



**Deccan Education Society's
Fergusson College (Autonomous), Pune
Research Policy and Practices**

Policy for Promotion of Research

Purpose

The excellence of an institution in attaining its objectives is greatly reliant upon the orientation of the faculty with all the aspects of research initiatives being undertaken by the institution/ college. To this end, the College is committed to laying a strong foundation for research and actively promoting awareness among all stakeholders about the importance of quality research. Special emphasis has been placed on fostering a research culture among both teachers and students.

One of the key initiatives undertaken is the implementation of seed-money research projects for in-house faculty members. These projects have played a significant role in encouraging and supporting faculty-led research, ultimately benefiting students through mentorship and engagement in research activities. As a result, a notable improvement in research culture has been perceived at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

This policy aims to create a conducive environment for research and outlines the roles and responsibilities of the research committee. It provides a comprehensive framework to guide faculty and researchers, highlights the research initiatives of the College, and includes guidelines on authorship in scholarly and scientific publications.

Scope

This policy is applicable across all academic disciplines offered by the institution. It aims to uphold the principles of honesty, integrity, and ethical conduct in all research activities undertaken by faculty members and students. By adhering to this policy, the institution ensures compliance with the rules, regulations, and quality benchmarks set by accreditation and regulatory agencies.

To support and promote a robust research culture, the College has established a **Research Development Cell (RDC)**. The RDC is responsible for managing the day-to-day research affairs of the institution, including:

- Facilitating access to necessary human resources
- Enhancing research infrastructure
- Providing administrative support
- Extending special facilities and assistance to researchers

The RDC plays a vital role in strengthening the research ecosystem and fostering innovation within the institution.

Objectives

1. Provide guidance for promoting awareness and sensitizing all stakeholders—faculty, students, and administrative staff—about the importance of quality research.
2. Recognize and integrate research as a key component in all college-level proposals, projects, and developmental initiatives wherever possible.
3. Encourage and motivate young faculty members to apply for research fellowships and grants from national and international funding agencies. Extend comprehensive procedural and administrative support for the same.
4. Address the infrastructural and administrative needs of recognized research centres. Maintain regular follow-up for compliance with norms prescribed by funding agencies and the affiliating university.
5. Provide practical assistance to research scholars—including Ph.D. candidates, project fellows, and post-doctoral fellows—regarding research facilities, report submissions, and financial/accounting procedures.
6. Ensure the regular conduct of RDC meetings. Properly document the minutes and proceedings, and publish them on the college website for transparency and record-keeping.
7. Offer support across all dimensions related to researchers, research projects, collaborations, and any other relevant academic or administrative matters.
8. Identify research areas that address real-life challenges through applied research, while also giving due importance to foundational/basic research initiatives.
9. Promote innovative research outcomes and facilitate their incubation through the college's newly established incubation centre.

Policy

The policy for research aims to maintain highest standards of integrity and professionalism in all researches conducted in the institution. This policy document will establish internal mechanisms to conduct research, manage data, standardize systems and processes allied with research and will facilitate research in both the faculties.

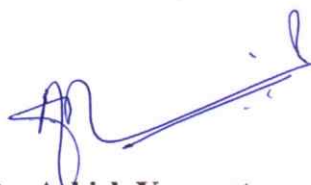
Steps

1. Promotion of research, innovation, extension and the generation of intellectual capital through various sensitization programmes and by inviting expertise in those domains.
2. Keeping "Seed Money Research Project" as one of the important programmes for in-house faculties with the financial support of parent organisation Deccan Education Society.
3. Encouraging teachers and students to participate in seminars/ conferences to present their research and also provides financial assistance to them.
4. Organisation of "AVISHKAR" as a project research competition as per the guidelines from Savitribai Phule University Pune. This programme focuses on orienting undergraduate, post graduate students and PhD scholars to present their innovative ideas. The screening of the project work carried out by respective subject experts.
5. A project competition "INNOVISION" for researchers working in different institutions from Pune region is conducted at Fergusson College (Autonomous) Pune. Through this activity the ideas of awardees are incubated at Dr. P.C. Shejwalkar Center for entrepreneurship and innovation in our campus.

Guidelines for Researchers/ Teachers:

1. Teachers/ Researchers doing research and publishing papers need to publish their research only in peer reviewed and scopus indexed journals.
2. It is mandatory for a teacher/ researcher to be mentioned as "Deccan Education Society's Fergusson College (Autonomous) Pune, affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune" as an author's affiliation.
3. For research papers published under various funding schemes including Seed Money Projects, the authors need to mention the name of the funding agency in the acknowledgment section.
4. Researchers must avoid publication of their work in predatory/ dubious journals.
5. Any publications in predatory / dubious journals or presentations in predatory / dubious conferences should not be considered for any academic progress
6. Any attempt of compromised academic integrity should be challenged, questioned and derecognized at all levels
7. Demonstrate integrity and professionalism, fairness and equity, and intellectual honesty; effectively and transparently manage conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest.

8. Ensure the safety and well-being of those associated with the recombinant DNA research and handling pathogens by constituting the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IDSC) and other regulatory agencies. On similar lines, research issues related to ethical clearance will be referred to the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC).
9. Guidance from Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE): San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA): the Leiden Manifesto: the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity Academy of Science 2018, Policy Statement on Dissemination and Evaluation of Research Output in India 2018 by the Indian National Science Academy and resources.
10. College is committed to health, safety and environmental protection in all its various programs and activities. This commitment is congruent with - and important for achieving - overall mission of advancing, disseminating, and preserving knowledge, and striving to educate leaders in the service of society. All members of the college community (including students, faculty and staff) share responsibility for safety, and shall comply with established governmental environmental health and safety policies norms and procedures.
11. The permission of the Ethical Committee: Control and Supervision on Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) is required for the animal experimentation or maintaining laboratory animals.
12. Authors should fully disclose related financial interests and outside activities in publications (including articles, abstracts, manuscripts submitted for publication), presentations at professional meetings, and applications for funding.
13. In addition, authors should comply with the disclosure requirements on the Conflict of Interest.



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