

Considering Ethical Issues in Data Collection



Topics covered

- The concept of ethics
- Stakeholders in research
- Ethical issues to consider concerning research participants
- Ethical issues to consider relating to the researcher
- Ethical issues regarding the sponsoring organisation
- Ethical issues in collecting data from secondary sources



The concept of ethics

- Code of conduct on how to conduct research appropriately
- Differs between disciplines and professions
 - What are these principles of conduct?
 - Who determines them?
 - In whose judgement must they be considered appropriate?



Concept of ethics continued

Code of ethics addresses ethical practice to avoid:

- Causing harm to individuals
- Breaching confidentiality
- Using information improperly
- Introducing bias



Stakeholders in research

Ethical issues need to be considered for all stakeholders involved in a research study:

- The research participants or subjects
- The researcher
- The funding body



Ethical issues to consider concerning research participants

- Collecting information
- Seeking informed consent
- Providing incentives
- Seeking sensitive information
- The possibility of causing harm to participants
- Maintaining confidentiality



Ethical issues to consider relating to the researcher

- Avoiding bias
- Provision or deprivation of a treatment
- Using inappropriate research methodology
- Incorrect reporting
- Inappropriate use of the information



Ethical issues regarding the sponsoring organisation

- Restrictions imposed by the sponsoring organisation
- The misuse of information



Ethical issues in collecting data from secondary data

- Plagiarism
- Informed consent
- Misrepresentation of data
- Misinterpretation of data
- Disclosing data source
- Using data collected by covert means



Summary

- Conducting research requires considering ethical issues
- Researchers have to adhere to a code of conduct developed by professional practice
- Ethical issues relate to participants, researchers and sponsoring organisation involved in the research study
- Ethical issues need to be addressed in the research process to prevent harm

