ETHICAL ISSUES IN RESEARCH

1. **Consent**

Informed consent means that a person knowingly, voluntarily and intelligently, and in a clear and manifest way, gives his consent. In other words, is permission by respondents to the information from them.

2. **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality refers to a condition in which the researcher knows the identity of a research subject, but takes steps to protect that identity from being discovered by others. Because most human subjects research requires signed documentation of consent, subject anonymity is not as common in human subjects research.

3. **Intellectual property (IP)**

Is ideas, information and knowledge. In the University context IP can be viewed as the results and outcomes of research 'intellectual ‘because it is creative output and 'property' because it is viewed as a tradable commodity.

4. **Vulnerable groups of people**

Nowadays, there is an increased concern about vulnerable groups and whether it is ethical or not for them to be used as research subjects.

5. **Tap into ethics resources**

One of the best ways researchers can avoid and resolve ethical dilemmas is to know both what their ethical obligations are and what resources are available to them.

6. **Be conscious of multiple roles**

APA's Ethics Code says psychologists should avoid relationships that could reasonably impair their professional performance or could exploit or harm others

Definition of a variable

A variable in research simply refers to a person, place, thing, or phenomenon that you are trying to measure in some way. A variable can be assigned different: values. example Height, Intelligence, Age, Sex, Time, Income, education, Social class, achievement

Types of variable

1. **Dependent Variable**

The variable that depends on other factors that are measured. These variables are expected to change as a result of an experimental manipulation of the independent variable or variables. It is the presumed effect.

2. **Independent Variable**

The variable that is stable and unaffected by the other variables you are trying to measure. It refers to the condition of an experiment that is systematically manipulated by the investigator. It is the presumed cause.

1. **Active and attribute**

Active are manipulatable while attribute is measured variable

2. **Continuous and categorical**

A continuous variable is capable of taking any ordered set of values within a certain range. They reflect ranking order of values e.g. to the tallest, longest etc.

while categorical is also referred to as discrete variables and belong to a measurement called nominal and exist as whole numbers.