Ethical issues in Social Work

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Abstract

Ethics and related issues in research are very important and there are also several reasons why it is important to adhere to the ethical norms in research. Ethics in itself involves articulating good manners and the importance that ethics has in social exploration and research is an issue that has been analyzed within this paper. In relation to the topic that has been examined, first, the importance of ethics has been analyzed, theories on ethics have been taken as a basis, the history of codes of ethics.

What are the universal principles related to ethics in the exploration and research of social sciences. How important are ethical values, norms, and principles?

What do they represent in themselves when we have cultural diversity with research subjects? How much important are ethical codes in scientific research?

The Code of Ethics in Social Services in Kosovo, How much influence does it have ethical conduct of professionals?

All these discussions of ethical issues in social research are focused on the necessary steps where assessing deviations from unethical ways of working, and of course protecting human beings, where they are the subject of research, are essential.

Keywords: social issues, ethics, principles, norms, human beings.

1. Introduction

"Without ethics, everything happens as if we were all five billion passengers on a big machinery and nobody is driving the machinery. And it's going faster and faster, but we don't know where it goes[1] ......" Jacques Cousteau

In recent years, ethical considerations in all research communities have emerged at the beginning of each initiative. Based on the literature reviews on this issue this is partly a consequence of legislative changes in human rights and data protection but also a result of increased public concern about the boundaries of the investigation. There is also a growing concern about responsible workplace behavior within many large organizations that express a desire for higher ethical standards in customer relationships and decisions for further development.

 Starting from the meaning of the word itself, it is first necessary to understand the term itself in the interest of the subject that will be discusse. The word Ethics derives from the Greek expression ethos/ethikos, which means tradition, customs and habits. According to

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1 Jacques-Yves Cousteau, (1910-1997) was a French naval officer, explorer, conservationist, filmmaker, innovator, scientist, photographer, author and researcher who studied the sea and all forms of life in water. He co-developed the Aqua-Lung, pioneered marine conservation and was a member of the Académie française.

the Encyclopedia Britannica[2], ethics is a branch of philosophy that deals with the core values of interpersonal relationships, which studies the quality and basis of actions or behaviors that are morally good or bad, deliberate or ugly.

Whereas, the term Research Ethics refers to a wide variety of values, norms and institutions, which help to create and regulate scientific activities[3]. Research ethics is a codification of scientific morality in practice. Research ethics guidelines specify the norms and core values of the research community (ASA, 1997). They are based on the general ethics of science just as general ethics is based on the morals of society in general.

Research ethics guidelines mainly cover research, but they also deal with other research related activities (Lawrence Neuman 2007) such as teaching, research dissemination, expert advice and management of institutions.

[4]Ethics represents an individual's belief in what is right and what is wrong, what is good or bad to enable us to do what is appropriate.

Based on the literature review during the work process on this paper, we found agreement among scientific communities that: Ethical behavior is about the behavior that is socially accepted in society and is morally and legally good and just.

Ethics is a discipline in itself, involving the concerns, dilemmas, and conflicts that arise over the proper way to conduct research (W. Lawrence Neuman 2007). Ethical help in determining whether or not it is legal to do, or what the "moral" search procedure entails, is not as simple as it may seem, for it has few ethical absolutisms and only agreed principles and things.

Therefore, ethical considerations in social research are considerations that should always be included in research. Many moral issues remain to balance the value aspect, such as the pursuit of knowledge of the rights of research participants or others in society. Social researchers balance potential benefits such as enhancing understanding of social life, improving decision-making, or assisting research participants against the potential for loss of dignity, self-esteem, privacy, or democratic freedoms. Social researchers face many ethical dilemmas and have to decide how to act. Scientific explorators and researchers in practice have a moral and professional obligation to be ethical, although participants may be unaware and uniformed about the ethics.

2. Developments in the history of research ethics
brief history

The history of the development of the field of ethics in research, unfortunately, is largely built on gruesome and catastrophic violations of human ethical values (Williams.M 2003). A journey through this history can provide a valuable insight

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2 Encyclopedia Britannica, 1993/XI: 414-417. Ethics, Lexico Publishing Group. Retrieved on 2008-03-27.

3 Guidelines for reaserch ethics in the social sciences, Humanities, Low and Theology, 4. Edition 2016.
The Norwegian National Research Ethics Committees.

4 Guidelines for reaserch ethics in the social sciences, humanities, low and theology, 4. Edition 2016, The Norwegian National Research Ethics Committees.

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into the state of contemporary institutions of research ethics and codes that currently guide social science and biomedical research.

