster and Inquiry based Learning**

**2. Research Infrastructure**

**3. Funding, Innovation, IPR & Commercialization**

**4. Governance, Ethics & Responsible Practices**

**5. National & Global Visibility & Impact (Publications, Rankings, Outreach)**

**6. SOCIETAL IMPACT & SDG ALIGNMENT**

# 6.0 POLICY PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

The following policy principles outline the standards, expectations, and institutional norms that govern all research activities undertaken at MRDU. These principles ensure that research across all disciplines is conducted ethically, responsibly, transparently, and in alignment with national regulations, global standards, and MRDU's commitment to excellence in research and innovation. The University strives to foster a high-quality research culture built on integrity, interdisciplinary collaboration, societal relevance, and global competitiveness.

## PART A: CORE RESEARCH PRINCIPLES

### 6.1 Ethics in Research

All research must adhere to accepted standards of professional conduct and ethical responsibility. Researchers must comply with UGC Regulations on the Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism (2020), and any relevant national guidelines governing engineering, scientific, social science, or humanities research. Plagiarism checks are mandatory before submission or publication of any research output. Ethical clearance from the respective Institutional Ethics Committees must be obtained wherever human or sensitive data is involved. Researchers must ensure accurate data reporting, avoid misconduct, and uphold the dignity and safety of all participants involved in research.

### 6.2 Quality of Research and Publications

MRDU promotes publication in high-quality peer-reviewed journals indexed in Scopus, Web of Science, SCI/ESCI, and UGC-CARE. Publishing in predatory or illegitimate journals is strictly prohibited. All publications must clearly carry the official MRDU affiliation and, where applicable, acknowledge the funding agency or institutional seed grant. Researchers are encouraged to pursue impactful, innovative, and interdisciplinary research contributing to national development and global knowledge creation.

### 6.3 Faculty Support, Promotions, and Incentives

MRDU supports faculty involvement in high-impact research through seed grants, publication incentives, patent filing support, travel assistance for conferences, and recognition awards. Research productivity, innovation outcomes, and funded projects will be integral components of faculty appraisal, promotions, and career advancement. The University aims to motivate faculty towards sustained academic contributions through structured and transparent incentive mechanisms.

### 6.4 Student Research Support

The University promotes active student participation in research and innovation through project-based learning, internships, startup incubation, competitions, and research assistantship opportunities. Research training, manuscript preparation, intellectual property awareness, and ethics

orientation are provided to undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral students to help them develop strong research competencies.

## 6.5 Training, Supervision, and Role of Research Guides

Doctoral supervisors are expected to provide academic mentorship, ensure ethical conduct, guide students in literature review, methodology, experimentation, analysis, writing, and dissemination of work. Supervisors must ensure timely progress reporting, regular interaction, and adherence to MRDU's Ph.D. regulations. Co-guides may be appointed where interdisciplinary expertise is beneficial. Supervisory responsibilities must be executed with professionalism, integrity, and accountability.

## 6.6 Doctoral Research

Doctoral research at MRDU shall follow UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for the Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022. Coursework, mandatory publications, progress assessments, plagiarism checks, and pre-synopsis reviews will form key components of the doctoral process. The University ensures a rigorous evaluation system through internal doctoral committees, research review processes, and adherence to academic integrity requirements.

## 6.7 Collaborative, Interdisciplinary, and Inter-Institutional Research

MRDU encourages collaborative research among departments, research centres, industries, national laboratories, R&D institutions, and international universities. All collaborations shall comply with MRDU's guidelines on MoUs, data sharing, intellectual property, ethical conduct, and reporting. Interdisciplinary faculty teams are encouraged to pursue joint proposals, publications, consultancy, and innovation projects that address complex scientific and societal challenges.

## 6.8 Research Funds and Extramural Funding

All research proposals must be routed through the Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) for administrative vetting and then forwarded to the Research and Development Cell (RDC) and finally to the Committee for Advanced Studies and Research (CASR) for approval. Fund utilization must strictly follow the guidelines of the sponsoring agency. Submission of annual progress reports, utilization certificates, and final project completion reports is mandatory.

## 6.9 Fund Management

All internal and external research funds shall be administered through transparent financial mechanisms adhering to MRDU financial rules and statutory audit norms. Misuse of funds, deviation from sanctioned heads, or delayed reporting is considered a violation of research policy. The Principal Investigator is responsible for ensuring compliance with financial and procedural requirements.

## 6.10 Conflict of Interest

Researchers must disclose any potential conflict of interest related to financial, professional, or personal relationships that may influence the integrity of research activities. The University will evaluate such disclosures and prescribe appropriate corrective measures to ensure transparency, impartiality, and responsible decision-making in all research matters.

## 6.11 General Guidelines for Publishing Research Outputs

All publications must use the correct MRDU affiliation format. Papers must undergo plagiarism and ethical checks prior to submission. No research output involving falsified, fabricated, or manipulated data shall be tolerated. Researchers must follow publisher and copyright norms and avoid any unethical authorship practices, including gift authorship or exclusion of contributors.

