

## Collaborative Discussion 2

### Initial Post



#### Initial Post

by Nithya Kanakavelu - Thursday, 21 September 2023, 6:21 PM

In this case study, Abi faces several ethical, legal, social, and professional dilemmas.

Abi should not alter or manipulate data to support a particular conclusion. This is a clear violation of research ethics as it compromises the integrity of the study and misrepresents the facts. If Abi presents only certain analyses that favour a particular conclusion while omitting others that suggest different outcomes, it is also unethical. It distorts the truth and misleads stakeholders. This act would be classed as scientific misconduct (National Academies Press, 2009)

Abi is ethically obligated to present both the positive and negative analyses. This ensures transparency and honesty in the reporting of research findings. Researchers have a duty to provide a complete and balanced view of their results. United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI, 2021) states that research should be conducted with integrity and transparency, as one of the six core principle of ethical research in the framework for research ethics.

Abi does bear some responsibility for the use others make of his program results. While he cannot control how the manufacturer uses the results, he can minimise the potential for misuse by providing a comprehensive report with both sets of analyses.

Abi should provide the manufacturer with both the positive and negative analyses in a transparent and unbiased manner. This fulfills his ethical duty to provide complete information. Simundić (2013) points out that it is immoral and unethical to conduct biased research. Abi should document any ethical concerns he has about the potential misuse of the results by the manufacturer. This documentation may serve as evidence of his ethical behaviour.

#### References:

National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering (US) and Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy. On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research: Third Edition. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US) (2009). Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK214564/> [Accessed 21 September 2023]

United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI), Research ethics guidance. (2021) Available from: <https://www.ukri.org/councils/esrc/guidance-for-applicants/research-ethics-guidance/framework-for-research-ethics/our-core-principles/#contents-list> [Accessed 21 September 2023]

Simundić A. M. (2013). Bias in research. Biochemia medica, 23(1), 12–15. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.11613/bm.2013.003>

## Collaborative Discussion 2

### Response from Peer



#### Peer response

by Piotr Sieminski - Tuesday, 26 September 2023, 9:45 AM

Hi Nithya,

I am not sure I agree that Abi bears some responsibility for the use of his work. I think I understand what you mean but I wanted to clarify this point to make sure we are on the same page. I agree wholeheartedly that it is Abi's responsibility to communicate clearly the results, mention constraints, any limitations this analysis has etc. but if the cereal company was to be sued and during court proceedings it would become clear that the company misused the provided report, I sincerely doubt that Abi would bear any legal responsibility, provided he followed the ethics code and all of the aforementioned points. What's your view on that?

### Response to Peer



#### Re: Peer response

by Nithya Kanakavelu - Saturday, 7 October 2023, 8:18 AM

Hi Piotr,

Thank you for your thoughtful input and for seeking clarification on the issue of legal responsibility in Abi's situation. You bring up an important point, and I agree that the distinction between legal and ethical responsibility is crucial to consider.

You are correct that Abi's primary obligation lies in adhering to ethical guidelines and principles, such as communicating results clearly, mentioning limitations, and ensuring transparency in his research. If he follows these ethical standards diligently and documents his work in accordance with best practices, it is less likely that he would face legal liability for any misuse of his report by the cereal company.

However, legal matters can be complex, and the specific circumstances of any potential lawsuit or legal action would play a significant role in determining Abi's legal responsibility, if any. In general, though, you are right to emphasise that ethical conduct and adherence to research integrity principles should be Abi's main focus to navigate this ethical dilemma effectively (Gajjar, 2013).

Reference:

Gajjar, D. (2013). Ethical consideration in research. *Education*. 2(7): 8-15.

## Collaborative Discussion 2

### Summary Post



#### Summary Post

by Nithya Kanakavelu - Saturday, 7 October 2023, 2:16 PM

In the initial post, Kanakavelu (2023) discussed the ethical, legal, social, and professional dilemmas faced by Abi, a researcher tasked with reviewing the nutritional value of a cereal called Whizzz. It highlights that Abi should not manipulate data to support a specific conclusion, as it would violate research ethics and compromise integrity. Abi is ethically obligated to present both positive and negative analyses to ensure transparency. Additionally, Abi has some responsibility for how others use his program results, and he should provide a comprehensive, unbiased report to minimise potential misuse. The post referenced sources like the National Academies Press (2009) and United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI, 2021) to support these ethical arguments.

In response, Sieminski (2023) sought clarification regarding Abi's legal responsibility for the use of his work. The responder agreed that Abi should communicate results clearly and mention limitations but questioned whether Abi would bear legal responsibility if the cereal company misused the provided report. The responder also suggested that Abi might not have legal liability as long as he follows ethical guidelines.