Researching on historical developments in Ethics in scientific research, we came across strands of codification of values, norms, and standards that have a history from discoveries of horrible atrocities committed under the guise of science.

Nuremberg Code (1947)

Formal consideration of research subjects' rights was increased by the revelations of atrocities committed on Jews and other racial / ethnic groups under the guise of science Nazi concentration camps during World War II. A result of the discoveries of these horrific medical experiments performed on prisoners in concentration camps in the name of science resulted in the creation of the Nuremberg Code (1947), a code of ethics that begins by stipulating that all research participation must be voluntary and informed.

The study of Tuskegee syphilis

The study of Tuskegee syphilis Study was conducted by the US Public Health Service beginning in 1932 and continuing until 1972. The study examined untreated cases of latent syphilis in human subjects to determine the "natural course" of the disease. Four hundred (400) African American males from Tuskegee (a rural area) in Alabama, who already had syphilis, were recruited for this study compared with a sample of 200 uninfected males.[5] Subjects were not required to give their informed consent to participate in the study. Study participants were denied access to chemotherapy for the disease even when Penicillin, the safe medication for effective syphilis, became available in 1940. It is estimated that 20% of study participants died prematurely because of untreated syphilis. The ethics of research in this case study came into question, the legacy of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study continues to this day how the African American community remains distrustful of medicine.

Declaration of Helsinki 1964

Other codes of ethics followed afterwards, to mentions here, the "Declaration of Helsinki" [6] (1964), a Code which defines the protection of all human beings subject to scientific research (**Declaration of Helsinki 1964**).

ICC/ESOMAR International Code on Market, Opinion and Social Research and Data Analytics

The first code of marketing and social research practice was published by ESOMAR in 1948[7] . This was followed by a number of codes produced by national bodies and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). In 1976 ICC and ESOMAR agreed that it would be preferable to have a single international code instead of two alternating Codes and a common ICC / ESOMAR Code was then published in 1977. This was revised and updated. 1986 and 1994, making the current version, "Fourth Edition of

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[5] Another Tuskegee? Charles Weijer Bioethics Education and Research. Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

[6] Declaration of Helsinki, formal statement of ethical principles published by the World Medical Association (WMA) to guide the protection of human participants in medical research. The Declaration of Helsinki was adopted in 1964 by the 18th WMA General Assembly, at Helsinki.

[7] ICC/ESOMAR International Code on Market, Opinion and Social Research and Data Analytics.

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the ICC / ESOMAR Code".

Effective communication between providers and consumers of goods and services of all kinds is essential for any modern society. One of the most important methods of gathering information is the use of market research, which in this Code deals with and includes social research and opinion. Market research depends on its success from public confidence - that it is conducted honestly, objectively and without undesirable interference or disadvantages for its participants. The publication of this Code was intended to promote and increase public confidence and demonstrate practitioners' recognition of their ethical and professional responsibilities in conducting market research.

The Code of Ethics in all modern professions, including well-known social professions, is recognized as a basic ethical standard of the profession. This specialized code of ethics incorporates the idea of ethics into social work practice[8]. The values and principles embodied in it, as well as the standards, developed on the basis of these values, are intended to ensure the process of making a decision ethic. This is not to say that the Code of Ethics provides universal prescriptions for the strict conduct or hierarchy of values, principles and standards that govern the social issue in each case of practice.

Based on this micro-analysis regarding the basic codes of interest in this topic, in the Republic of Kosovo, especially in the field of social protection, there is a Code of Ethics for Social Services, a Code that regulates the field of social services, but not social research. However, Kosovo, as a country with a history of development in the field of social services, has a short history of research in the field of social research.

The Code[9] is relevant to all professionals providing social services, no matter which institutions or associations they work in and regardless of the function or profession they exercise. The code of ethics includes the values, principles and standards that should be used as a guide for all social service providers in ethical decision-making as well as in their application to ethical issues in practice.

3. Ethical Considerations in the Cultural Aspect and and Diversity in Research

The literature and texts that deal with the part of cultural aspects and diversity in the research do not provide much information on the cultural differences of the groups and populations participating in the research. Ethically, it is clear that people from different cultures respond differently to requests to participate, to give informed consent (Mattheas B. & Ross L.2010). It is important to bear in mind the nature of the persons who will be studied because people differ from one another by social group, religion, education, gender, age, physical characteristics and many other aspects.

Some of ethical considerations to be considered by researchers are: Language, Nationality and Race, Appearance, Culture.

Ethical considerations that should also be borne in mind and considered by research-

8 Georgiev Y. ,,About Crisis of Moral in Social Work Practice in Bulgaria "Trakia Journal of Sciences, No 4, University Trakia, pp 342-345, 2017 http://www.uni-sz.bg.