## 6.12 Research Misconduct

MRDU adopts a zero-tolerance policy toward research misconduct which includes plagiarism, data fabrication, falsification, authorship violations, suppression or distortion of results, misuse of research funds, or breach of ethical protocols. Reported cases of misconduct will be investigated by the Research Integrity Committee, and strong disciplinary actions including withdrawal of privileges, annulment of registration, and reporting to statutory agencies will be enforced.

# PART B: ADVANCED RESEARCH GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

## 6.13 Research Data Management and Governance

Researchers must ensure secure collection, accurate documentation, ethical storage, and responsible sharing of research data. Sensitive or confidential data must comply with Government of India data protection standards. All externally funded projects must include Data Management Plans.

## 6.14 Intellectual Property Management and Technology Transfer

All innovations must be disclosed to the IPR Cell. Patent filing must precede public disclosure. Ownership and commercialization shall comply with MRDU's IPR Policy. Technology transfer, licensing, and revenue sharing will follow institutional guidelines.

## 6.15 Open Science and Knowledge Accessibility

MRDU promotes transparent and accessible research through legitimate open-access platforms and institutional repositories. Researchers must ensure compliance with copyright and ethical publishing norms.

### 6.16 Utilization of Research Infrastructure

Advanced laboratories and instrumentation centres must be used responsibly. Access will be granted on a fair and transparent basis. Researchers must maintain logs, follow safety norms, and ensure proper upkeep of facilities.

### 6.17 Researcher Profile and Global Visibility

Faculty and scholars must maintain up-to-date profiles on ORCID, Scopus, Google Scholar, and similar platforms. Accurate MRDU affiliation is mandatory in all academic outputs. This enhances ranking, reputation, and global visibility.

### 6.18 Alignment with National Missions and Research Priorities

MRDU encourages research aligned with National Missions including Digital India, Semiconductor Mission, National Supercomputing Mission, Clean Energy initiatives, cybersecurity programmes, and AI research. Projects contributing to national growth receive priority support.

### 6.19 Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence

AI tools may assist academic writing but cannot generate fabricated content, manipulated data, or improper results. AI usage must be disclosed where required by journals or conferences. Misuse of AI constitutes research misconduct.

### 6.20 Laboratory Safety and Compliance

Research activities must follow MRDU laboratory safety protocols and national standards related to chemical, electrical, mechanical, or computational safety. Mandatory training is required for all researchers accessing specialized laboratories.

### 6.21 Postdoctoral Research and Advanced Fellowships

MRDU may introduce Postdoctoral Fellowships to strengthen its research ecosystem. Postdoctoral researchers will participate in departmental activities, publish in reputed journals, and support ongoing research projects.

### 6.22 Societal and Sustainable Development Research

The University encourages research contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Projects addressing renewable energy, sustainability, environmental protection, rural development, and technological solutions for societal benefit will receive institutional encouragement.

### 6.23 Institutional Commitment to Research Excellence

MRDU reinforces its commitment to fostering an ethical, collaborative, innovative, and high-impact research ecosystem. The policy principles outlined above ensure that research remains aligned with MRDU's Institutional Development Plan, strategic goals, and the pillar of Excellence in Research and Innovation.

## 7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The research governance model at Malla Reddy (MR) Deemed to be University is structured to ensure coordinated functioning, accountability, and continuous development of the research ecosystem. Each institutional body plays a distinct, well-defined role in advancing research productivity, quality, integrity, and global competitiveness.

### 7.1 Committee for Advanced Studies and Research (CASR)

**Role:** Apex statutory body for research governance, academic oversight, and policy decisions.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Formulates, reviews, and approves all research-related policies, regulations, and guidelines in alignment with NEP 2020 and MRDU IDP.
- Approves Ph.D. admissions, doctoral committees, research proposals, synopsis approvals, thesis evaluations, and award of degrees.
- Reviews and sanctions major research projects, centres of excellence, inter-institutional collaborations, and high-value initiatives.
- Ensures compliance with UGC, AICTE, and national regulatory frameworks pertaining to research.
- Provides strategic direction for research priorities, domains, and emerging areas relevant to national and global challenges.

### 7.2 Research and Development Cell (RDC)

**Role:** Central coordinating unit responsible for research planning, monitoring, and quality assurance.
**Key Responsibilities:**

- Implements research policies approved by CASR and monitors compliance across schools.
- Coordinates faculty research proposals, institutional seed grants, and internal evaluation processes.
- Maintains the University Research Information System (URIS), capturing publications, patents, innovations, and project details.
- Prepares annual and quarterly research performance reports, benchmarking MRDU against national/international standards.

- Organizes research conclaves, review meetings, innovation expos, and capacity-building activities.
- Supports accreditation, NIRF, NAAC, NBA, and ranking requirements relating to research indicators.

## 7.3 Office of Research & Innovation (ORI)

**Role:** Operational engine for research facilitation, funding, partnerships, and innovation support.
**Key Responsibilities:**

- Assists faculty in drafting, reviewing, and submitting extramural funding proposals to DST, DBT, SERB, AICTE, DRDO, MeitY, and international agencies.
- Manages project life cycles including approvals, fund management support, progress reporting, audits, and closure documentation.
- Facilitates collaborations, MoUs, consultancy contracts, and industry-academia research programs.
- Maintains a central repository of funded projects, innovation outputs, prototype development, and technology transfer activities.
- Supports incubation, start-ups, IP filing, commercialization, and entrepreneurship initiatives.
- Conducts workshops on proposal writing, grant management, IPR, and innovation methodologies.

