



Midocean University

Faculty of Management

**Department/Speciality: Master in Business
Administration**

Report title:

Social protection programs and multidimensional poverty

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Ethics Report Research (Master candidate)

First: Objective of the Report:

This report aims to enable me as a researcher to understand the principles of research ethics, analyze and assess the reach and efficacy of existing safety nets:

Evaluate Comoros' key social protection programs such as the World Bank-backed Social Safety Net Project (SSNP), (Cash-for-Work), Awqaf and targeted social and maternal/child nutrition programs to determine how accurately they identify and reach the poorest populations. Analyze how non-monetary deprivations vary across the islands "Grande Comore (Ngazidja), Anjouan (Ndzouani), and Mohéli (Mwali) and between rural and urban populations. This involves measuring shortfalls in concrete indicators like clean water, modern sanitation, school attendance, and child nutrition. Justify the study by establishing its broader scientific, social, and political significance. Given that many Comorian safety nets intentionally target women (such as the "mother leaders" initiatives in community health), a major purpose of this paper is to document how targeting social protection toward women shifts household dynamics and accelerates poverty reduction.

A significant portion of the Comorian population is vulnerable to non-income poverty due to regular environmental shocks (like Cyclone Kenneth) and economic disruptions. This research demonstrates that income increases alone cannot fix structural deficits like poor health infrastructure or lack of clean utilities. This study helps policymakers and international donors (UNDP, UNICEF, World Bank) transition from guesswork to data-driven funding. It answers exactly which islands or sub-regions experience the highest intensity of deprivation and where investments will yield the greatest returns.

1. Introduction:

Research ethics constitute a fundamental pillar of scientific inquiry and academic integrity. They encompass the principles, standards, and guidelines that govern the conduct of researchers throughout the research process. Ethical research practices ensure the protection of participants' rights, maintain the credibility of findings, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in a responsible manner. In contemporary academic environments, adherence to ethical standards is essential for producing reliable, valid, and socially beneficial research.

As a researcher I should be honest in data collection and reporting, objectivity in analysis, respect for participants, confidentiality, informed consent, and avoidance of plagiarism or data manipulation. These principles are particularly

important in social science research, where human participants often provide personal, economic, and social information that requires careful protection.

This present report examines the ethical dimensions of my research in relation to the topic “**Social Protection Programs and multidimensional poverty in Comoros.**” Social protection programs play a critical role in reducing vulnerability, improving living standards, and addressing various dimensions of poverty, including health, education, housing, and access to basic services. Research on such issues often involves collecting sensitive information from vulnerable populations, making ethical considerations especially important.

The objective of this report is to analyze the fundamental principles of research ethics, discuss common ethical challenges, examine the regulatory framework governing ethical research, and apply these principles to the proposed master's research topic and all academic or governmental needs. Through this analysis, this report will demonstrate how fair Ngazidja, Mohéli and Anjouan ethical standards contribute to the quality, credibility, and social value of governance they are managed.

2. Importance of Research Ethics

Research ethics are essential for ensuring the integrity and trustworthiness of scientific investigations. Ethical principles protect participants from harm, safeguard their rights and dignity, and promote public confidence in research outcomes. The Importance of research ethics can be summarized as follows:

- Ensuring Research Credibility
- Protecting Research Participants
- Promoting Academic Integrity
- Enhancing Public Trust
- Contributing to Social Development

3. Fundamental Principles of Research Ethics

Scientific honesty requires researchers to present information truthfully and accurately.

E.g: Reporting all survey findings, including results that do not support the research hypothesis. Integrity involves maintaining consistency between ethical values and research actions. As a researcher, I must avoid personal biases that may influence data collection or interpretation. All participants' personal information and privacy should be protected. By providing a consent

form explaining the purpose, risks, and benefits of the research, Participants should voluntarily agree to participate after receiving complete information about the study.

