

Received : 20 May 2024, Accepted: 15 June 2024

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33282/rr.vx9i2.18>

Ethics and its vitality in Historical Research

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Abstract

Ethics in social and historical research are crucial for maintaining integrity and respect for the subjects and sources. It involves transparency, honesty, respect for intellectual property rights, and sensitivity to the cultural context of the study. Additionally, researchers must adhere to ethical guidelines regarding the treatment of human subjects, including obtaining informed consent when necessary, and protecting confidentiality. Historians maintain ethics by adhering to principles such as objectivity, honesty, respect for sources and subjects, and avoiding bias or manipulation in their interpretation of historical events. They should strive for accuracy, transparency, and integrity in their research and writing, respecting the complexities and nuances of history without imposing contemporary values or perspectives. Additionally, historians should be mindful of the impact of their work on individuals and communities, especially those who may be marginalized or affected by historical events. This paper is a minor effort to outline some of the guidelines for producing such a content which not only adhere to the ethical norms of research but also provide an honest opinion about the historical narratives.

Key Words: Ethics, Social research, Autonomy, Informed Consent, Confidentiality, Legal, publication, Plagiarism, Comprehension, Inadequate, standard, Criteria etc

Introduction:

Research is a way of going about finding answers related to the Social world. It is a collection of methods used by people to produce knowledge. Basically, it is conducted by sociologists, social scientists and many others to find solutions to the problems regarding social world, "*for this the researcher needs to think reasonably, go by the rules and repeat steps over and over again.*"(Nachmias)

Here the fact remains that how to find solutions to the social issues, what to do about the findings, what should be the answers and the analysis of the findings. The answers should be according to certain rules and regulations. These rules and regulations are shaped according to the Ethics. After the WWII, there was a consensus about the ethical rules that should govern the research. (Newman)

Social research, sometimes become sneak a look into the lives of the masses, the interviewer's knock at the door and a survey in the mail box, which points out the beginning of an activity that the respondent has not anticipated. This includes an utmost effort of the researcher to the maximum of his/her time and energy. In social research people sometimes reveal their private information and provides a valuable work that informs the readers about different fields. (Nachmias, pg 450)

Historical research has a different approach as compare to social research. But all the approaches have ethical aspects and sometimes it becomes very difficult for the researcher to deal with these. So when a researcher plans to carry out any research he/she must follow the guidelines or the principles of ethics. These increased concerns about the accountability in the research has led to an organized system of "Research Governance". It is a way of sharing information that is available to public analysis and is subjected to the highest ethical standards. There are certain codes developed for ethical values, for the researchers to keep in mind before conducting a research. Now the question arises that why a researcher should be Ethical?(Newman)

And the answer is that the people, who conduct research whether social or historical, should be aware about the impact their research is going to produce and it should be done in an ethical manner so that the researcher may not be embarrassed, ruined his/her profession and bring harm to their reputation. In historical research these ethical standards have come to the fore front because the public concerns have increased about the boundaries of investigation. And all the fields of human analysis can't be considered exempted from such concerns. It is

because all the researchers should face the consequences, if their work is beyond the ethical boundaries. Social researchers especially the historians, work with in a variety of social, economical, cultural, legal and political dynamics, each of which influence and focus their research. Even within the same dynamics, many individuals have different moral percepts, that guide their work and the historians often have to make hidden or precise choices between principles, for maintaining a bias free attitude towards the cycles of History. But before going to the ethical principles one must analyze the definition of "Ethics".(Mackie)

Ethics:

Derived from the Greek word "ethos", which means "way of living", ethics is a branch of philosophy that is concerned with human conduct, more specifically the behavior of individuals in society. Only ethics provides the rational justification for our judgments about morality. Ethical principles provide the parameters to justify what is morally right or wrong, deserved or undeserved, fair or unfair and so on.

