

Research Policy

The college is committed to promote a research culture among Faculty and students as basic long term research provides the foundation for future development of the Institution. The research policy of the college aims to develop and promote scientific temper and research aptitude of all learners; to realize the vision and mission of the college and to identify research areas of academic, practical and socially relevant significance thus contributing to national development. It also aims at ensuring that the research activities of the college conform to all applicable rules and regulations of the affiliating University and U. G. C. as well as to the established standards and norms relating to safe and ethical conduct of research. Our research policy provides a broad framework to the research activities with the following objectives:

Objectives

- To provide a proper coordination of all research activities of the college and aligning these to the vision and missions of the college and national development goals through Teresian Research and Consultancy Cell (TRACC).
- To identify and inform researchers about the appropriate research opportunities announced by different academic, research, industry or government organizations.
- To promote interdisciplinary research and establish modalities for preparing and undertaking joint research projects covering more than one knowledge domain as well as policies or involving external agencies/experts in such projects
- To create an awareness about patents and Intellectual Property Rights and motivate them to apply for patents
- To take initiative for granting study leave, sabbatical leave, duty leave, seed money, reduction in workload, etc. to deserving faculty members for advanced research
- To identify and establish linkages including MOUs for long term relationships with national and international research organizations for widening the scope of research opportunities and funding options available to the teachers and students of the college.
- To promote collaborations with International and national academic institutions of higher learning and promote linkage with Industry
- To encourage and facilitate the publication of the research works in reputed academic International / National journals and also to facilitate the presentation of the research work through academic events such as workshops/seminars/conferences.
- To create an ecosystem for innovations including Incubation centre and other initiatives for creation and transfer of knowledge
- To facilitate community oriented research initiatives and to transfer the research findings for the social and economic development of the community

To ensure the quality of all research activities of the college and to observe the highest standards of ethics and integrity in the conduct of their research, all researchers must follow the following Code of ethics.

Code of Ethics for Research

- All students pursuing research in the college are expected to maintain high standards of integrity, honesty and professionalism in respect of all the work undertaken by them.
- An ethics committee has been constituted and a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) is adopted for monitoring research activities of the college.
- Since the college is affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, the college follows the regulations of the University and U. G. C. regarding plagiarism and malpractice in research.
- A Ph. D./ M. Phil. thesis submitted from the Institution is screened by Mahatma Gandhi University, for plagiarism before it is accepted. Regarding paper publications, each student can avail the facility in the university to check for plagiarism
- Whenever a paper is to be published in peer reviewed journals, the journal will normally have a committee to check the originality in the content.

An ethics committee has been constituted and a standard operating procedures(SOP) is adopted for monitoring research activities of the college. The objective of this SOP is to contribute to the effective functioning of the Committee by ensuring a qualitative and consistent ethical review mechanism for health and biomedical research involving human participants.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Research Ethics Committee

Objectives:

- The objective of this SOP is to contribute to the effective functioning of St.Teresa's College Ethics Committee (STCEC) so that a qualitative and consistent ethical review mechanism for health and biomedical research is put in place for all proposals dealt by this Committee.
- This Committee shall follow the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Ethical guidelines for biomedical research on human subjects.

Role of STCEC:

- The mandate of the STCEC shall be to review all biological research/research projects involving human subjects to be conducted under Mahatma Gandhi University (University Departments/ Research Centres at Colleges/ Recognized Research Institutions), irrespective of the funding agency.
- STCEC Shall review and approve all types of research proposals involving human

participants with a view to safeguard the dignity, rights, safety and well-being of all actual and potential research participants.

- The goals of research, however important, should never be permitted to override the health and well-being of the research subjects.
- The STCEC shall take care that all the cardinal principles of research ethics viz. Autonomy, Beneficence, Non-maleficence and Justice are taken care of in planning, conduct and reporting of the proposed research. For this purpose, it will look into the aspects of informed consent process, risk benefit ratio, distribution of burden and benefit and provisions for appropriate compensations wherever required.
- STCEC shall review the proposals before start of the study as well as monitor the research throughout the study until and after completion of the study through appropriate well documented procedures like annual reports, final reports, site visits etc.
- The committee shall also examine compliance with all regulatory requirements, applicable guidelines and laws.

Composition of STCEC:

- STCEC shall be multidisciplinary and multi-sectorial in composition.
- The number of persons in an ethical committee shall be kept fairly small (8-12 members).
- It is generally accepted that a minimum of five persons is required to compose Quorum.

The composition shall be as follows:-

- (1) Chairperson
 - (2) Deputy Chairperson
 - (3) Committee Members
 - (4) Member-Secretary
- (a) The Chairperson of the Committee shall be from outside the University.
 - (b) The Member Secretary shall be from any of the Science Departments of the college and shall conduct the business of the Committee.
 - (c) The STCEC shall have as its members from other institutions or communities if required.
 - (d) There shall be adequate representation of age, gender, community, etc. in the Committee to safeguard the interests and welfare of all sections of the community/society.
 - (e) Members shall be aware of local, social and cultural norms, as this is the most important social control mechanism. If required, subject experts could be invited to offer their views, for example for drug trials a pharmacologist, preferably a clinical pharmacologist, should be included.

- (f) Similarly, based on the requirement of research area, for example HIV, genetic disorders etc. specific patient groups may also be represented in the Committee.
- (g) All the members of the STCEC shall be appointed by the Principal, St. Teresa's college, Ernakulam, based on their competencies and integrity, and could be drawn from any public or private Institute from anywhere in the country.