4. Ethical Issues in Scientific Research

- **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism occurs when a researcher presents another person's work as their own without proper acknowledgment by copying sections from published articles without citation.

- **Data Fabrication and Falsification**

Fabrication involves inventing data, while falsification involves altering research results. By creating fictitious survey responses to increase sample size.

- **Research Bias**

Bias occurs when researchers allow personal beliefs to influence findings. By selecting only participants who support a specific social protection program.

- **Violation of Privacy**

Privacy violations occur when confidential participant information is disclosed without permission. In publishing identifiable household income information.

- **Conflict of Interest**

A conflict of interest arises when personal or financial interests affect research objectivity by receiving funding from an organization whose programs are being evaluated.

- **Rules and Regulations Governing Research Ethics**
- **Institutional Review Boards (IRB)**

Institutional Review Boards evaluate research proposals to ensure compliance with ethical standards before data collection begins.

- **APA Ethical Standards**

The American Psychological Association (APA) provides guidelines regarding informed consent, confidentiality, data management, and ethical reporting.

- **International Research Ethics Principles**

- International frameworks emphasize:
- Respect for persons
- Beneficence
- Non-maleficence
- Justice

These principles guide ethical decision-making in social science research worldwide.

6. Practical application to the research topic

Research topic:

“Social Protection Programs and Multidimensional Poverty in Comoros”

This section demonstrates how ethical principles will be applied during the study.

- **Data Collection Procedures**

The research will collect data through questionnaires, interviews, and official government reports related to social protection programs and poverty indicators in Comoros.

- **Informed Consent**

All participants will receive a clear explanation of:

- Research objectives
- Participation requirements
- Voluntary nature of participation
- Right to withdraw at any time
- Confidentiality measures

Written or verbal consent will be obtained before participation.

- **Confidentiality and Privacy Protection**

- To protect participants:
- Personal identifiers will be removed.
- Data will be stored securely.
- Information will be used solely for academic purposes.
- Results will be presented in aggregate form.

- **Protection of Vulnerable Participants**

Because poverty research may involve vulnerable households, special care will be taken to avoid causing discomfort, embarrassment, or psychological distress.

- **Avoidance of Bias**

- The researcher will ensure:
 - Representative participant selection.
 - Neutral interview questions.
 - Objective interpretation of findings.
 - Transparent reporting of results.

- **Potential Risks and Mitigation Measures**

Potential risks include:

- Disclosure of personal economic information.
 - Emotional discomfort during interviews.
 - Mitigation measures include:
 - Strict confidentiality procedures.
 - Anonymous data processing.
 - Participant freedom to skip **sensitive questions**.

- **Academic Integrity**

All sources, statistics, and references used in the study will be properly cited according to APA guidelines. No plagiarism, fabrication, or falsification of data will be tolerated.

7. Conclusion

This report examined the fundamental principles of research ethics and highlighted their critical role in ensuring the integrity, credibility, and quality of scientific research. The discussion emphasized key ethical principles, including academic honesty, integrity, objectivity, confidentiality, and informed consent, as essential foundations for responsible research conduct. The report also analyzed common ethical challenges such as plagiarism, data fabrication, research bias, privacy violations, and conflicts of interest, demonstrating how these issues can undermine the validity of research findings and erode public trust in science.

Furthermore, the report reviewed the importance of ethical regulations and oversight mechanisms, including Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) and internationally recognized standards such as APA guidelines. The practical application of ethical principles to the research topic illustrated the necessity of protecting participants, ensuring data security, and maintaining transparency throughout the research process.

In conclusion, adherence to research ethics is not merely a procedural requirement but a professional and moral obligation for every researcher. Ethical conduct strengthens the reliability of research outcomes, safeguards the rights and dignity of participants, and contributes to the advancement of knowledge and societal development. Future studies should continue to prioritize ethical considerations at every stage of the research process to promote responsible scholarship, enhance public confidence in research, and uphold the highest standards of academic excellence.

8. References

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