

## Annexure

### RESEARCH POLICY OF SRI PADMAVATHI MAHILA VISVAVIDYALAYAM TIRUPATI

#### 1.0 Preamble

The research policy of the university is a conceptual understanding with a practical approach towards the research and development. It revolves around intellectual and contemporary social/ societal up-liftment with research ethics. Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam is at present a teaching and research University which aims to strive for Premier Research University. The University encourages interdisciplinary research having core knowledge in domain aspects in broader sense and unearthing different angles of application in a thought-provoking perspective to benefit society at large and women in particular.

#### 2.0 Objectives

1. Focus on research programs on diversified innovative frontier areas and extend support to researchers on the campus in their entire endeavour.
2. Ensure dynamic interactions between the departments and provide adequate support to inculcate multidisciplinary research aptitude
3. Prioritize, challenging and emerging areas by systematic action plan upholding research ethics.
4. Strives to foster research linkages with national and international research institutes, academia, industries for exchange and promotion of novel research.
5. Promote cutting edge technologies for blended learning with progressive research pedagogy.

#### 3.0 Nurturing Research:

Research is a nodal activity in any University and suboptimal participation of women in basic and applied research and innovation has been a serious concern throughout the country. Furthermore overall quality of research contributes to excellence of the Institution and enhances its stature. The broad mission of Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam being Emancipation of Women through acquisition of knowledge and Empowerment towards the end of establishing a progressive egalitarian society remains the guiding policy for the research progression. Thus, research focus in the University is on societal upliftment relevant focus on women. University believes and aims research activities towards fulfilling



  
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the vision and mission thereby emerging as premier centre of education and research, both in general and professional studies. Emphasis is placed on developing knowledge in terms of basic as well as applied research, community outreach research and training, consultancy aspects etc. The university encourages transfer of knowledge/technology gained in scholarship and research for the benefit of community thereby empowering women researchers.

The research in the SPMVV is multi-dimensional with appropriate focus on

- Research at graduate, postgraduate, Doctoral and Post-doctoral levels
- Faculty research projects sponsored by National and International funding agencies
- Collaborative research and Trans disciplinary research
- Innovative research and Women Entrepreneurship

Over the years, SPMVV has taken several strong measures to create research facilities in terms of establishing facilities like DST Curie Instrumentation facility, Animal House facility on par with Institutes of repute. Faculty actively engage through commitment by engaging in research and consultancy giving positive impetus in the overall quality of research.

**3.1 Scholar level research:** Emphasis is laid by the University to attract, sustain and nurture a culture of research scholarship at formative stages itself at graduate and postgraduate levels. Research aptitude is encouraged in students by fostering a rich learning environment with support for advanced as well as community oriented research for project works in majority of courses. The PG students are encouraged to publish their project work in reputed journals. The students publishing their research work during their academic programs will be accorded 2 extra credits, over and above the prescribed credits to give them a boost.

Doctoral and Post-doctoral research is encouraged by the University in terms of enrolment, improvement in scientific temper with multidisciplinary approach. Flexibility is provided to women at Doctoral level to undertake research on full time as well as part-time basis for employed women. Rules and regulations of research degree courses are periodically updated and approved, as per the guide lines of the regulatory bodies and other government agencies. Presently fifty percent of the research seats in any year are earmarked for students qualified through UGC/ CSIR- NET/SET/GATE/GPAT to attract



  
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national talent. Students with DST INSPIRE/ Moulāna Azad fellowship/RGNF/TEQUIP or similar fellowships are given provisional admission throughout the year. Research programmes provide course work papers with 4 credits each comprising of research methodology and computer applications and field area of specialization. The research progress is monitored periodically through well formulated guidelines and progress reports submitted every half-year. Women researchers are encouraged to pursue post-doctoral research by supporting them to stand in competition for national and international fellowships.

In recent years the University is welcoming international students to register for Doctoral research at SPMVV under International Relations Office supervised by a team guided by Dean, International affairs. This approach made SPMVV to take Higher Education across borders. In view of encouraging results, the University aims to strengthen and widen the approach, which can provide the required impetus to foster international collaborations and sponsored projects.

