



MALLA REDDY (MR)

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)

CODE OF ETHICS IN

RESEARCH



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CODE OF ETHICS IN RESEARCH

1.0 PREAMBLE

Malla Reddy (MR) Deemed to be University (MRDU) is committed to nurturing a research ecosystem grounded in integrity, accountability, academic rigor, transparency, and social responsibility. As a technical, multidisciplinary university, MRDU promotes high-quality, ethical, and responsible research across all Schools and Departments. This Code of Ethics in Research sets forth the principles, obligations, and expectations that guide the conduct of faculty members, research supervisors, research scholars, students, staff, visiting scholars, and external collaborators. All research activities at MRDU shall strictly adhere to the UGC Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism Regulations, 2020, applicable AICTE norms, national IPR laws, and MRDU's institutional policies. The Code ensures that every researcher upholds the dignity of scholarship, respects intellectual traditions, protects the rights and interests of all stakeholders, and contributes meaningfully to societal and technological advancement.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Code is to:

- Ensure responsible, ethical, and high-quality research at MRDU
- Prevent misconduct, plagiarism, conflict of interest, and unethical practices
- Promote transparency in research design, data management, publication, and collaborations
- Protect the rights, safety, and dignity of research participants (human or otherwise)
- Strengthen MRDU's reputation as a research-driven, innovation-oriented technical university

3. SCOPE

This Code applies to:

- Faculty members
- Research supervisors / Ph.D. guides
- Research scholars
- UG and PG students undertaking research
- Project staff, consultants, and technical personnel
- Visiting researchers
- Industry collaborators
- Any person conducting research under the MRDU affiliation

4. CORE PRINCIPLES OF RESEARCH ETHICS

Research at MRDU shall be grounded in integrity, objectivity, accountability, transparency, and respect for rights and dignity. All researchers are expected to maintain honesty in data collection, analysis, and reporting, ensuring that findings are original, verifiable, and free from manipulation. Research decisions must be free from personal bias, conflicts of interest, or undue influence. Researchers must act responsibly toward colleagues, participants, society, and the University. They must also maintain transparency in methods, documentation, communication, and dissemination of results. Respect for intellectual property, privacy, safety, fairness, and academic freedom is essential, and all research must be conducted in compliance with ethical, legal, environmental, and professional standards.

5. ETHICAL RESEARCH CONDUCT

5.1 Responsible Research Planning and Execution

Researchers are expected to design and execute their projects using appropriate and validated methodologies, maintaining accurate and traceable documentation of processes, raw data, results, and analytical tools. All data should be recorded diligently, preserved securely, and remain retrievable for verification. Research involving sensitive technologies, personal or behavioral data, AI-based decision systems, biological materials, high-risk equipment, or environmental impact must receive prior approval from the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC). No project involving risk, confidentiality obligations, or human participation may begin without explicit institutional clearance. Researchers are responsible for using resources such as laboratories, equipment, and funds carefully and ethically, ensuring efficiency and adherence to safety protocols.

5.2. Plagiarism And Publication Ethics

Plagiarism in any form including copying, paraphrasing without credit, self-plagiarism, data theft, or unauthorized use of copyrighted material is strictly prohibited at MRDU. All theses, dissertations, research papers, proposals, conference submissions, and reports must undergo mandatory plagiarism screening in accordance with UGC regulations before final submission. Researchers must publish only in credible, peer-reviewed outlets indexed in UGC-CARE, Scopus, Web of Science, or equivalent databases. Publishing in predatory, fake, or non-indexed journals is not permitted. Authorship shall reflect genuine intellectual contribution, and gift, honorary, or coerced authorship is considered unethical. Every publication must clearly state MRDU affiliation and acknowledge funding agencies, grants, facilities, or institutional support that contributed to the work.

5.3. Data Ethics and Management

Researchers must maintain complete, accurate, and tamper-proof records of data generated during research. Raw data, analyzed data, lab notebooks, recordings, programs, and digital files must be stored securely for the duration prescribed by the University and funding agencies. Data should not

be fabricated, falsified, selectively omitted, or manipulated to fit predetermined outcomes. Sensitive or confidential data must be protected through secure storage systems and restricted access. Data sharing with collaborators must follow approved protocols, maintaining confidentiality and compliance with institutional and legal requirements.

