

RAJAGIRI COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous) aims to ensure that all articles published in the *Rajagiri Journal of Social Development* and *Rajagiri Management Journal* report on work that is morally acceptable. To *achieve* this, the Rajagiri Committee on Publication Ethics appraise the ethical aspects of any submitted work that involves human participants.

Editorial appraisal of ethical issues goes beyond simply deciding whether participants in a study gave informed consent although this is, of course, one very important issue to consider. Editors would judge whether the overall design and conduct of each piece of work is morally justifiable, for example, deviation from current normal (accepted, local) practice, additional burden imposed on the respondents (or others), additional risks posed to the respondents (or others), benefits that might accrue to the respondents (or others), the potential benefits to society (future target groups) etc.

The Committee requires every research article submitted to the two Rajagiri journals to include a statement that the study obtained ethics approval (or a statement that it was not required), including the name of the ethics committee(s) or institutional review board(s), the number/ID of the approval(s), and a statement that participants gave informed consent before taking part.

For studies that have not been reviewed by research ethics committees or institutional review boards, the editors may ask authors to explain what ethical issues they considered and how they justified their work. The Committee welcomes detailed explanations of how investigators and authors have considered and justified the ethical and moral basis of their work. If such details do not easily fit into the manuscript, it could be provided in the covering letter or uploaded as a supplementary file when submitting the article. The Committee will be pleased to see copies of explanatory information given to participants. Even if such detailed information is not included in the final published version, the Committee may make it available to peer reviewers and editorial committees. The Committee would request the peer reviewers to consider and comment on the ethics of the submitted work.