[9] Social Services Code 2002, Revised 2009, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Institute of Social Policies.

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ers may be gender, age, sexuality, residence, social class, people with disabilities, where these considerations should be taken into account depending on the topic and purpose of the research.

4. Ethical Dimensions in Research

Ethical issues are at the heart of every discipline an especially in social work. Social work deals with the care of people who have a wide variety of needs, with family relationships, with social responses to marginalization, and with needs arising from structural causes (such as poverty). These are each, in different ways, concerns that are raised among social researchers. Since research[10] itself is a process involving many resources, ideas, human interactions, challenges, rules and regulations that govern all activities done, whenever human participants are involved in research, researchers must consider ethical issues. Throughout history, numerous studies have been used by participants as a source of data, but in some cases causing human lives (deaths), physical trauma and in some other cases mental and moral trauma involved in most of society. (Hugman R. & Smith D. 2001) On these questions, social media communities have raised   issues that involve ethical considerations, presented below:

Anonymity - Anonymity refers to a situation where the researchers cannot give the information that one participant gives to them and they then share it with other research participants.

Confidentiality – According to (Akaranga and Makau 2016) [11] researchers have an obligation to protect the anonymity of research participants and the confidentiality of their findings should be at a level confidentiality if participants disagree with the disclosure of their personal information.

Avoidance of prejudices - It is unethical for the researcher to be biased in any form. According to (Akaranga SI and Jude Ongong'a 2013) there is a difference between prejudice and subjectivity, but very often people confuse the two where subjectivity derives from competence, training and education, conversely, prejudice is a deliberate attempt by the researcher to highlight something disproportionate to its true reality or to conceal what the researcher has found in the study**.**

Informed consent - When we talk about informed consent we are not just talking about a form signed by the research participants, but talking about a process in which the participants are fully aware of what they are consenting to and the information on the consequences it can bring to them. and their society (Mattheas B. & Ross L. 2010**).**

Harm reduction -Essential to a harm reduction approach is that it provides research subjects with a choice on how they will minimize harm through non-judgmental and non-coercive strategies in order to strengthen their skills and knowledge. During and after social research, researchers should focus on the subjects, regardless of the fact whether they are volunteering to participate in the study or not.

[10] Ethical consideration in social reaserch, Dr.Thakhathi Mutangabende Shepherd, School of Gogerment and Public Administration , University of Fort Hare.
[11] Ethical Considerations and their Applications to Research: a Case of the University of Nairobi Stephen Ifedha Akaranga and Bretta Kavutha Makau, Journal of Educational Policy and Entrepreneurial Research ISSN: 2408-770X (Print), ISSN: 2408-6231 (Online) Vol. 3, N0.12. 2016. Pp 1-9.

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Voluntary participation – In research, there is voluntary participation indicating that participants are free to determine whether or not to participate in research.

Avoidance of data publication - Unpublished data is sometimes called raw data. These are data which are not included in the results and do not support the desired result. Such data is considered to be bad data, but it should nevertheless be known during the collection process or during the analysis.

Falsification and fabrication of data - Fabrication of data is when the researcher creates data or results and then reports them. In those cases it is falsification when the researcher manipulates materials, processes, equipment, or modifies or releases such data that the research is not accurately represented (Flynn & Goldsmith, 2013).

Methods of defect collection - Finding data from a participant by the researcher is certain but if this participant does not meet your primary research requirement it is unethical. This study implies a waste of time and resources if it is found that the data source does not meet the needs of the study itself.

Consent of the hird party - Numerous authors have sought the legal precondition for the consent of the third, for involving children and adolescents in research, and they have been arguing that children over ten years of age are fully capable of making decisions on this issue, (Geludak, Basiqlia, Moreira, Maldonado, Cunhaand Trajman 2005).

Vulnerable groups of people -There is an escalation of vulnerable groups of people and whether it is ethical or unethical to use them as research participants. (Fisher, 1993) classifies vulnerability feature of a group people who are incapable of protecting their personality and personal rights and should not be included in research.

Responsive publication - is about publishing in order to present research and findings, but not to present employees or researchers. Inattentive and duplicate publication should be avoided. (Shamoo and Resnik, 2015)**.**

Universal principles
1) Respect for human beings, 2) Benefit, 3) Justice
These principles are considered to be universal; they are principles that are applicable everywhere in the world. These principles have no national, cultural, legal or economic boundaries. All researchers involved in social research studies where research subjects are human beings need to understand and follow these principles (Guillemin, Gillam 2004).