It can also be defined as:

" knowing the difference between what, one has right to do and what is right to do"

In other words we can say that it is hard to classify the exact meanings of ethics, many people tend to relate ethics with their feelings, but being ethical is not the matter of following one's emotions, in fact feelings habitually deviates from what is ethical. Similarly being ethical is not the same as following law or it doesn't mean what society accepts is ethical.(Lielle)

Ethics is two things, first it refers to standards of right and wrong that prescribes what humans ought to do usually in terms of rights, obligation, benefits to society, fairness and specific virtues. Secondly ethics refer to the improvement of one's own standards. It also mean the constant effort of studying our own moral beliefs and conduct which we take up, to guarantee that whatever we intend to lineup, comes to the standards that are reasonable and soundly based. Ethics also identify what is moral to do or what is not justified to do. Though there are a very few fixed rules for the moral conduct, but there are plenty of established principles for a researcher to follow in investigation.(Nachmias)

"The principles for ethical research in social sciences are stricter than those in many other areas. Social research requires knowledge of both; proper investigational techniques and sensitivity to ethical concerns." (Newman)

Ethics can also be defined as a method, process or point of view for deciding how to act and for analyzing complicated issues. (Resnik et-al)

It also means the branch of philosophy which deals with morals relating to the human conduct with respect to the suitability or wrongness of certain actions. The status and justification of moral rules and the nature of responsibility (The New Penguin Encyclopedia,2003)

Webster's New World Dictionary is typical among dictionaries in defining ethics as "confirming to the standards of conduct of a given profession or group"

Ethics can also be defined as the normative science of conduct and conduct is the collective name for voluntary actions, (Lielle).

History of Ethics:

The history of morals is as old as humanity itself but the traces of ethics are found in the early Greek Tradition ,when the society expanded the morals also developed according to the level of consciousness. The early history of ethics includes the ethical training of elites in Ancient Egypt, the Vedic scriptures of India, and the Classical Chinese philosophers such as Confucius and Mozi. These systems all existed prior to the Ancient Greeks of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Ethic is a branch of Philosophy that deals with the actions that are "morals".

About the origin of the ethics we can say that ethical claims are found in the literature of ancient civilizations. (Wattles)

The earliest sources of ethical values are found in the Ancient Greek civilization where Plato and Socrates defend the ethical theory that, "*it is better to suffer injustice than to do it,*" because according to them the evil destroys the spirit or soul .Aristotle's ethics are based on happiness , prosperity and success. The ethical values were given a lot of importance in the Ancient Greek philosophy where the virtues like courage , justice , prudence and tolerance are given value. so we can assume that ethical values were also importance in the Ancient times as they are now.(Uramson)

The other old source of ethical values is The Old Testament in which the Lord commands the men to be virtuous. (psalm, 146)S. In the Middle Ages the traces of ethical values are found in the synthesis of Biblical or Aristotelian ethics depicted by Thomas Aquinas in his Theory of Natural Law. (Finnis)

In the 18th century Emmanuel Kant discussed the moral values in the form of dutifulness. He presented a universal idea of ethics and emphasized on the people to be generally good.(Johnson)

In the 19th century Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill presented the theory of Utilitarianism for ethics and remained popular in the 20th century as well. It depicted the concept of ethical values which bring happiness and contentment to the larger number of people.(Singer)

In the early 20th century, ethical values was a burning topic which viewed from the moral realism to the evolutionary ethics and resulted in the error theory of J. L. Mackie, which stated that the whole concept of ethical obligations is a mistake.(Mackie)

"The WWII, included existential reflections on the meaning of life leading to approaches to ethics based on the situation and personal interaction." (Beauvoir)

The Ethics in Islam:

Islam has greatly emphasized on the ethical values .The Quran has laid down specific and definite rules and regulations regarding interaction of the people , and their lives in all aspects of behavior and dealing in this world.(Umer)

Islam is the most astounding and significant religion in the annals of human history as its been derived from the word *Salama* , means to be peaceful and prosperous, to be dutiful, to be moral and humane, to fulfill rights and perform duties and finally to combat with one's own self (nafs) for the Day of Judgment. This is Islam's true sense of morality and code of life for all mankind. This is the basic rule for practical life in Islam, which is unique in its socio political and economic order. (Ahmed)

According to Islam every Muslim must surrender to the God Almighty's Divine Commands which guides him to always perform as constant efforts, virtuous actions, innovative thinking, common sense, insight and deep sense of mental restraint and balanced verdicts.