### **3.2 Faculty research projects sponsored by National and International funding agencies:**

The faculty are expected to undertake research leading to quality publications, presentations in National/International conferences of repute. Research activity with socially useful outcomes, generation of Intellectual property with potential for commercialization are highly encouraged. Research output is considered as one of the criteria for faculty recruitment and promotion along with other academic responsibilities. The quality of research output, especially research publications are assessed on the established yardsticks such as Impact Factor (IF). SPMVV encourages non-research projects such as training, workshops, library projects, career development awards, individual awards and infrastructure awards.

To encourage and appreciate research, some rewards and appreciations are already in place like University Best Researcher Award given annually, financial support for quality publications/books, travel support for faculty and students to attend conferences and deliver presentations at national and international level etc. The University is actively considering encouraging young faculty in the initial years, to establish by providing in-house seed grant, sharing 25% of grant sanctioned under overhead charges of sponsored projects



  
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with Principal investigator of the project for incidental charges not covered in the research grant like installation and maintenance of project equipment, encouragement/incentive for community research and other incidental charges. Other initiatives mooted include financial support for innovation in way of reward/ partial/ total patent cost for national and international patents.

**3.3 Collaborative Research:** The University encourages MoUs and MoAs with universities across the world to foster collaborative research at national and international level in which both faculty and students are part. SPMVV believes in sharing of knowledge in terms of mutual enrichment by lending expertise to the desiring institutions as well as strengthening its own repository base. The International Relations Office (IRO) builds strategic partnerships with universities, research institutes, industries and Fine Arts institutions around the world. It serves as a central resource to support cross border collaborations and exchange of staff and students to enhance and assist student and scholar transition.

**3.4 Innovative research and Women Entrepreneurship:** University initiated SPMVV Society of innovation, incubation and Entrepreneurship that lead to establishment of SSIIE – TBI (Incubation centre), SPMVV WIF (Bionest sponsored by DBT-BIRAC) to encourage and support ideas from concept to start up. The University also houses Institution and Innovation Council (IIC), Centre for Translational Research (CTR), Rural Women Technology Park (RWTP), TePP-OutReach cum Cluster Innovation Centre (TOCIC-supported by DSIR PRISM), to strengthen its endeavours.

#### **4.0 Governance:**

There shall be two Research Committees namely **University Research Policy Committee (URPC)** and **University Research Support Committee (URSC)** to formulate research policies and oversee the research activities of Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvaavidyalayam. The committees will aim to foster and promote the creation of new knowledge by faculty and students in all disciplines of the University. The URPC is primarily responsible for policy making issues and URSC support and map the research activities on the campus.

**4.1 University Research Policy Committee:** The University Research Policy Committee (URPC) shall support institutional research vision and foster best practices that lead to excellence in research. It shall ensure an active role of faculty in the formulation of all





research policies. The URPC will meet annually to review research progress, offer critical comments and suggest measures to enhance the research activities of the University. The composition of the URPC includes 6 members from the university and three other members from reputed research institutions, other academic institutions and industries. The members would be appointed by the Vice- Chancellor for the tenure three year.

**4.2 University Research Support Committee (URSC):** URSC will formulate on Short-term Research Strategies in specific areas and support research work. URSC is responsible for finalization of MOUs within the country. The Committee will ensure research Integrity and coordinate activities with various bodies for compliance of regulatory framework in the university. URSC also closely works with the DRC which looks after the Post Graduate and research Students and monitors Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Programmes. A comprehensive mapping of research activities of faculty would be undertaken by URSC to develop strategy for maximizing research potential. It supports the faculty to engage research activities, collaborations and consultancy projects. The URSC includes Dean, Research along with four senior professors drawn from different disciplines and invites domain experts whenever necessary. Centre for Consultation and Allied Services, Centre for Translational Research, Biosafety and Ethical committees will be working in coordination.