5.4. Conflict of Interest (CoI)

A conflict of interest arises when personal, financial, academic, relational, or professional interests could influence or appear to influence research decisions, reporting, peer review, supervision, or procurement. All researchers must disclose potential conflicts to the University at the earliest opportunity.

Examples include research that may yield personal financial benefit, supervision of close relatives, receiving funding from sources that could compromise objectivity, or reviewing one's own or competitors' work. Failure to disclose conflicts of interest constitutes a violation of this Code.

5.5. Intellectual Property and Confidentiality

All intellectual property (IP) generated through research at MRDU shall be governed by the MRDU Intellectual Property Rights Policy. Researchers must protect confidential information obtained from collaborators, sponsors, or industry partners and must not disclose proprietary data without formal authorization. Copyrighted material, software, datasets, and digital tools must be used in compliance with licensing norms. Any invention, design, technology, software, or creative work produced during research must be reported to the Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) for evaluation and protection under relevant IP laws.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESEARCHERS

6.1 Faculty and Research Supervisors

Supervisors must:

- Provide ethical mentoring, guidance, and evaluation
- Ensure scholars are trained in research methodology and ethics
- Monitor progress regularly and ensure compliance with ethical norms
- Prevent exploitation of scholars in workload or authorship practices

6.2 Research Scholars and Students

Scholars must:

- Conduct independent, original research
- Adhere to timelines, protocols, and ethical norms
- Maintain honesty in data collection and reporting

6.3 Principal Investigators (PIs)

PIs are responsible for:

- Proposal preparation and submission
- Ethical approval
- Proper utilization and documentation of research funds
- Timely reports, UC, SE, and project closure

7. COLLABORATIVE AND SPONSORED RESEARCH ETHICS

Collaborative research must adhere to institutional policies and maintain ethical standards across all participating organizations. All collaborations must be formalized through MoUs or MoAs approved by MRDU. Researchers must ensure transparency in data sharing, authorship terms, resource usage, and fund management. Sponsored research must comply with the terms of the sponsoring agency, and researchers must maintain accurate accounts, records, and periodic reports. MRDU prohibits collaborations with organizations engaged in unethical, unsafe, or non-compliant research practices.

8. RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Research misconduct includes:

- Plagiarism
- Fabrication or falsification of data
- Manipulating research outcomes
- Misuse of research funds
- Undisclosed conflicts of interest
- Breach of confidentiality
- Violation of safety norms
- Authorship manipulation
- Failure to obtain ethical approvals

Misconduct will be reviewed by the **Research Misconduct Committee**, and penalties may include:

- Academic sanctions
- Suspension of research privileges
- Degree withdrawal
- Blacklisting
- Legal action under national laws

9. WHISTLEBLOWING AND PROTECTION

MRDU encourages individuals to report research misconduct, violations of this Code, or unethical practices without fear of retaliation. The identity of whistleblowers will be kept confidential, and the University will ensure protection against any form of discrimination or victimization.

10. COMPLIANCE AND PERIODIC REVIEW

The Committee for Advanced Studies and Research (CASR), Research and Development Cell (RDC), and the IQAC shall periodically review the implementation and effectiveness of this Code. Updates will be made to align with amendments in UGC, AICTE, national, and international guidelines. All researchers must stay updated with revisions and abide by the latest version of the MRDU Code of Research Ethics.

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DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Policy Title	MRDU Research Policy
Policy Code	MRDU/IQAC/CEIR/2025
Category	Academic & Research Policy
Version Number	1.0
Release Date	November 2025
Policy Prepared By	Dean (R&D) & Dean (IQAC)
Reviewed By	Vice Chancellor
Approved By	Board of Management
Next Review Date	November 2028 (or earlier if required)
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 issue of the Code of Research Ethics for MRDU	Dean (R&D) & Dean (IQAC)	BoM