



Women's Christian College
#51, College Road, Chennai – 600006
Research and Development Cell
Institutional Ethics Committee

Minutes of the Institutional Ethics Committee meeting held on
8th and 14th of December, 2022

The First Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) meeting of the college was held on 8th and 14th of December, 2022 in the college premises. Details pertaining to the members of the IEC constituted by the college, as per the guidelines given by ICMR, are as follows:

1. Chairperson - Dr. Usha Antony
Dean, College of Fish Nutrition and Food Technology
Tamilnadu Dr J Jayalithaa Fisheries University
Madhavaram, Chennai
2. Member Secretary - Dr. V. Gowri Ramesh,
Dean of Research, Shift I
Associate Professor,
Department of Home Science, WCC

Dr. J. Jeba Jesintha
Dean of Research, Shift II
Head and Associate Professor,
PG Department of Mathematics, WCC
3. Basic Medical Scientist - Dr. C. Ponnuraja
Scientist,
Head, Department of Statistics,
National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, ICMR
4. Basic Medical Scientist/
Social Scientist - Dr. C. Sheela Sasikumar
Managing Partner - SS Clini Research,
LLP, DIPP recognized startup,
Woman Entrepreneur, Motivator
5. Clinician - Dr. Sandeep Murali,
Director and Consultant Surgeon,
Seethapathy Clinic & Hospital, Chennai
6. Legal Expert - Adv. Veeraraghavan Inbavijayan,
Advocate/ International Arbitrator and Mediator,

7. Social Worker - Chennai
Ms. Shanthi,
Human Rights & RTI Activist,
Member of Review Committee for Women's Safety in
Public Transport in State Transport Authority,
Associate Member, Consumer Association of India,
Child Rights & Women Empowerment Activist, Civic
activist, Chennai
8. Member - Mr. Sridhar Ranganathan,
Co-founder and CEO,
HELYXON Healthcare Solutions,
Member, Steering Committee of HRD,
Department of Biotechnology,
Ministry of Science and Technology, New Delhi
9. Member - Prof Surendran,
Professor and Head
Department of Psycho-oncology & Resource Centre for Tobacco
Control, Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, Chennai-36, India
10. Member - Dr. Sasikala
Assistant Professor,
Department of Psychology,
University of Madras

The agenda for the meeting included the following:

- Introduction of the Members
- Presentations of Research Proposals by Two Ph.D Research Scholars, and 52 Post Graduate Students from the Department of Home Science, and eight Ph.D Research Scholars of the Department of Biotechnology
- Any other business

The meeting on the 8th of December, 2022 commenced with Prayer by Dr. Jeba Jesintha, Dean of Research, Shift II and Member Secretary. Dr. Gowri Ramesh, Dean of Research, Shift I and Member Secretary introduced the committee members. Letter of absence was obtained by Mr. Sridhar Ranganathan for the 8th of December, 2022, and from Dr. Usha Antony and Ms. Shanthi for the 14th of December, 2022.

54 students (Two Ph.D scholars and 52 Post Graduate students) of the Department of Home Science, and Eight Ph.D scholars of the Department of Biotechnology had submitted their proposals for Ethical clearance. The two Ph.D scholars and 32 PG students of the Home Science Department presented their proposals on the 8th, and 20 PG students presented their work on the 14th of December. The PG students were given the Ethical clearance for a period of four months, and the Ph.D scholars for a period of one year, after which their projects had to be reviewed again for continuity. From the Department of Biotechnology, three Ph.D scholars were asked to present their work. All other studies had to get clearance from the Institutional Animal Ethical clearance, after which the members mentioned that approval can be sought from the IEC of WCC. Of the three studies that were presented, only one could get the approval. The other studies needed clearance from the Animal Ethical committee and conduct of the food toxicity tests.

After completion of the presentations, the main suggestions from the committee members were as follows:










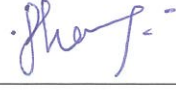




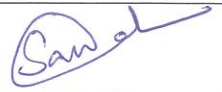


1. To constitute an internal Institutional Review Board (IRB), which will look into the proposals involving Observational, Survey or Factorial Designs. Once the IRB gives the approval, the proposals can be scrutinized by the IEC for Ethical clearance. These proposals need not be presented by the students.
2. Primary proposals that needed to be presented at meetings can include Ph.D proposals, Faculty funded projects, and Human studies involving Interventions. The other proposals can be submitted for scrutiny, and if needed can be presented at the IEC meeting.
3. For studies involving Surveys, site of the study can be considered outside 50 km distance. However, appropriate permission needs to be obtained from the concerned authorities and an undertaking from the respective Guides.
4. Appropriate Consent and Assent should be sought for studies involving vulnerable groups.
5. For studies concerned with Animal experiments, investigators have to obtain ethical clearance from the Institutional Animal Ethical Clearance first, and then submit their proposal to IEC for Approval. Power calculation should be applied to get the required number of samples (Animals), and the number of experiments.

Other General changes that were suggested by the Ethics Committee are as follows:

1. Spell out components of nutrition education program: timing for nutrition education program, number of sessions, time between administering the pre-test and post-test.
2. To use the term “participant” instead of subjects.
3. Studies to be conducted within 50km radius. If conducted outside, the students should obtain ethical clearance from the place of study if it involved any kind of intervention, after which the IEC would give approval. For surveys conducted outside the city, an undertaking from the Guide should be appended along with the proposal.
4. Expected Outcomes need to be spelt out clearly.
5. When there are too many components, to check outcomes specifically for one component.
6. Can use the term “determinants”, only if the related statistical tests and analysis would be performed.
7. In studies involving blood experiments, to be specific about the quantity of blood drawn and by whom, the site, details regarding the diagnostic centre or Labs, and the biochemical parameters that will be estimated. The methods used for the biochemical tests should be spelt out.
8. To change the informed consent accordingly.
9. To get a translator who is registered for questionnaires that require translation in the vernacular language, and carry out back translation.
10. To clearly mention Inclusion and exclusion criteria for participants
11. Under Exclusion criteria- to spell out Ill health.
12. In certain studies, the site need not have to be mentioned in the title.
13. Questionnaires and Interview schedules to be submitted along with proposals if the study involved a survey design.
14. For product formulations, to check FSSAI norms and guidelines for the product developed, and also if the food testing labs are NABL, ISO and/or GMP certified. The ingredients used in the formulation should be spelt out in terms of where it is sourced from, and what is its acceptable limits when added to food products.
15. For any plant extract, toxicology related references need to be appended, and the permissible limits need to be spelt out.

The committee informed the Member Secretaries to formulate the SOP of the IEC. Dr. Gowri Ramesh and Dr. Jeba informed the members that all the procedural formalities would be completed soon and uploaded on the Website. Dr. Gowri Ramesh proposed the Vote of Thanks. As there was no other business arising, the meeting was adjourned.

Signature of the Members

S.No	Member	8 th Dec and 14 th Dec, 2022	
1.	Dr. Usha Antony		-
2.	Dr. C. Ponnuraja		
3.	Dr. C. Sheela Sasikumar		
4.	Dr. Sandeep Murali		
5.	Adv. Veeraraghavan Inbavijayan		
6.	Ms. Shanthi		-
7.	Mr. Sridhar Ranganathan	-	
8.	Dr. V. Surendran		
9.	Dr. Sasikala		
10.	Dr. V. Gowri Ramesh		
11.	Dr. J. Jeba Jesintha	