

## **Research Ethics Review Board (RERB) Constitution, Function and Procedure**

Following ICMR guidelines (2017) for biomedical and health research, Guidance Document on Good Academic Research Practices by the UGC (August 2020), UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations 2018, and the best practices followed by reputed institutions, RVIM has constituted a Research Ethics Review Board (RERB).

The Research Ethics Review Board shall consist of a Chairman, Convener and internal and external members as detailed below:

- Chairman - Director (1)
- Member Secretary - Convener of the Research Centre (1)
- Members - Any Two Senior faculty members as nominated by the Director (2) and three external members (3)

### **Members of Research Ethics Review Board and Term (2023-26)**

1. Dr. Purushottam Bung: Chairperson
2. Dr. Padmalini Singh: Convener, Centre for Research and Consultancy

#### **INTERNAL MEMBERS**

3. Dr. Noor Firdoos Jahan: Internal Member
4. Dr. Tamizharasi: Internal Member

#### **EXTERNAL MEMBERS**

5. Dr. Lakshmi Arya Thathachar (History and Philosophy): External Member (Associate Dean- Research and Associate Professor, School Of Law, RV University)
6. Dr. Anjana Reddy (Legal Expert): External Member (Principal, RV Institute of Legal Studies)
7. Dr. Keerthi Kishore S. (Applied Psychology): External Member (Assistant Professor, School Of Liberal Arts and Sciences)

**The tenure of the members of RERB shall be for three years (2023-2026).**

### **Quorum requirement for RERB**

- A minimum of five members should be present in the meeting room.
- The quorum should include both medical, non-medical or technical or/and non-technical members.
- Minimum one non-affiliated member should be part of the quorum.
- No decision is valid without fulfilment of the quorum.

### **Functions:**

- a) To formulate Research Ethics Policy for RVIM and get it approved by RERB.
- b) To review the ethical safeguards of the proposed PhD research before data collection.
- c) To report breaches of Ethics Policy or non-compliance of ethical practices among PhD scholars, students, faculty and staff to the RERB for taking necessary actions.
- d) To recommend actions on non-compliance of ethical practices among PhD scholars, students, faculty and staff
- e) To make amendments and clarity to the Policy as and when required.
- f) All the research carried out by faculty and students at RV Institute of Management must comply with Research Ethics Policy of RVIM. All research work shall be vetted by RERB, depending on:
  - No review is required for research that does not involve collection of data from human or animal subject
  - RERB review is exempted for the research that involves collection of data from human subjects (adults who can provide informed consent) and collects and stores it anonymously.
  - Expedited application to RERB is required for the research that involves collection of data from human subjects (adults who can provide informed consent) and requires to collect/store identity of the subjects OR collect audio/video/images/recording of subjects.
  - Full application review will be required for the research that involves collection of data from minors, prisoners, foetuses, pregnant women, seriously ill, mentally or cognitively compromised adults, OR research involves study of animals (vertebrates) either captive or in open environment.
  - Any classroom assignment or project related to research does not require RERB approval unless faculty or student wish to publish their research in public domain.

**Procedure:**

- The RERB will meet as and when required to screen proposals for research by Ph.D. candidates and academic staff.
- Expedited applications shall be reviewed and returned to the researcher within three weeks of submission.
- Full applications shall be reviewed and returned to the researcher within six weeks of submission.
- Exempt and Expedited applications can be reviewed by any two members of the RERB. If there is a conflict, a third member's opinion will be solicited.
- Full applications will require a quorum of 5 members including the Chairperson and Member Secretary and also a subject matter expert.
- The internal members of the committee shall screen the proposals before they are circulated to external members.

**Promotion of the Research Ethics Policy**

The college shall to publicize the Research Ethics Policy by circulating among the research guides / supervisors, registered research candidates, teaching staff of the college as well as by publishing in the college website in a prominent manner so as to attract the attention of the interested persons.