

Ethical Issues in Social Science Research

Chanya Sethaput

The ethical issues in social science research has been raised up in the past decade which is later than clinical or medical science research. At present social science researchers are trying to clarify these issues.

The author selects some ethical issues in doing social science research for consideration. One issue is concerned with the need to do a particular research. Some approaches of data collection may hurt the feeling of subjects. At the same time informed consent is good for informants but it is an obstacle to collect data. Confidentiality and anonymity of subjects are enough or not, but some qualitative approach such as focus group discussion reveals information on discussants at first.

The presentation of research findings may affect or influence the opinions or behaviours of groups of people, which is hazardous to public. The donor who takes part in directing research conducting and disseminating is obviously violating research ethics or not. All issues should be considerably discussed among social science researchers.