

MAHER – RESEARCH POLICY

Doc No: MAHER/RP/SOP/01

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PREAMBLE

“Health is the greatest of human blessings.”

-Hippocrates

Indeed! It is health that is the real wealth and not pieces of gold or silver. The highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental human right, without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. Healthy citizens form a healthy nation; thus, health for all is at the centre of national development. Any development policy must include essential strategies on maintenance of health. Ensuring good health for all entails formulation of strategies on preventive, therapeutic, promotional and rehabilitative aspects of medical science and should be based on proper evidence-based research.

Research is the base on which the development of mankind stands. Quest for discovery has led to the rapid increase in scientific knowledge and innovations, creating a profound impact on our society at large. Development of health through research is thus a long-term investment towards health of the society. Science, research, technology and innovation often starts at the university research environment and Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research (MAHER- Deemed to be university) is a party to the same. MAHER is committed to uplift and maintain this holistic idea by framing a tailor-made health policy to design, execute and monitor the health research at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research and its constituent colleges.

PURPOSE

The policy establishes an ambient research environment for inspiring the faculty members and students to carry out research project within the university. It will also provide a framework for the development and research management at MAHER.

SCOPE

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This is a MAHER wide statute. It is implementable in all the faculties and constituent colleges of MAHER.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research is committed to provide a vibrant and enabling environment to cultivate a research culture amongst its academic staff members and students. MAHER continuously aims at promoting ethical and quality research that will be socially relevant and has the potential for commercialisation. MAHER is dedicated to provide all the necessary infrastructure and financial assistance to help the researchers to conduct research. The university strives to bring about maximum inter and intra disciplinary research projects as well as industrial collaborations, to facilitate translational research, which is beneficial to mankind and the society at large.

CUSTODIAN OF POLICY

The implementation and updating of Research Policy shall be periodically carried out by the Directorate of Research, Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research. The Research Policy shall have MAHER-Research Committee to function under Vice Chancellor, MAHER to assist and advice in matters related to research within MAHER.

POLICY AND GUIDELINES

The research policy of MAHER is framed carefully to lead to the zenith of research and scientific development and make it a world class institution, aimed towards the welfare of the society. The research conducted in MAHER shall follow the ethical guidelines as per ICMR /UGC / DSIR and scrutinised by the Institutional Ethical Committee. The teaching faculty members, undergraduate and post graduate students and PhD scholars are expected to take up research projects in accordance to their area of expertise, especially in the fields of Medical, Dental, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Allied Health Sciences, Yoga sciences and therapy and

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Humanities and Sciences. The institution shall extend its complete support in terms of infrastructural and financial aspects. The research projects may be done in the Central Research Laboratory of MAHER or research laboratories of the constituent institutions/faculties. The Institutional Ethical Committee will be responsible for scrutinization of the ethical aspects of research projects undertaken in MAHER and its constituent colleges. The research works of the faculty members and students shall be presented in national and international conferences and published in reputed indexed journals with good impact factor. A mechanism for internal funding by the institution is established for providing grants. Researchers shall also be motivated and guided for writing research proposal to seek research grants from government/private external funding agencies. It is to be established that the recruitment of faculty members as well as their promotion/increment will significantly depend on their research activities and publications, in addition to other academic responsibilities. More number of students and faculty members will be motivated to join the Ph.D program of MAHER. The researchers will also be inspired and guided to create intellectual property rights and apply for patents.

RESEARCH GOVERNANCE

The overall management of research activities may be coordinated by Directorate of Research, Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research under direct supervision of Vice Chancellor.

MAHER-Research Committee shall be responsible for overall functioning of research activities within MAHER and its constituent colleges.

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD

MAHER and its constituent colleges will form an Academic Integrity Panel and review board headed by an Organizing Chairman and panel/board members from various specialities and

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external expert. The Board shall meet as frequently as possible to scrutinize the research proposals and approve them.

VETTING PROCESS

Each and every project submitted will be critically analysed by a team of research committee members, following which the proposals will be either accepted, instructed to modify or rejected.

INSTITUTIONAL ETHICAL COMMITTEE

Clearance by the institutional ethical committee is mandatory for all the research proposals submitted.

PLAGIARISM CHECK

The research projects shall be stringently scrutinized for their originality. Plagiarism will be strongly condemned and every manuscript must be thoroughly checked for text matching and plagiarism using plagiarism checking software or text matching software provided by UGC (URKUND).

PROTOCOL

MAHER will encourage and welcome research proposals from faculty members, undergraduates and post graduate students and PhD scholars, which is to be submitted to the Institutional Ethical committee and Academic Integrity Panel for approval.

On approval by the Institutional Ethical Committee the projects shall be completed within the stipulated time period. The completed projects shall be scrutinized by the MAHER Research Committee for authenticity and adherence of protocol and will then be presented in conferences and written for publication by the authors after the clearance by the Academic Integrity Panel.

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RESEARCH FLEXIBILITY

Choice of Guide

The students are allowed to choose a guide of their choice among the faculty members, depending on their knowledge and expertise of the research subject.

Post graduates will be allotted a guide and co-guide for their thesis by the concerned departments.

Ph.D. researchers will be free to choose a guide and co-guide from any constituent colleges of MAHER depending on their topic of research.

Choice of research topic

The researchers, faculty members and students may choose a topic of their interest and preference.

Interdisciplinary options

The researchers are encouraged to pursue research across all disciplines promoting quality interdisciplinary research.

PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH OUTPUT

1. The research should be published in reputed peer-reviewed journals indexed with Scopus/ Pub Med/ Web of Science/UGC CARE list of journals with good impact factor.
2. Financial assistance for publication done by faculties will be given by MAHER.
3. Authorship criteria shall be strictly followed in publication process. A person can be included as an author if he /she fulfils ALL of the following criteria:
 - a) Contribution in conceiving and designing of the study.

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- b) Contribution in acquisition, analysis or interpretation of data.
- c) Contribution in the critical evaluation of intellectual content.
4. The order of authorship shall be directly proportional to the work done by the authors for the article, irrespective of their designations.
5. The authors shall take responsibility for the authenticity and plagiarism check for the article to be published.
6. A copy of the published article must be submitted to the university.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

MAHER has a proactive policy to promote research by motivating the faculties and students to undertake research activities by adopting a policy of integral support through the following special norms:

1. Formulating a system of an annual research grant for the undergraduate and postgraduate students.
2. The students can submit their research proposal to the MAHER-Research Committee, and after proper review by the Institutional Ethical committee, funds will be provided as seed money/research grant to the students who will have to finish and submit the report within a stipulated time frame. A faculty shall be allotted to guide and monitor the research process or can undertake independent research.
3. Seed money/ research grants for the faculty members from the institution.
4. Financial support for publication of articles in indexed journals for faculty members.
5. Registration and travel grant to present the research findings in local, national and international conferences/seminars.
6. Annual research awards and Young researcher's award by the institution.

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