

**STUDENT ETHICAL APPROVAL FORM**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student |  |
| Student ID |  |
| Email |  |
| Dissertation tutor |  |
| Project topic / title | **AN OVERVIEW OF ETHICAL ISSUES CHALLENGE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESS IN UK** |
| Proposed timescale  (mm/yy – mm/yy) | 01/23 - 05/23 |

|  |
| --- |
| Aims The main aim of this research is to analyze the main challenges of ethical issues in the small and medium businesses of the UK. Objectives The main objectives of this research are outlined below:   * To evaluate the importance of ethical practices on small and medium businesses in the UK. * To examine the process for implementation of ethical practices on small and medium businesses in the UK. * To investigate the challenges of ethical issues in the small and medium businesses of the UK. * To suggest the method for resolving the challenges of small and medium businesses regarding ethical practices. |
| **Background**  The awareness regarding ethics is rapidly increasing among the SMEs of the UK. Now it is very important that all businesses in the UK should follow every ethical policy and principle. This research outlines the challenges which occur due to ethical issues in small and medium businesses in the UK. Due to the implementation of ethical policies, SMEs are used to face different challenges as they don’t have much knowledge about the strategies and they also have a lack of funds. This is the main reason they have to face different issues related to this. The unethical practices in many small and medium companies are the reason behind the failure of many companies for that reason now the companies cannot deny following ethical practices (Schiff *et al.,* 2020). The SMEs of many countries need to collect knowledge regarding the implementation of proper ethical practices so that they will not face any issues related to this practice. After the implantation of ethical practices, the business can take different benefits with the help of this practice however the fact the small and medium businesses of the UK don’t have exact knowledge and awareness about the benefits of this practice. As small businesses different challenges related to their business ethics, it affected their growth and profit also (Bartolacci *et al.,* 2020). In small businesses in the UK, there are different unethical practices going such as fraud, corruption, and discrimination among the employees of the business these types of practices are ruined the brand image of the business in the market. The employees feel safe while working in a company where ethical practices are implemented in a proper manner. The government of the UK is very serious about the ethical practices which should be followed and implemented by the companies of UK. Due to the unethical practices of different companies the governments as well as company have to face different of issues regarding these practices. |
| **Methodology**  The research methodology is a very important part of the research as this used to work as a tool in which methods and techniques for conducting the research are outlined. This research outlines the challenges which are faced by small and medium regarding ethical practices. This research uses the interpretivism research philosophy as the outcomes of this research will be meaningful using different theories and principles related to the research topic rather than positivism which is based on observation of the processes. With the help of the deductive research approach, the researcher will interpret the main points of the research to meet the objectives of the research which will collectively meet the aim. The narrative research design will be used in this research to explore the aim of this research the different journal papers and articles will be used. For conducting this research in proper there are different types of data collected with the secondary data collection method. There are two kinds of data collection method which are primary data collection method in which the data is collected directly from the sources and secondary data collection method where the researcher uses existing information sources. In this research, the information which is used is collected through different articles and journals paper which is the secondary data collection process. The data is collected from qualitative data which will be presented in the empirical study of this research (Nassauer and Legewie, 2019). The empirical study is the main evidence of the collected secondary qualitative data which will be used in this research. As the research will be based on qualitative secondary data for analyzing the used or implanted data thematic analysis will be performed in this research with the help of different themes. While performing this research all the ethics of the research will be followed in this research which are related to the qualitative secondary data. |
| References Bartolacci, F., Caputo, A. and Soverchia, M., 2020. Sustainability and financial performance of small and medium sized enterprises: A bibliometric and systematic literature review. Business Strategy and the Environment, 29(3), pp.1297-1309. <https://eprints.lincoln.ac.uk/id/eprint/39014/1/2019_BSE_Sustainability%20and%20performance%20of%20SMEs.pdf>  Nassauer, A. and Legewie, N.M., 2019. Analyzing 21st century video data on situational dynamics—issues and challenges in video data analysis. Social Sciences, 8(3), p.100. <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0760/8/3/100/pdf>  Schiff, D., Biddle, J., Borenstein, J. and Laas, K., 2020, February. What's next for ai ethics, policy, and governance? a global overview. In Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (pp. 153-158). <https://www.aies-conference.com/2020/wp-content/papers/030.pdf> |

