

WRITING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

1. Introduction:

- Clear statement of the problems or issue to be analysed and the overall objective of the proposed research.
- Brief summary of relevant studies and literature describing what has previously been done and what is currently known about the pattern.
- Concise statement of the rationale behind the proposed approach to the problem

2. Statement of specific research goals:

- List specific objectives
- List specific hypotheses (if any) to be tested
- List the key variables and how they will be operationally defined

3. Study methodology

- Selection of study population
 - Size of study population or sample
 - Sampling procedure, if any
 - Specification of control population, if any
- Description of the experiment or data collection procedure
 - Description of research design
 - Description of method and intended research tools
 - Description of “interfering” (confounding) variables and how they will be controlled, or how their effects will be evaluated
 - If appropriate, a discussion of pitfalls that might be encountered and of limitations of the procedure proposed

- Diagram of research design (optional): a diagram is useful for clarifying points of research strategy
- Analysis plan
 - Specify the kinds of data expected to be obtained
 - Specify the means by which the data will be analysed and interpreted
- Data processing plan
 - Hand tabulation or computer
 - Analysis technique: statistical measures
 - Use of dummy tables
 - Test hypothesis or derive hypothesis to meet the objectives of the study

4. Significance of the research for both practice and theory

5. Time table (Gantt chart)

- Planning phase
- Construction and development of research instruments
- Pre-testing of research tools and techniques
- Selection of population
- Data collection
- Data preparation (coding, editing, cleaning, etc)
- Data analysis
- Report writing

6. Personnel

- Principal investigator
- Assistants
- Supporting persons

7. Facilities available

- Office space
- Resources in field area
- Data analysis equipment
- Other assistance

8. Collaboration arrangement

- Describe the collaboration

9. Detailed budget

- Personnel
- Consultant fees
- Supplies
- Travel expenses
- Data processing
- Other expenses