In reply to Sieminski (2023), Leon (2023) acknowledged the importance of distinguishing between ethical responsibility and legal liability in Abi's situation. It emphasised that if Abi adheres to ethical guidelines and communicates his findings and limitations clearly, he may not bear legal responsibility (Yip et al., 2016). However, the reply also stressed the significance of moral and professional responsibility, highlighting the potential impact on Abi's professional reputation and the potential harm to the public. The response points out that as a researcher, Abi's role goes beyond presenting data; it includes explaining the implications of his research, advocating for ethical utilisation of his findings, and raising concerns about potential misinterpretation or misuse when necessary, in alignment with United Kingdom Research and Innovation (2021) guidelines.

Kanakavelu (2023) agreed with the importance of distinguishing between legal and ethical responsibility in Abi's case and acknowledged that Abi's primary obligation is to adhere to ethical guidelines, including clear communication of results and transparency. Following ethical standards diligently and documenting his work can reduce the likelihood of legal liability for any misuse of his report by the cereal company (Sieber & Tolich, 2012). It reinforced the idea that Abi's main focus should be on ethical conduct and adherence to research integrity principles to effectively address his ethical dilemma (Gajjar, 2013; Colnerud, 2014).

In the response Leon (2023) expressed agreement with the initial post's perspective on Abi's ethical obligations and responsibilities. It mentioned Abi's commitment to truth, honesty, and the integrity of the scientific process as mandated by the United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI, 2021). The responder also highlighted the importance of explicitly communicating the limitations and potential implications of Abi's findings, especially if the product poses risks to consumers. Failure to do so could have severe legal and social consequences and potentially harm the public (University of New Hampshire Library, 2023).

In conclusion, the discussion underscored the moral and professional responsibility Abi holds, emphasised the potential impact on his reputation and public welfare, making it clear that ethical conduct should be his foremost concern.

## Collaborative Discussion 2

### Summary Post (Cont'd)

#### References:

Colnerud, G. (2014). Ethical dilemmas in research in relation to ethical review: An empirical study. *Research Ethics*. 10(4): 238-253.

Gajjar, D. (2013). Ethical consideration in research. *Education*. 2(7): 8-15.

Kanakavelu, N. (2023) Initial Post: Case Study: Accuracy of Information; Collaborative Learning Discussion 2

Leon, A. (2023) Response to Initial Post: Case Study: Accuracy of Information; Collaborative Learning Discussion 2

National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering (US) and Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy. On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research: Third Edition. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US) (2009). Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK214564/> [Accessed 21 September 2023]

Sieber, J. E., & Tolich, M. B. (2012). Planning ethically responsible research (Vol. 31). Sage Publications.

Sieminski, P. (2023) Response to Initial Post: Case Study: Accuracy of Information; Collaborative Learning Discussion 2

United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI), Research ethics guidance. (2021) Available from: <https://www.ukri.org/councils/esrc/guidance-for-applicants/research-ethics-guidance/framework-for-research-ethics/our-core-principles/#contents-list> [Accessed 21 September 2023]

University of New Hampshire Library. (2023) Responsible Conduct of Research & Scholarly Activity. Available from: <https://libraryguides.unh.edu> [Accessed 26 September 2023]

Yip, C., Han, N. & Sng, B. (2016) Legal and ethical issues in research. *Indian Journal of Anaesthesia* 60(9): 684-688.

## Collaborative Discussion 2

### Response to Peer 1



#### Re: Peer Response

by Nithya Kanakavelu - Monday, 2 October 2023, 6:07 AM

In the initial post, James (2023) provided a well-considered ethical analysis of Abi's situation in the case study, addressing various aspects such as ethical responsibilities, potential legal consequences, and the importance of accurate reporting.

The author highlights Abi's ethical obligation as a researcher to present all relevant facts, whether positive or negative. This aligns with the fundamental principle of research integrity and transparency. It is crucial to maintain objectivity and provide an accurate representation of the data (Hesse et al., 2019). The mention of using specific other data to change the results and how it could be perceived as bordering on data falsification is valid. Manipulating data, even indirectly through selective use, is ethically problematic and undermines the credibility of the research (Louch & Pry, 2020).

The reference to Naderer's findings regarding the impact of food advertising on children's eating behaviour highlights the significance of accurate reporting in the context of public health. Misleading information about the nutritional benefits of a product can indeed have long-term consequences. The discussion of potential legal consequences and the reference to food fraud legislation in the EU and the US is important and It highlights the legal responsibilities of Food Business Operators and the potential legal risks associated with misrepresentation.

Overall, the author provided a thorough and ethical analysis of the case study, highlighting the importance of honesty, transparency, and adherence to ethical and legal standards in research and data reporting. It underlines the potential consequences of misrepresentation in the context of public health and the need for ethical integrity in Abi's actions.