**ETHICS INFORMATION**

Please fill out the following information to enable your tutor and the School Ethics Committee make a fully informed decision on your project.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Will the research project involve…** | **Yes** | **No** |
| Contact with human participants, either directly or indirectly | **✓** | **☐** |
| Consent being sought from the National Research Ethics Service | **✓** | **☐** |
| Vulnerable groups (e.g. children, those with cognitive impairments) | **☐** | **✓** |
| Involvement of gatekeepers for access to participants (e.g. Head teacher for research with school children, Care Home Manager for research with care home residents) | **✓** | **☐** |
| Colleagues or staff at your place of work as participants | **✓** | **☐** |
| Participants being studied without their knowledge or consent | **✓** | **☐** |
| Sensitive topics (e.g. alcohol or drug use, sexual behaviour) | **✓** | **☐** |
| Significant risk to either the researcher, participants or bystanders | **✓** | **☐** |
| Potential for psychological stress, anxiety or loss of social standing as a result of the research | **✓** | **☐** |
| Prolonged or repetitive testing | **✓** | **☐** |
| Members of the public in a data collection capacity | **✓** | **☐** |
| Access to existing data which requires the consent of an external body before use | **✓** | **☐** |
| Potential for participants to be identified during dissemination by compromising anonymity or confidentiality | **✓** | **☐** |
| External research partners | **☐** | **✓** |
| External funding | **☐** | **✓** |
| Payments to participants other than for reasonable expenses | **☐** | **✓** |
| Sharing of data beyond the scope of the initial consent from participants | **☐** | **✓** |
| Do you require a DBS check for your project? | **☐** | **✓** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What methodological advice have you received in the planning of your project? | Secondary qualitative data collection and narrative analysis | | |
| What procedures will be carried out on the participants? | Not applicable | | |
| What are the potential risks to participants and what have you done to reduce these risks? | Not applicable | | |
| What are the potential risks to yourself and what have you done to reduce these risks? | Not applicable | | |
| What are the potential risks to bystanders and what have you done to reduce these risks? | Not applicable | | |
| Will informed consent be received from all participants prior to their involvement?  Yes[✓] No ☐ | | | |
| If not, please explain why | | Not applicable | |
| How will you store records of consent? | | Not applicable | |
| Are there any other organisations involved in your project? If so, please list | | No | |
| Will any payments to be made to participants? | | Not applicable | |
| Are you receiving any funding sources external to the College? If so, are there any associated conditions/restrictions | | No | |
| Do you have any plans to share your findings? If so, what are they? | | No | |
|  | | | |
| **Supporting Documents**  (Please attach any supporting documentation) | | | |
| **Please attach the following documents to this form…** | | | **Tick if attached** |
| Research Proposal | | | ☐ |
| Information provided to participants | | | ☐ |
| Consent forms  (including approval from parents/guardians/gatekeepers) | | | ☐ |
| Approval letter from employer | | | ☐ |
| Participant recruitment materials  (e.g. poster, advert, email) | | | ☐ |
| Draft data collection materials  (e.g. questionnaires, surveys, interview questions, focus group topic guide) | | | ☐ |
| Supporting evidence from other institutional ethics committees | | | ☐ |
| Risk assessment form | | | ☐ |
| DBS reference number | | | ☐ |

**APPROVAL PROCESS**

**To be complete by student researcher**

1. I have completed all of the required research ethics training ✓
2. I have read the NCG Research Ethics Policy and the NCG ✓

Research Ethics Framework

1. I am aware of my legal, professional and statutory obligations ✓

and understand where to seek further guidance if required

1. I will notify the SEC if the scope of my project changes ✓

significantly during its operational phase

1. I understand that my research cannot commence until I have ✓

received full ethical approval

Student signature: Buta singh

Date: 20/04/2023

**To be completed by tutor**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| STAGE 1 – School Ethics Committee (SEC) | |
| Approved | **☐** |
| Approved, subject to specified amendments | **☐** |
| Refertothe SEC | **☐** |
| Declined | **☐** |
| I have informed the student in writing of the outcome of this process  *(please attach a copy)* | |
| Name:  Signed:  Position: Tutor  Date: | |

**To be completed by School Ethics Committee or Research Ethics Committee (only if referred)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| STAGE 2 – Research Ethics Committee (REC) | |
| Approved | **☐** |
| Provisional approval | **☐** |
| Approved, subject to specified amendments | **☐** |
| Declined | **☐** |
| I have informed the student in writing of the outcome of this process  *(please retain a copy)* | |
| Name:  Signed:  Position: Chair of SEC / Chair of the REC  Date: | |