## 7.4 Institutional Ethics Committees (IEC / IAEC / Institutional Review Committees)

**Role:** Ensures ethical and responsible conduct of research involving humans, animals, data, or sensitive information.
**Key Responsibilities:**

- Reviews, evaluates, and approves research projects requiring ethical clearance, including behavioural studies, surveys, and data-intensive research.
- Ensures compliance with national ethical guidelines, data protection norms, and research integrity standards.
- Monitors approved projects and ensures adherence to approved protocols and reporting obligations.
- Maintains confidential records of approvals, deviations, and ethical compliance reports.

## 7.5 Schools and Departments

**Role:** Primary academic units responsible for developing strong research ecosystems.
**Key Responsibilities:**

- Promote discipline-specific and interdisciplinary research culture among faculty and students.

- Support faculty in identification of research problems, proposal development, prototype creation, and publication efforts.
- Maintain departmental research dashboards capturing publications, patents, projects, and outcomes.
- Ensure proper utilization and maintenance of research laboratories, equipment, and facilities.
- Motivate students to participate in research through UG/PG projects, internships, hackathons, and innovation challenges.

## 7.6 Principal Investigators (PI)

**Role:** Lead researchers responsible for project execution and compliance.
**Key Responsibilities:**

- Ensure that the project is conducted strictly according to the approved proposal, timelines, and ethical standards.
- Maintain accurate documentation, data records, and financial utilization statements.
- Submit progress reports, utilization certificates (UC), and final technical reports on time.
- Acknowledge MRDU affiliation and funding agency support in all outputs.
- Mentor project staff, research scholars, and student researchers associated with the project.

# 8. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The effective implementation of the Research Policy requires a structured, phased, and outcome-oriented framework fully aligned with MRDU's 15-Year Institutional Development Plan. The implementation strategy focuses on infrastructure, capacity building, quality assurance, collaboration, and continuous monitoring.

## 8.1 Strengthening Research Infrastructure

- Establish and upgrade advanced research laboratories, Centres of Excellence, and interdisciplinary research clusters.
- Implement shared instrumentation facilities with centralized booking and maintenance systems.
- Introduce digital research platforms for data repositories, lab management, and analytics.

## 8.2 Capacity Building and Skill Enhancement

- Conduct regular Faculty Development Programs (FDPs), workshops, and seminars on research methodology, tool usage, proposal writing, AI-based research tools, and scientific communication.
- Train faculty and scholars on IPR, ethics, grant management, data analytics, and high-end instrumentation.
- Establish a Research Skill Development Program for UG and PG students.

### 8.3 Research Information and Digital Repository

- Create a centralized digital repository of all MRDU research outputs including publications, patents, consultancy work, funded projects, and student theses.
- Integrate ORCID, Scopus ID, Google Scholar profiles, and institutional research dashboards.
- Implement plagiarism detection systems and digital research audit tools.

### 8.4 National and International Collaborations

- Strengthen institutional ties through MoUs with industries, R&D labs, universities, and global academic partners.
- Facilitate joint projects, joint supervision, faculty exchanges, internships, and collaborative publications.
- Promote participation in national missions, thematic research networks, and consortia.

### 8.5 Research Culture and Student Engagement

- Encourage participation in conferences, symposiums, hackathons, innovation challenges, and startup competitions.
- Provide research assistantships, mini-grants, and incentives for student-led research.
- Promote innovation through incubation, prototyping support, and entrepreneurial mentorship.

### 8.6 Monitoring, Audits, and Performance Metrics

- Conduct annual Research Audits by the RDC to evaluate outputs, quality indicators, and compliance.
- Implement School-level Research Scorecards linked to faculty appraisal and departmental performance.
- Track indicators aligned with NIRF, NAAC, ARIIA, NBA, and international ranking frameworks.
- Prepare annual University Research Reports summarizing achievements, progress, and areas for improvement.

## 9. POLICY REVIEW AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- The Research Policy will be reviewed every three years by CASR through consultative processes.
- Revisions will align with UGC/AICTE regulations, NEP 2020 reforms, emerging research priorities, and global best practices.
- Feedback from faculty, students, industry, and collaborators will be incorporated to ensure continuous advancement.

| Policy Title | MRDU Research Policy |
|---|---|
| **Policy Code** | MRDU/IQAC/RP/2025 |
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| **Reviewed By** | Vice Chancellor & Pro- Vice Chancellor |
| **Approved By** | Board of Management |
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| **Distribution** | All Schools / Departments / Research Centres / Administrative Units |

## Document Revision History

| Version | Revision No. | Date | Description of Change | Prepared By | Approved By |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.0 | 0 | 01 Nov 2025 | First Edition of MRDU Research Policy prepared and approved for implementation across the University. | Dean (R&D) & Dean (IQAC) | BoM & VC |