Islam believes in the spirit of self consciousness, strong faith , submission to divine will and self control. This strong faith and submission to divine will, guides the individual to differentiate between right and wrong, ,divine and evil, good and bad and so on. It makes them bold and courageous enough to identify the path of virtue.(Umer)

The life of the Holy Prophet (saw) and the deeply ethical content of the Quran remains the fundamental elements for understanding the Islamic message. All that is said and written in Quran about belief is related to the virtuous development of the human being, specifically human behavior towards the other beings of this world, including humans and animals.(Ramzan et-al)

Social Research and Ethics:

Ethical rules are baseline for all kinds of research. These rules create a definite line in the overall goodness of the work and the rights of the researcher. They guide the researcher about the problems related to the research as well as to maintain the rights of the researcher. Most societies follow legal rules for the behavioral patterns, but ethical values are more precise and

familiar . However one should keep this thing in mind that ethics and laws are not the same rather we can use moral concepts to understand, assess and to criticize laws .There are different Institutions , professions and organizations which have different ethical norms or values. These norms are prepared to facilitate the members of the particular discipline to co-ordinate their activities and to win the public interest, and apply to those who do research or scholarly works.(Orb & Eisenhauer et-al)

Why to be Ethical?

Now the question arises , that why the researcher should apply ethical norms in research. There are different answers to this question, they are;

1. To endorse the aims and objectives of the research .
2. To follow ethical norms for emphasizing on the collaborated work.
3. The third reason to be ethical is that the researcher should be answerable to the public creating awareness among the masses.
4. Another ground to be ethical in social research is that the work of the researcher must put up a support of the majority of the people .
- 5.The most important reason for being ethical in research is the promotion of moral and social values such as human rights , social responsibility, tolerance and safety.(Resnik)

Codes and Principles for Research Ethics:

The research guidelines have developed with the time for preparing the researchers. There are a number of ethical principles and codes , created by the social research organizations to protect the rights of their research participants . A number of government agencies , different professional organizations and universities have adopted particular rules and principles for the ethics of research .(Resnik)

As we do not live in a world free from troubles it is not the issue as to how to deal with a kind of knowledge which is true in itself, but it is related to how men deal with the problems of "knowing ", bound as they are in their knowledge, by the time and their position in the society.(Mannheim)

Any professional organization or society which provides the researchers, authority to conduct research ,has the moral obligation to protect the interest of the people being studied . The researcher can utilize a number of resources providing guidelines about the ethical issues .There are a number of institutions and agencies developed to check the ethical issues regarding social organizations , medical institutions and law enforcing agencies etc .(Newman)

Following is a rough and overall summary of the ethical principles that are considered important in the pursuit of knowledge and research.

Autonomy:

Autonomy is the first principle or code, regarding the ethics of research which provides the right to the researcher, to freely decide whether to participate in a study or not. It also gives the right to the participant to withdraw anytime without penalty. It also means that the researchers have the right as autonomous persons to accept or refuse to participate in any study.(O'Shea)

Informed Consent:

Peoples' self-esteem is the spirit of morality of any research. There is a number of guiding ethical principles, specifically respect for confidentiality and personal data, respect for helpless persons, respect for justice and the principle of non-elimination and non-discrimination are the basic values in social research. It means that the researcher should be fully informed about the procedures and risks involved in the research and after becoming aware of the conditions, they must give their consent of participation. Ethical standards argue that the researchers should not be in danger as a result of participation.(Ferreira, Serpa et-al)

Identification:

Autonomy or identification of the researcher is another strict standard of ethics. It means that the researcher will remain unidentified throughout the study. Though it is customary of privacy but to accomplish it, is a very difficult task as there are certain researches which doesn't have secrecy of the researcher. The secrecy of the information provider can also be secured by a number of methods now a days. It is basically the duty of the researcher to provide the participants with the due protection. The consent of the participant can be taken in written form and can be kept by the researchers. The respondent's identity and the information can strictly be hold confidential by the researcher only, as no guarantee can be given for it otherwise.(Sanjari, Shogi & Ali Cheraghi et-al)

Confidentiality:

Another moral obligation of the research is the privacy of the researcher as it is not ethical to publicize the identity of the participant. The identity of the researcher can be kept unidentified in a number of ways, like in the questionnaire identity of the researcher can be replaced by numbers, signs etc.(Crow & Wiles et-al)