URSC will also provide support by providing information from time to time regarding opening of funding calls by Government, Ministries and Non-Governmental agencies like UGC, ICSSR, NCW, MHRD, DST, CSIR, ICMR, ICAR, DBT, DSIR, BIRAC, MOES, SERB, International agencies *etc.* and guiding researchers to potential funding agencies. It will act as repository of the research by maintaining a data base for University research policies, technical/salient outcomes reports of research project conducted with/ without sponsorship, research grants received, patents applied/granted. It will keep a repository of research conducted by faculty, post doctoral scholars, centres, student research project *etc.* The data will be accessible to members within the institution as well as by those outside the institution, such as funders and partners. This Code of Practice applies to all those undertaking research under the University's auspices.

**5.0 Institutional Committees:** Several constituted committees operate in the University in compliance to the guidelines of regulatory authorities to maintain research standards like



  
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**5.1 Institutional Animal Ethics Committee:** The Institutional Animal Ethics committee (IAEC) of Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam was constituted in 2012 and is registered with 'Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals' (CPCSEA), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Animal Welfare Division, Government of India for research and education purpose. It takes care of all aspects of animal care and research in accordance with CPCSEA guidelines. SPMVV houses an animal facility, well maintained according to CPCSEA guidelines to facilitate preclinical studies. Research on animals is carried out only after obtaining the approval of IAEC. The goal of these guidelines is to promote human care of the animals used in biomedical and behavioural research and testing and to avoid unnecessary pain before, during and after experiment. It also provides guidelines for, housing, care, breeding and maintenance of research animals and establishes acceptable experimental procedures for anaesthesia and euthanasia. IAEC implements 5Rs of CPCSEA namely, Reduction in number, Refinement, Replacement of animals with *in-silico/ in-vitro* studies wherever possible, Rehabilitation of animals after experiment and Responsibility. It reviews and approves research proposals involving laboratory animals and inspects the animal facility regularly. It ensures the implementation of GLP guidelines, suggests modification of proposals wherever research activity is not found according to CPCSEA guidelines.

**5.2 INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE:** As per the guidelines of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), SPMVV constituted IEC in March, 2018 to ensure a competent review of all ethical aspects of the project proposals received by it in an objective manner. IEC endeavours to protect and promote the rights, dignity and wellbeing of research participants; educate and train the research community periodically. All the research involving human beings are to be conducted according to the four basic principles of ethics, viz; patient's autonomy respect for participant, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice. The compliance of basic approaches at all stages of the research is ensured right from the inception of a research idea, research design, to conduct of the research or experiment and its utility. Its role also includes professional and ethical reviews undertaken at appropriate stages and providing specific guidelines and necessary directions in respect of the conduct of the research or experiment. IEC ensures a proper review of all ethical aspects of the project proposals in an objective manner, protecting the dignity, rights and well being of potential research participants and provides advice to researchers on all aspects of welfare



  
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and safety of research participants. It also ensures scrutiny of soundness of the research proposal by a scientific review committee for adherence to universal ethical values and international scientific standards. It assists in the development and education of a research community responsive to local health care needs.

**5.3 INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE:** SPMVV Institutional Bio- safety Committee (IBSC) was constituted in accordance with India's Biosafety and Recombinant DNA Guidelines (1990) which fall under the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986. In 1994, India signed the Biodiversity Convention and DBT revised its earlier guidelines to accommodate the safe handling of GMOs in research, application and technology transfer. IBSC of SPMVV endeavours to reduce the risk of potential bio-hazardous threats to the environment, community and society. It ensures that all activities involving potentially bio hazardous materials are conducted in compliance with Environment Act 1986. The Biosafety Committee is vested with the authority to review and approve practices and procedures regarding research and other activities involving potentially bio-hazardous materials, direct inspection by the Biological Safety Officer of the facilities where bio-hazardous materials are used and/or stored and take appropriate action thereof. It is entrusted to assist and advise the University on incorporation of good biological safety practices into all activities involving potentially bio-hazardous materials. The IBSC committee has a DBT nominee and is approved periodically for 3 years tenure.

