Writing Research Proposal

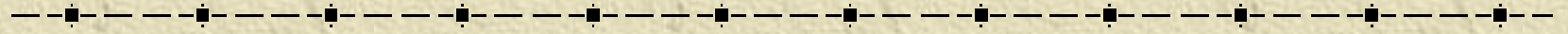## *Lecture No:05*

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What is a research proposal (RP)?

* A research proposal is a concise and coherent summary of your proposed research.
* It sets out the central issues or questions that you intend to address and find answers
* It outlines the general area of study within which your research falls,
* It refers to the current state of knowledge and debates on the topic.
* Your RP defends the originality of your proposed research.
* The proposal is the most important document that you submit for an approval process, as a grant application or for a higher degree.

What is a research proposal (RP)?

* There are institutional formats for higher degrees, grant applications, collaborative research

* Or

* You can submit your proposal in standard format

* In this session we discuss about the standard format

Title

- This is just a tentative title for your intended research.
- The title indicates your research area and may be the issue you going to address
- You will be able to revise your title during the course of your research suitably.

Abstract

* This is summary of your proposal.

* The proposal should include a concise statement of your intended research of no more than 100 -200 words.

* Abstract can consists of aim of the research and summary sentence for rationale for the research and a couple of sentences explaining the central question that you wish to address.

Introduction / Backgournd

Research Context

✳ You should explain the broad background where you conduct your research.

✳ You should include a brief overview of the general area of study within which your proposed research falls, summarising the current state of knowledge and recent debates on the topic. This will allow you to demonstrate your understanding in the area of research.

✳ The section should end up with an to opening the research issue you are going to explore.

Exploring the research background – Previous studies

- Survey the literature, previous research.
- What research has already been done in this area?
- What deficiencies or gaps you understood by surveying former studies?
- What other researchers in related areas had missed to address in your problem area?

Theoretical framework

What theories about the research area that can be adopted for the study?

Can you use these theories to build up your own conceptual frame for the present study?

Significance and Rationale for the study

- The proposal should demonstrate the originality of your intended research and,
- Why you conduct this study, and
- What are benefits by addressing the issue
- You should therefore explain why your research is important and what adds to the current state of knowledge and
- Why it is timely to research your proposed topic/ issue

Reseach Objectives

* You are to explain very clearly what you are going to do?

* "The objective(s) of this research project are to….."

* The statements should be measurable

* Eg: Identify, explore, investigate, design, measure, evaluate, differentiate etc.

Strategies of deriving research objectives

Draw concepts for objectives

* Out of title,

* Out of sub title

* From research issue/s

* From significance of the study

* Or breakdown from the aim

Research questions

* The proposal should include central aims and questions that will guide your research.

* Before writing your proposal, take time to reflect on the key questions that you are seeking to answer and think whether the questions are answerable within the scope of your research?

* Many research proposals are too broad, so reflecting on your key research questions is a good way to make sure that your project is sufficiently narrow and feasible

Research questions…..

* You might find it helpful to prioritize one or two main questions, from which you can then derive a number of secondary research questions.

* Key questions
* Secondary questions

Methodology

Research approach

✳ The proposal should also explain your intended approach to answering the questions will your approach be empirical, doctrinal or theoretical etc?

Research methods

The proposal should outline your research methods and explain your methodology to conduct the research and how you achieved the stated objectives though this methodology.

Methodology…..

* How you are going to conduct your research and are there multiple methods?
* What are the variables and identified (tentative)to be tested?
* Are there any hypotheses to be tested?
* What is the population and how you select the sample – Sample Selection Criteria
* Data Collection instruments
* How the analysis of data would be achieving your objectives?

Methhodology…

Ethical issues

* What are the possible ethical issues that might be raised by the external parties on proposed approaches

* How will these be addressed?

Methodology format

- Research design
- Variables identified and linking the hypotheses
- Population
- Sample selection criteria
- Data collection instruments

Data collection methodology

✳ If you plan to conduct field work or collect empirical data, you should provide details about this (e.g. if you plan interviews, who will you interview? How many interviews will you conduct? Will there be problems of access?). This section should also explain how you are going to analyse your research findings.

Research outcomes expected

✳ What will be the outcomes and its impact areas?

✳ How these outcomes will be utilised and

✳ For what purpose?

Limitations of the study

* This section needs to answer self-imposed questions and should reflect the problem and of the barriers met in the research path.

Some of the limitations may be;

* What are the constraints (if any)?
* What are the technical challenges and uncertainties?
* What are the different approaches to this problem?
* What is your preferred approach and why?

Bobliography

* The proposal should include a short bibliography identifying the most relevant works for your topic.

* These references should duly referred in the text.

Time Plan

* Time plan is important to indicate the timing of the research activities.

* Developing the proposal

* Data collection

* Data analysis

* Submission of final report etc.

Budgeting for a research

* Budgeting is to be dome carefully using the approved rates.

* It is important to bear in mind that specific funding bodies need different formats.

Word limit of a proposal

* The proposal should usually be around 2,500 words.