Beneficence:

Social research must be based on the principles of benefits or doing good for others. The pattern of social research should not harm the study population and avoiding any inconvenience should be the motto of the research. This ethical standard is also concerned with the fact that the participant should not be embarrassed and no harm should be done to his/her family and job. (Nachmias)

Physical Harm:

A very important moral obligation for the organizations, agencies and universities conducting research, is to tell the researchers about the risk included in the research. The researcher should also be allowed to withdraw from the research if one can't continue the research just because of the risk factor involved in it.(McLeod et-al)

Psychological Stress:

Psychological stress is not common in social research but it cannot be ignored that the result of the research process may cause any unpleasant situation. So it remains a moral duty of the researcher to avoid any such activity that may result in the psychological stress.(Newman)

Analysis and Reporting:

The researcher should be well aware of the procedural short comings of the study while conducting a research and it is his or her duty to inform it to their readers. In conducting a scientific research it also remains the responsibility of the researcher to be honest about the findings which come about accidentally. They must also know about the fact that science progresses through honesty and openness. The researchers can serve their fellow men by reporting the facts.(Bhattacharjee et-al)

Honesty:

One of the crucial aspects for research is honesty. It is an ethical duty of the researcher to report data, results, methods and procedure honestly . One should not fabricate, generate and misinterpret the data. It is the researcher's moral obligation not to deceive the society, people readers, his colleagues and students.(Resnik)

Objectivity:

According to social scientists objectivity is a procedure or a technique which help the researchers to make the findings more valid and unbiased. Enlisting the objectives of the study is one of the core responsibility of the researcher because this provides a clear comprehension to the readers about the study. Sometimes the research turns to be of vital importance because of the objectivity of the study as it creates interest among the readers about what is being researched and why.(Khatwani & Panhwar et-al)

Carefulness:

Every research needs careful handling and it is one of the major duty of the researcher to avoid careless errors in research .They should also maintain a record of research activities such as data collection, research design and communication with the organization and agency.(Gajjar et-al)

Integrity:

The research should be conducted with integrity avoiding personal bias in data analysis, interpretation of the findings and making decisions. It is the ethical duty of the researcher to avoid personal interest that harm the research. The research must be done with consistency of mind and by keeping up the promises and agreements. It should be done with all the moral integrity.(Damasio)

Openness:

The openness of the researcher is more ethical rather than obligation. It should be their will to share their ideas, methodology, finding, results and resources to others. It is beneficial to them if they invite criticism or remain open to new ideas.(McLean,Posner,Thomson,Wood et-al)

Responsible Publication:

A duty of all researchers is the final stage of research which is Publication. Academic publications are anticipated to provide a comprehensive and permanent evidence of research. One of the most critical standard of moral is that the research should be published in order to advance knowledge rather than to promote one's own recognition. As publications is the

foundation for both new research and the relevance of findings, they not only effect the researchers but also, society at large. Therefore, the researchers have a responsibility to ensure the honesty, lucidity, accuracy, stability, and completion of the research, but they should also avoid ambiguous, discriminating or vague reporting. (Wager & Kleinert et-al)

Plagiarism:

It is one of the most highlighted ethical issue that the researcher should have a respect for all the intellectual works and they should be given credit for their work .The principles of copyrights should be taken into consideration. The research should not use data methods or result of any other work without permission. One should not use somebody else's words, ideas and work to produce own work. It is an ethical dishonesty to copy someone scholarly work.(Nurul Islam, Koka ,Wahab, Khan et-al)

Social Responsibility:

The researchers have a big responsibility towards society as it is their moral and ethical duty to avoid such a research, which creates harm to the society. Their research must be based on current social issues aimed to inform, educate and train the public. It must advocate the well being of the society without discrimination on the basis of gender, class, race, religion or ethnicity at any cost.(Gajjar et-al)

Competence:

The competence of the research should be managed through education and learning. The researcher should permanently take measures to improve the standard of their knowledge and capability of their skill. Competency in social research is applicable to life. It is generally understood as being suitable to cope with other people .This kind of competency is crucial to maintain connection with others. Social competency is an understanding based on skills and emotional responses, which manages the existing situation.(Singh, Chandra &Kumar et-al)

