

Minutes of IIPS-IRB meeting held on Sept. 15, 2020

An online meeting of IIPS-IRB was held on Sept. 15, 2020, from 3.00 pm under the chairmanship of Prof. Vibhuti Patel to discuss the ethical issues in the project proposal entitled **A study of Federations of Senior Citizen Association in India**. The following six members of IIPS-IRB attended the online meeting and participated in the discussion:

1. Prof. Vibhuti Patel (Chairperson)
2. Prof. S.K. Singh (Convener)
3. Prof. Gajanan D. Velhal
4. Prof. Lalita Savardekar
5. Prof. R. Nagarajan
6. Mr. Raju Chauhan

The convener of the meeting welcomed the chairperson and all the members and requested the Chairperson to start the proceeding. Principal Investigators of the project were invited to make a brief presentation of their proposal, focusing on objectives, methodology, and strategies of human subject protection. The research team presented the study's objectives as 1) To map the profile of the stakeholders (organizations/agencies) working in the elderly. 2) To understand the profile, structure, and membership of the selected federations in aging. 3) To study the activities/initiatives carried out by established federations working in the field of aging and challenges faced by them. 4) To understand the mechanism adopted by these federations to strengthen their activities and contribution to aging. 5) To study these federations' role in advocacy and formulation of policies and programs and challenges faced by them while liaising. 6) To understand the strengths, weaknesses, and expectations of the federations and the lesson learned and the methodology, including data collection, especially given the COVID-19 situation.

As part of the methodology, it was highlighted that the researchers would be selecting nine among 49 active federations of senior citizen association in the country by adopting suitable inclusion and exclusion criteria discussed, which were deliberated in detail. The committee members suggested adding years of working experience also as one of the inclusion criteria in addition to four inclusion criteria presented by the research team. Given the exiting COVID-19 situation in the country, it has been planned to share all relevant materials using an online platform followed by appointment based telephonic or video conferencing. The committee members discussed several other issues like provision of interaction with beneficiaries, type of persons interviewed from each federation, challenges before various federations, looking at their annual reports, etc., which were satisfactorily answered by the research team. The consent form developed for the study was also reviewed and found to be satisfactory, covering the significant domains of privacy, confidentiality, voluntary participation, potential harm reduction strategies, etc. The committee suggested that the range of information sought from each federation, there may be a need for multiple respondents. They will be discussing organizational roles, responsibilities, and activities. Therefore, the interaction with subjects should be termed as Key Informant Interviews rather than Individual-level In-depth Interviews. With the consent of all the members, the chairperson announced the proposal to be approved. The certificate of approval of the project proposal will be issued with a soft copy of the chairperson's signature. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chairperson and all the members of IIPS-IRB.