



Navigating The Ethical and Research Integrity Landscape in Botswana

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Research Ethics and Integrity are two Fundamental Pillars of the Academic Research and Scientific Community.

According to Akaranga and Ongong'a (2013), **ethics** refers to the moral rightness or wrongness of doing things.

Dahal and Rijal (2022) defined **research ethics** as the acceptance of moral obligations, integrity and social responsibility guarded by principles in every part of research activities.

Research integrity is the **principles and standards** intended to ensure the trustworthiness and credibility of research (WCRI, 2022). On this premise, research ethics and integrity are essential in the context of higher education institutions where students are actively engaged in research activities as part of their academic journey

What is the Problem here?

Despite the numerous studies conducted in the developed nations ...a number of gaps still exist.

- Dearth of literature (proper documentation) in Botswana on the subject matter (Why?)
- (Because it is)not (prioritised)regarded as a subject matter in research endeavors especially R.I.
- Poor awareness of the importance of Ethics & Integrity in research.

The Study Aim

The study aimed to examine the State of Research Ethics and Integrity among University Students in Africa, with a particular focus on selected **Botswana Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)**.

Study Objectives

To achieve the study aim, the following objectives were formulated

1. To investigate the awareness, understanding and compliance of research integrity and ethical guidelines among university students in Botswana
2. To identify the barriers to research integrity and ethical compliance among University students in Botswana
3. To formulate strategies for strengthening compliance with research ethics and integrity principles within the Botswana University context.

Review of Literature

- Conceptual Definition of Ethics and Integrity within the Research Context
- Philosophical Approaches of Research Ethics and Integrity
- Theories of research ethics and integrity
- Empirical Review of Research Ethics and Integrity Concerns

Methodology

Research Approach

- Systemic Literature Review Approach
- Survey-based research design
(Open and Closed Ended Questionnaires)

Population

All registered Higher Education Institutions in Botswana.

Sample

The top six out of ten registered Universities in Botswana, representing the Higher Education Landscape in the Country.

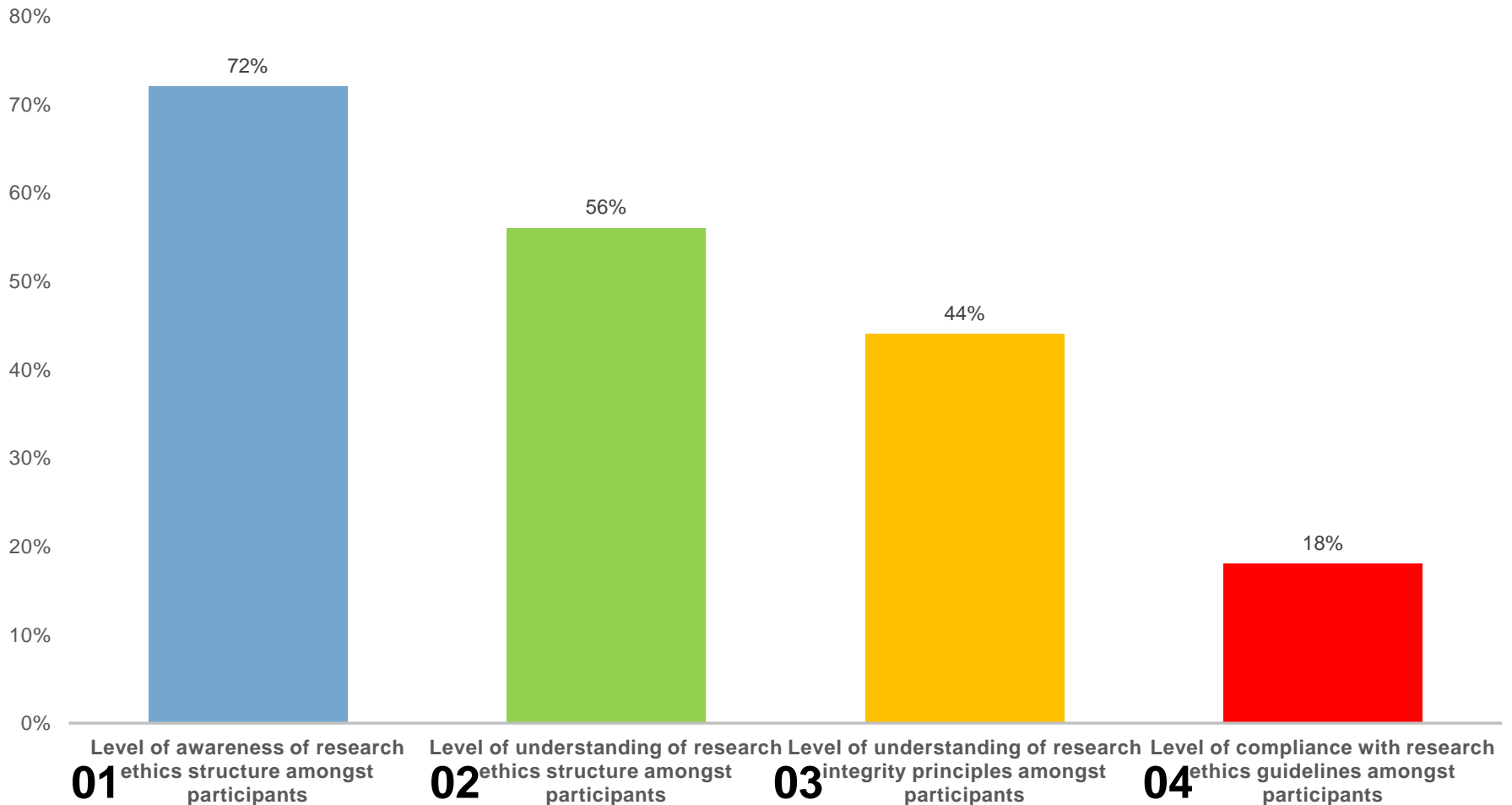
Final Sample

200 postgraduate students were contacted
140 completed the survey
5 responses did not meet selection criteria,
135 usable responses, representing a 65% response rate.

Key Results and Findings

Objective 1: To investigate the awareness, understanding and compliance of research integrity and ethical guidelines among university students in Botswana.

Percentage representation of the average score of respondents



Key Results and Findings

Objective 2: To identify the barriers to research integrity and ethical compliance among university students in Botswana.



Key Results and Findings

Objective 3: To formulate strategies for strengthening compliance with research ethics and integrity principles within the Botswana University context.

02 Time Allocation and Research Period

database access
curriculum
management support
time management
staff training
practical guidance

01 Education and Awareness

longer time

03 Support and Mentorship

mentorship
awareness
education
workshop
larger time frame
school management
gadget
technical support
library material

05 Technology and Resources

continuous development
professional development
technology
longer research period

04 Training and Professional Development

staff competency
lecturer availability
proper supervision
internet connection

Conclusion and Recommendations

- 01** Significantly, the study reveals a gap between knowledge and practice of research ethics and integrity. Despite good awareness, there is a lack of compliance to ethical standards. This contrast highlights the need for targeted interventions to bridge this gap and promote a stronger culture of research integrity in academic institutions.
- 02** The study recommends that achieving academic integrity and high ethical research standards requires a team effort, i.e., everyone at the institution — academic staff, support staff, and students must work together to understand and follow ethical guidelines for the benefit of the institution.
- 03** Despite the uniqueness of the study, the study was conditioned by small sample size. Future research in similar area can extend the sample size to include all HEI and other research institution to increase the sample size and possibility of generalization.

THANK YOU

Q&A

References are available on request



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