Legal harm:

the researcher should secure clearance from the legal authorities and law enforcement Agencies for their search because if there is any legal harm to the participants of the research it would be a disturbance and there will be unwilling participation in research in future.(Newman)

Protection for Animals and People:

In the search process it is ethical to maintain the honor and dignity of the mankind the research should be done in such a way that it should not create animal or human the researcher should also not design any dangerous experimental research for animals.(Gajjar et-al)

Decision making:

Though there is a list of course and principles provided for research but there is a chance of having an Unexpected situation during the research and it requires are responsible interpretation so it is the moral duty of the researcher to interpret access and make decisions responsibly.

These were some of the common research ethics and for history the standard of morality reaches at its peak because the findings of historical research have a deep impact, and sometimes it changes the entire course of history. Following is a short description of some ethical standards for Historical research. (Fairchild et-al)

Ethics in Historical Research

A detailed description about the ethical codes and principles of the social research, now we must go through some of the principles and standards into consideration while narrating history. there is a phrase by Carl Becker:

" every man his own historian" (Hexter)

which visibly denotes the variation in the narration of History.

Gordon Connell Smith and Howell Lloyd in their book , *Relevance of History* states

" history is not the past nor yet the surviving past, it is a reconstruction of certain parts (from surviving evidence) which in some way have had the relevance for the present circumstances of the historian Who reconstructs them"

Historical events sometimes remain very confusing because in reality the historical happenings are understood to be doubtful, but it is the duty of the historians to try their level best to comprehend the reality of history .(Gohit)

About the narration of history Hillarie Belloc says:

It is hardest of all the literary efforts to make history readable, useful and new; the historian is the one who is engaged in all round activity as compare to the person involved in other literary work. The historian must keep his narration live to such an extent that it captures the attention of the reader just like a novelist and a playwright.

The historian's work is so important that determines his endless efforts to re construct the past. It is the ethical duty of the historian to envision the past, bring back its environment, understands its moods and secure the image successfully.(Garrigham)

The historians have the moral obligation to imagine and recreate history as only they can join different parts and fragments to complete the picture. Only the historian know how to manage the scattered parts of the lost events and how to arrange them. It is the historian only who can behave as the man who manages everything in the darkness .(Gooch)

The historians know that history is somewhat more than what we see, as the past is dead and can't be modified. But it can be utilized as a catalyst which prepare the human minds, the communities and the institutions.(Becker)

It is assumed that there are a number of issues which the historians should keep in mind while constructing the history. It is very much obvious that there is an unreachable gap between the past and the historian and the historian must be ethical while narrating the history. There are some of the important obligations for the historians to consider before writing historical narratives. These are:-

Comprehension of Reality:

History of the past comes to us in the form of narration as Karl Jasper comments;

" God alone can know historical reality, authentically in its totality"(Jaspers)

So only a historian can comprehend history as Collingwood says that" it is an experience re experienced by the historians in creation, so it is the ethical duty of the historian to narrate history in full comprehension of the era he/she is talking about.(Collingwood)

Inadequate Standard of Proof:

If the facts of history are not adequate, then the historian remains responsible for not understanding the hidden meanings of the available material. Historian generally have little time for a critique of the past so they should spend a lot of time in defining the proposition drawn from the available resources.(Tosh)

To be Factious:

The morality of the historians lies in the fact that they should be very selective about the facts, as there are unlimited facts that surround the historians. And if they pay attention to all the facts they would never reach to any conclusion. So it is the moral duty of the historians to let the facts speak for themselves. After that they should make a distinction between the facts of the past and facts of history.(Carr)

Standard of Proof:

The historians' thinking is similar to the scientists because like the scientists a historian observes the facts and finds out the results. It is just like finding a relevance between the present and the past. For writing significant history the historian must enter into the territory of alien disciplines as an explorer, and note down the observations and facts. Now it becomes a moral obligation of the historian to narrate the facts. As it is proved that history needs a brilliant and a mastered effort to write it.(Gohit)

Identify the Criteria:

The ethical issues also guides the historians in identifying the criteria to select the facts of history. The essence of the events under consideration Namier expressed this idea metaphorically,