**6.0 Promoting Ethics and Good Practices in Research at SPMVV:** Ethics are core factors in formulating and pursuing of any endeavours including research, Inculcating these values aid researchers to maintain ethical standard in the institution.

**6.1 Integrity and honesty:** All individuals involved in research are expected to observe highest standards of integrity, honesty and professionalism in respect of their own actions in research as well as in their responses to the actions of others. This applies to the whole range of research activities including, but not limited to: designing studies and experiments; generating, recording, archiving, analysing and interpreting data; sharing data and materials; applying for funding; presenting and publishing results; training new researchers, staff and students; and peer reviewing the work of other researchers.

**6.2 Intellectual Property Rights:** Every researcher should understand and respect the importance copyrights and plagerism. Necessary credit should be given whenever required.



  
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**6.3 Social Responsibility:** University strives to promote societal good and prevents/mitigates social harms arising through research, public education and advocacy.

**6.4 Animal Care:** Proper respect and care for animals should be given when using them in research and ensure their safe disposal. Avoiding unnecessary or poorly designed animal experiments is advocated.

**6.5 Human Subjects Protection:** When conducting research on human subjects, minimize harms and risks and maximize benefits; respect human dignity, privacy, autonomy and promote the harmony in the community.

**6.6 Conflict of interest:** Researchers should declare potential conflicts of interest, both financial and professional. Researchers should ensure that they abide by any conflict of interest requirements of funding agencies or that are otherwise relevant to their research.

**6.7 Professional Guidance and Legislations:** The University expects researchers to abide by the guidelines of professional, scientific and other relevant bodies. All researchers should be aware of the legal requirements which regulate their work, including health and safety legislations.

**6.8 Generation of Research data** Research data should be generated using standard, validated methods and techniques. Maintaining raw data, recorded in accordance with good research practice is supported. Records of all procedures, standard operating procedures for equipment and data should be maintained.

**6.9 Publication:** Researchers must publish responsibly with an awareness of the consequences of any infringements in publication. Researchers should acknowledge the funding and each and every service utilized for the work.

**6.10 Plagiarism:** University has plagiarism software and it is mandatory to obtain plagiarism clearance certificate before submission of Post graduate and Doctoral thesis as well as while publishing of research work or book.

**7.0 Technology development and Support to Entrepreneurship:** This Women's University encourages the faculty, research scholars, students and freelancers to develop technology of commercial importance and undertake research in development of technology, design, innovation, consultation, translation, management and internationalization at SPMVV. This is mediated, monitored and supported by various centres/cells established for the purpose like Consultancy services, International Relations, Innovation, Intellectual property Rights, Translational research, UN-APCICT -WIFI TOT Center, Trans Disciplinary Research Initiative



  
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Centre for Adolescent Health (TRICA) , IIC etc. The interdisciplinary research is promoted through the policies developed and facilitation for grounding of research projects as well as mentoring provided through senior faculty. Each centre with defined objectives strives to create awareness sessions for optimum utilization of available facilities by individual researchers and updates regularly about the collaboration facilities available.

**8.0 Support Policies:** Support policies are developed and updated to meet growing requirements of university and to make it globally competitive. University level policy is crucial in shaping talent and commitment of staff and scholars to enhance profile for business and funding agencies alike along with strengthening of academic programmes and research. The important policy like consultancy, translational research IPR policy, Innovation and start-up policy protect and foster the interests of both the University and its staff and students. They paves way for enhancement of professional standards and improving networking in the university. SPMVV has formulated IPR Policy for the management of intellectual property right to provide a conducive environment leading to development, protection and safeguard scientific investigation and research. These policy documents will be available with the University Research Support Committee (URSC).

This research policy document of SPMVV revised periodically serves as a guideline for research students, faculty, researchers, and administrators to strive in achieving the goal in consonant to the values of the University.



  
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