#### References:

Hesse, A., Glenna, L., Hinrichs, C., Chiles, R., & Sachs, C. (2019). Qualitative research ethics in the big data era. *American Behavioral Scientist*. 63(5): 560-583.

James, R. (2023) Initial Post: Collaborative Learning Discussion 2.

Louch, M. E., & Pry, M. (2020). Ethics and Data Manipulation. *Information Systems Education Journal*. 18(2): 4-13.

## Collaborative Discussion 2

### Response to Peer 2



#### Re: Peer Response

by Nithya Kanakavelu - Monday, 2 October 2023, 5:36 AM

In the initial post, Balasubramaniam (2023) provided a comprehensive and thoughtful analysis of the ethical, legal, professional, and social implications of Abi's situation in the case study. It highlights important considerations and provides valuable recommendations.

The author emphasises the ethical concerns related to manipulating statistics or selectively choosing statistical tests to produce a favourable outcome. This is in line with ethical standards that require objectivity and transparency in data analysis (Morris MacLean et al., 2019).

The author appropriately raises the issue of potential legal consequences for both the manufacturer and Abi if misleading information is used to promote Whizzz, especially if consumers suffer adverse health effects. Legal aspects are a critical component of this ethical dilemma and should not be overlooked.

The discussion of social impacts on public trust and the professional consequences for Abi is well-considered. Public trust in research and the integrity of professionals are vital, and any actions that erode this trust can have far-reaching consequences (Resnik, 2011).

Overall, the summary provides a well-rounded and ethical analysis of the case study, and the inclusion of references adds credibility to the points made. It aligns with established ethical principles in research and highlights the importance of ethical decision-making in complex situations.

References:

Balasubramaniam, U. (2023) Initial Post: Collaborative Learning Discussion 2.

Morris MacLean, L., Posner, E., Thomson, S., & Wood, E. J. (2019). Research ethics and human subjects: A reflexive openness approach. American Political Science Association Organized Section for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Qualitative Transparency Deliberations, Working Group Final Reports, Report I, 2.

Resnik, D. B. (2011). Scientific research and the public trust. *Science and engineering ethics*, 17, 399-409.



## Collaborative Discussion 2

### Response to Peer 3



#### Re: Peer Response

by Nithya Kanakavelu - Monday, 2 October 2023, 5:20 AM

In the initial post, Leon (2023) provided insights that align with established ethical principles in research and emphasise the importance of maintaining integrity and transparency throughout the research process.

It is indeed crucial to recognise that selectively choosing analytical techniques to paint data in a more favourable light can be viewed as a subtle form of data manipulation. This practice misrepresents the true nature of the data and compromises the integrity of the research (Cerratto Pargman, 2021). Researchers should be committed to objective analysis rather than seeking outcomes that align with stakeholders' desires.

Abi's ethical obligation to present both positive and negative analyses is highlighted. This obligation stems from the fundamental principle of providing a complete, unbiased, and truthful representation of the data (Lorente, 2023). This ensures that stakeholders can make informed decisions based on the full scope of the findings.

Abi's responsibility extends beyond conducting the analysis accurately. He must also communicate the results clearly, including any potential for misuse or misinterpretation. By doing so, he fulfills his ethical duty to prevent or mitigate any misuse of the results by others.

Leon's (2023) suggestions for courses of action emphasise the importance of insisting on full disclosure and responsible dissemination of results. Seeking guidance from superiors or an ethics committee can provide valuable support in navigating ethically challenging situations.

Leon's (2023) response provides a comprehensive and ethically sound perspective on the case study, emphasising the importance of honesty, transparency, and ethical responsibility in research and data analysis. It highlights that maintaining ethical standards are not only a moral obligation but also crucial for the credibility and trustworthiness of research outcomes.

References:

Cerratto Pargman, T., & McGrath, C. (2021). Mapping the ethics of learning analytics in higher education: A systematic literature review of empirical research. *Journal of Learning Analytics*. 8(2): 123-139.

Leon, A. (2023) Initial Post: Collaborative Learning Discussion 2.

Lorente, A. (2023). Setting the goals for ethical, unbiased, and fair AI. In *AI Assurance* (pp. 13-54). Academic Press.

## Collaborative Discussion 2

### Tutor Feedback



#### **Key feedback for units 7-9 collaborative formative**

by Karen Outram - Monday, 23 October 2023, 4:11 PM

Hi Students,

*Here is some key feedback below:*

Keep the critical aspects of discussion occurring

For referencing avoid N.D. as there are plenty of references out there with author and date

In all instances your reference list must be in alphabetical order

In all instances give full responses regarding your posts, and add citation and reference lists as the intention is these are excerpts that turn into critical portfolio artefacts

Keep in mind that these are formal academic discussions to contribute to your e-portfolio's at the end of study

With best wishes

Karen