

OUTLINE OF PROPOSAL

- A research proposal is a plan to facilitate implementation of research to obtain valid and reliable information required to solve a particular problem or to contribute to the body of knowledge.

OUTLINE OF PROPOSAL

- Introduction (1-1.5 pages)
 - General information on the research issue/topic
 - Overview of research and research gaps (contribution to policy and practice)
 - Overall purpose of the research and area/site where the research will be conducted
- Statement of the problem (0.5 pages)
 - Short summary of the background on the problem
 - Importance or relevance of the research

Writing the Statement of the Problem in Research

- Like its often said, if you don't state what your problem is, the doctor cannot know what to treat.
- The problem statement is very important in research and many students lack the basic knowledge of how to present their research problems.
- Remember, your problem statement does not necessarily have to be lengthy.
- If you are telling a doctor about the symptoms of your sickness and you are beating about the bush, the doctor may get furious with you.
- That is what often happens with the examiners of research works.

We will use analogy of sickness to explain the simple steps in problem statement in research.

Writing the Statement of the Problem

1. **State the ideal situation** - I am supposed to be healthy to live a fulfilled life.
2. **State the current situation** - however I am not well at all.
3. **State measures that have been put in place over time to solve the problem** - I have taken different medications including....., I have even tried herbal medicines and prayer houses etc.
4. **State the persistence of the problem** - yet, I have not felt any better, instead it is increasing.
5. **State the effects of the problem** - I can't concentrate, I can't eat very well, I can't sleep very well (these are effects on the person), effects on other may include: my sickness constrains my family members etc...

Writing the Statement of the Problem

6. State the reason for the research - I feel that this sickness may be severe or even kill me if I don't find a lasting solution to it. And I feel that a way of finding lasting solution to it is by consulting a specialist about my sickness.

7. State the gap in knowledge - although people have similar cases to my own they have often used different methods to treat their own sicknesses, but I feel that using this method will make a more significant difference from the methods previously used by others.

8. Conclude your statement - it is because of all I have said that I came to you for a solution to my problem.

- Simple and short.

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- Rationale/Justification (0.25 pages)
 - Contribution of the study to science or body of knowledge
 - Changes to be made by the study
 - Evidence supporting the justification
- Theoretical/conceptual framework (where applicable)
 - Variables for measurement in framework, such as a table to state dependent variable (s) and independent variables including operational definitions or indicators and/or scale of measurement. Provide a narrative description of your variables.

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- Literature review (2 - 3 pages): depending on literature available- review other available information to justify why the problem is required for investigation- to answer the question- what information is already available?
- Research questions (a sentence or two)/Hypothesis
- Research aim(s)/General Objective and Specific Objectives (0.25 pages max): Qs- Why do you want to carry out a research?, and what do you want to achieve?

Research Proposal Development

Research Methodology (1-1.5 pages) : write sections of your research methodology to be applied

- State **Design** of your study (and may provide justification).
- Indicates **study setting**: where are you going to conduct your study and provide description.
- **Study population**- From whom are you going to collect information.
- State **Sample size** - Number of subjects that are selected from the general population and is considered a representative of the real population for that specific study. Show calculations how you arrived at that number.
- **Sampling**: selecting a predetermined number of observations from a larger population (target population)

Sampling technic: Method of selecting sampling units or observations from sampling frame/target population (See lecture notes for details)

-**Data collection Techniques** and **tools** for use (see separate lecture notes on this)

Research methodology (cont.):

-Plan for data processing and analysis: state how you will process and analyze data- e.g. by computer or manually- preparation of spread sheet for data entry and coding. Include descriptive statistics and statistical tests to be applied.

Statement on descriptive statistics and application of statistical tests for associations should be included and provide selection of some variables for cross tabulations and present them in a **DUMMY TABLES** (a cross tabulation table with empty cells).

-Description of data quality control- Field editing of questionnaires (checking completed questionnaires; pre-testing tools; training of research assistants (if required)).

Research Proposal Development

-Ethical consideration (0.25pages)- for confidentiality and anonymity of data/information to preserve the rights of individuals to be recruited in the study.

Research methodology starts from variable identification (measurements) to data processing and analysis is required to answer Qs- What additional data do we need to meet our research objectives? How are we going to collect this information?

Research project management: Qs- Who will do what and when? Provide a narrative description.

•**Work-plan and Administration**

Work-plan- provide description of people involved in the study according to tasks and time frame. Present this information in a summary form in a work-plan-requirement: personnel and timetable **(0.5 pages)**

Research Proposal Development

- **Plan for Project Administration and utilization of results:** administration, monitoring and Identification of potential users- Qs: How will the project be administered? How will utilization of results be ensured?
- **Budget and Justification (0.5 pages)**
 - Budget-** What resources do we need to carry out the study? What resources do we have?- consider human support, material support, equipment and money.

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- References (at least 1 page)
- Appendices
 - Participant Information Sheet
 - Consent forms
 - Data collection tools
 - Other, e.g. permission letters

Submission to Ethics