Universal principles of research integrity
Good scientific research practices are based on fundamental principles of research integrity. They guide researchers in their work as well as their engagement with the practical, ethical and intellectual challenges that are at the core of research (ALLEA 2018) [12]. These principles are:
• Guarantee of research quality, reflected in concept, methodology, analysis and use of resources.
• Honesty in developing, undertaking, reviewing and communicating research in a transparent, fair, complete and impartial manner.
• Respect for colleagues, research participants, society, ecosystems, cultural heritage and the environment.

12 . ALLEA - All European Academies, Berlin 2018, www.allea.org.

• Responsibility for research from the idea to publication, management and organization, oversight and leadership, and for impact.

General Principles

The following general principles are aspirational and serve as guides for social researchers in defining ethical courses of action in a variety of contexts. These principles[13] exemplify the highest ideals of professional conduct (ASA, 1997)

Principle A: Professional competence; Principle B: Integrity; Principle C: Professional and Scientific Responsibility; Principle D: Respect for human rights, dignity and diversity; Principle E: Social Responsibility.

Ethical Standards

According to (ASA, 1997) ethical standards in researchers' environments are listed as follows:

1. Professional and Scientific Standards, 2. Competences, 3. Representation and Misuse of Expertise, 4. Delegation and Oversight, 5. Non-discrimination, 6. Non-use, 7. Non-Harassment,

8. Employment Decisions, 8.01 Fair Employment Practices,8.02 Employee Responsibilities,

9. Conflicts of Interest, 9.01 Adherence to Professional Standards9.02 Disclosure

9.03 Avoidance of personal gain, 9.04 Workplace decision making,9.05 Decision Making Outside the Workplace,10. Public Communications (ASA, 1997), 10.02 Statement by others8.02 Responsibilities of workers, 11. Confidentiality,11.01 Maintaining Confidentiality,11.02 Confidentiality Limits,11.03 Discussion of confidentiality and its limits,11.04 Anticipating potential uses of information,11.05 Electronic transmission of confidential information,11.06 Anonymity of sources,11.07 Minimizing Interference with Secrecy,11.08 Maintaining Confidential Information,12. Informed Consent, 12.01 Field of informed consent

12.02 Informed consent process.

These are procedural ethical standards, which usually mean seeking approval from stakeholders to understand the information; and also "ethics in practice" or everyday ethical issues that arise when conducting research.

5. Conclusions

Most people from early childhood learn ethical values and norms in the family, at school, at church, or in other social settings. Although most people acquire a sense of separating the right and wrong during childhood, moral development occurs throughout life and human beings go through various stages of growth until they reach the level of maturity.

Another way of defining "Ethics" focuses on disciplines that study standards of conduct, such as philosophy, theology, law, psychology or sociology. One can also define ethics as a method, procedure or perspective to decide how to act and analyze complex problems and issues. The inevitable conclusion is that, whenever human participants are involved in a primary research, the researcher must consider ethical

13 American Sociological Association,, Code of Ethics and Policies and Procedures of the ASA Committee on Professional Ethics 1997.

considerations. These philosophies as outlined in these codes mainly address issues about the well-being and morality of research participants, anonymity, confidentiality, avoidance of bias, informed consent, harm reduction, voluntary participation, privacy, etc. It is very important for scholars to be familiar with basic ethical principles and up-to-date knowledge of ethics policies.

Most societies also have legal rules that regulate behavior, but ethical norms tend to be broader and more informal than laws. Although most societies use laws to enforce widely accepted moral standards and ethical and legal rules use similar concepts, ethics and law are not the same. An action can be legal but unethical. or illegal but ethical. We may also use ethical concepts and principles to criticize, evaluate, propose or interpret laws. Indeed, in the past century, many social reformers have urged citizens to disobey laws they regarded as immoral or unfair. Peaceful civil disobedience is an ethical way to protest against laws or express political views.

There are several reasons why it is important to adhere to ethical norms during research.

First, norms promote research goals, such as recognition (knowing), truth, and avoidance of mistakes. For example, prohibitions against fabricating, falsifying, or misrepresenting research data promote the truth and minimize mistakes.

Second, as research often involves a great deal of collaboration and coordination among many different persons from different disciplines and institutions, ethical standards promote values that are central to collaborative work, such as trust, accountability, mutual respect, and fairness.

Third, many of the ethical norms help to ensure that scholars can be held accountable to the public.

Fourth, ethical norms in research also help build public support for research. People are more likely to fund a research project if they can trust the quality and integrity of the research.

Finally, many of the research norms promote a variety of other important moral and social values, such as social responsibility, human rights, animal welfare, law enforcement, health and public safety. Ethical gaps in research can significantly harm human and animal subjects, individuals, groups and the general public.

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