" the function of the historian is again to that of the painter and not the photographic camera; to discover and set forth to single out and stress that which is of the nature of things and not to reproduce indiscriminately all that meets the eye." (Tosh)

Truth Telling:

The ethics demand from the historians to "get it right", means that the material which is being narrated must adhere to some standard of truth telling, Allen Megill take the strongest stance arguing that

" the fundamental obligation of historians is to the maximal telling the truth maximally keyed to the insight of the available evidence. Here is where the only ethics of history worthy of the name is to be found"(Carr, Flynn, Makkreel)

Rhetorical Exaggeration:

The historians have to refrain from the exaggeration of the actual events for example the great fire of London or the execution of Charles 1 were the historical events that were exaggerated and Elton have seized to the point that there is a difference between the actual past and the facts of the history so the historians should avoid exaggerating the issues.(Tosh)

Clearness or Fluency:

The comprehension and crystal clear approach of the narrative is one of the important aspect of the historical research. The composition should be readable , the grammar should be accurate correct structure of the sentence and paragraph are very important in historical narration. Incorrect writing is intolerable in any history book.(Garragham &Delanglez)

Clear Hypothesis:

It is one of the moral obligation of the researchers of history , that they should put forward a clearly formulated proposition, which can be tested against the evidence, provided by the them. Formulating new questions has important effect, but to unfamiliar aspects, the historian must go for familiar aspects.(Tosh)

Authors Concern with the Subject:

The historians moral obligation is to keep themselves concern with the substance and form .It is clear that historians who have achieved fame owe the result largely to their attractive prose. Justin Winsor in his book, "*The Narration and Critical History of America* " expressed that "*the truest form of historical expression was the bare statement of fact, in bald language.*" (Garragham&Delanglez).

Diversity of Opinion:

As historical narratives are composed of many complexities and variations that's why they are illustrated differently by historians . So it is the moral duty of the historian to accept this diversity of opinion and always give a broad brush view about the matters of historical change. They need to investigate the situation with strong possibility of different findings.(Tosh)

Standard of Expression:

The standard of expression is also one of the most important duty of the historians because any kind of historical narration need to maintain a balanced description , "the commitment of historical data to a paper, is a process of rhetoric not of research" . The standard of expression is also needed because the historical narration is done to inform, convince, persuade or to entertain the public. That is why the expression is said to be the practical instrument or device for the successful transmission of human thought.(Garragham&Delanglez).

Relative Importance:

In history the evidence is never sufficient and remains doubtful, that is why the interpretation is not beyond suspicion .For this reason it becomes a moral obligation for the historians to utilize their innate senses to conclude the interpretation of historical events. It also remains important

that the conclusion should be related to the relative importance of the subject. Burckhardt in his book's "Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy 1850's" preface writes:

"In the wide ocean upon which we venture the possible ways and directions are many and the same studies which have served for this work might easily, in other hands not only receive wholly different treatment and application but lead also to essentially different conclusions".

The relative importance remains fundamental obligation of historians in doing historical as well as organizational research. It involves maximum telling of the truth.

(Johnson, LeBreton, James et-al)

Vivid Writing:

It is not an ethical concern but is considered necessary for historians that they should make the record of history live. They need to store the imagination and feelings of the reader to create the actual sense of what is being told. It is the faculty, that enables the historians to build up a live picture of the past. (Garragham & Delanglez)

Synthetic Views:

History must be concrete if it is to be vibrant. The narrative must offer broad and synthetic view for highlighting the event. Newman compares the historians to travelers who ascends to a nearby height to take a view of history. It means that a historian should be at a mental height that enables him to envision historical happenings. He should be able to relate the parts of the events and unify these threads in a knot. He must put all the events in a sequence and see how they fit in the creation of a study design. (Garragham & Delanglez)

Effective Presentation:

It is the ethical duty of the historians to make a major historical narration by putting the particulars of the account fill in the background, to contribute to a wide-ranging effect, improvement or proof of a hypothesis. If the historians do not create the right perspective or effective presentation of the event, then the picture will fail to appear distinctively. We will be unlucky to have the result, as the woods cannot be seen for the trees. (Al-qout et-al)

Unbiased Narration:

