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Anthropological Field Researches in the 21st Century: Scope, Challenges and Ethics¹

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ABSTRACT The aim of this paper is to explore the scope, trends, challenges and research ethics of anthropological (mainly, Medical Anthropology) fieldworks in the developing countries in the 21st century. The paper also assesses the impacts of the major features of this century (*i.e.*, globalization, urbanization, migration, cultural pluralism and so on) on anthropological researches. It also discusses the duties and obligations of anthropologists during field researches in this globalization age, where the information technology has turned the world in to “a global village”. Furthermore, it tries to examine the principles of research ethics in anthropological field researches. There are many scholars who argue that a research done on indigenous people, but is not designed to help them is unethical. On the other hand, other scholars argue that as long as the research result benefits the other sections of humanity, (even if it might not help the research population directly) and as long as it embraced informed consent, it is ethical. The paper explores both sides of the arguments and gives recommendations.