The most important moral obligation of the historians is to narrate history without the personal bias and prejudices. They should be free open minded, and visionary so that the outcome of their narration should be taken as an authentic document. In history the socio cultural approach is a crucially significant situation that makes it possible to resolve prolonged historical conflicts among the countries and, leads to settlement and reciprocated exoneration. (Mishalova et-al)

Conclusion:

Ethics in historical research is very important in terms of truthfulness, respect for subjects, and academic honesty. By holding onto these standards, historians can avoid harm, maintain professional competency and maintain the trust of the public. Furthermore, ethical research practices protect the legitimacy of historical records and avoid the misuse of historical

knowledge for political or ideological purposes. By following the ethical principles in historical research the quality and reliability of historical research increases, and it also ensures its positive contribution to education, public understanding, and social progress. As we continue to investigate and interpret the past, a firm obligation to ethical research practices remains essential for the progress of historical knowledge and its valuable impact on the present and future. In this Article some of the ethical concerns have been discussed for the narration of history. The matter of fact is that why should the historian be ethical in historical research? Why should they be impartial? And why their narration of history should be unbiased? The answers to all these questions lie in a fact, that historian have obligations towards the society, towards the people and to education that's why they need to be virtuous and moral in the narration of historical accounts.

Obligations to Society:

The historians and their research is dependent upon the collective behavior of the individuals and their actions in the society. The historians have an obligation to tune up with the ethical standards of the society in which they are living. The research work of the historian should not collide with the legislation or the law of the state. Whatever they narrate should leave an impact of unity, tolerance and openness in the people of the society. Their work should be able to boost up the morale of the people and must become a guideline for the generations to come. Historians also have a critical role as interpreters of the past and educators for the future. They must struggle for accuracy in their research and interpretations. The researchers should aim to minimize personal biases and present a balanced view and encourage critical thinking by analyzing and questioning sources and narratives. They should teach society not to accept information at face value but to seek evidence and understand its context .Their insights can help society understand the roots of existing problems and avoid repeating past mistakes. By exploring and explaining the diverse narratives of the past, historians help society to develop a more refined and broad understanding of identity. This encourage a sense of belonging and mutual respect among different communities. Understanding history allows society to learn from past successes and failures. Historians can highlight examples of positive change and progress towards social improvement.

Obligations to the Nation:

Historical researchers have a very important duty towards their own and other nations whose history they are searching. Researchers must struggle to present an accurate and truthful account of historical events. This helps in ensuring that history is not changed to serve particular agendas. This needs careful research, verification of facts, and critical scrutiny of sources. Researchers play a crucial role in documenting and preserving historical artifacts, documents, and narratives. This helps in maintaining a nation's cultural heritage for future generations. Researchers should engage in public education by making historical knowledge accessible to all public through publications, lectures, and media. Encouraging a deeper understanding and appreciation of the nation's history among its citizens promotes a sense of identity and stability. Recognizing and respecting the various perspectives and experiences

within the nation, including those of minorities is essential. By fulfilling these obligations, historical researchers contribute to the development of a well-informed, unified, and thoughtful nation. The research of the historians shouldn't be biased or prejudice towards any nation. Rather than it must reveal the negative and positive points in such a manner that whole nation should feel proud of it and they must learn a lesson from their shortcomings.

Obligation to the Subject:

One of the basic obligation of the historian is towards history. It is very much obvious that there is an unbridgeable gap between the historians and the events of the past and the burden is on the shoulder of the historians. To fill that gap they should join the pieces together and recall the events in such a manner that the picture of history must be very clear in the minds of the readers. Their narration must be based on the real facts about the incidents of the past. This helps in ensuring that history is not vague and based on the true facts. The historical researchers must abide by the ethical values to present the most accurate and comprehensive account of events possible. This kind of research involves careful sourcing, cross-referencing data, and using reliable methodologies. All the research questions should be carefully verified against reliable evidence, reducing the risk of spreading misconceptions and inaccuracies. The historians must continuously question and re-assess existing historical narratives and assumptions to avoid idleness of the evidences and promote a deeper understanding. Placing historical events within their broader social, economic, political, and cultural contexts for a clear interpretation reveal the true meaning and worth of the subject.

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