

A Research Proposal

On

[Title]

Submitted to

[University/Institute]

For the degree of

[DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY]

[Subject]

By

[Name of the Candidate]

Under the Guidance of

[Guide Name]

Designation

[Department]

[Faculty]

[University]

[City-PIN]

[Year]

1. Introduction:

In this section give a brief introduction about the topic in about **two to three** pages.

1. Provide relevant background information to give the reader/evaluator a clear understanding of the context in which the proposal is being made.
2. This could include the current situation, any relevant history, or previous attempts to address the issue.

2. Review of Literature:

This section includes a review of selected existing literature available on the topic. Following care should be taken:

1. Start by identifying key theoretical contributions made by relevant authors and scholars in the field. Provide proper citations to acknowledge their work and briefly summarize their main findings or theories. This establishes the theoretical foundation upon which your research builds.
2. Present a comprehensive review of existing literature related to your topic. This should include studies, articles, books, and other scholarly sources that have investigated similar or related phenomena. Organize this review logically, perhaps chronologically or thematically, to demonstrate the evolution of thought in the field.
3. As you review the literature, identify the key variables, concepts, or factors that have been studied in relation to your topic. Highlight how these variables have been defined, measured, and studied by previous researchers.
4. Next, critically analyze the existing literature to identify gaps or limitations. These gaps could be areas where previous research has not adequately addressed certain aspects of the topic, contradictions in findings, methodological limitations, or emerging issues that have not yet been explored.
5. Finally, explain how your research will fill the identified gap in the literature. Describe the specific contributions your study will make, whether it's through new empirical findings, novel theoretical insights, methodological advancements, or practical implications. Clearly state the research objectives and hypotheses that will guide your investigation.

3. Problem Statement:

The problem statement serves as the focal point of research, identifying the specific issue or gap in knowledge that the study aims to address. Researcher should concisely outline the problem or challenge that the research seeks to investigate, providing clarity and direction for the study. Here's how you can describe the problem statement:

1. Clearly state the problem or issue that your research will address. This could be a gap in existing literature, an unresolved question, a practical challenge, or a phenomenon that lacks understanding.
2. Provide brief contextual background information to help the reader understand the significance and relevance of the problem. Explain why it is important to address this problem and what implications it may have.
3. Define the scope of the problem to clarify its boundaries and limitations. This helps prevent ambiguity and ensures that the research stays focused on a specific aspect of the broader topic.
4. If the problem statement is also the research gap, clearly articulate how the existing literature has failed to fully address or resolve the problem. Highlight any discrepancies, contradictions, or limitations in previous research that necessitate further investigation.
5. Finally, briefly outline the specific objectives or research questions that will guide your investigation. These objectives should directly align with addressing the problem statement and filling the research gap.

4. Research Objectives:

When formulating research objectives, it's essential to ensure they are clear, specific, achievable, and aligned with the problem statement and overall purpose of the study. Here are some guidelines to help you craft effective research objectives:

1. Clearly state what you intend to achieve with your research. Avoid vague or broad objectives that lack focus.
2. Each objective should address a specific aspect of the problem statement.
3. Our objectives should be measurable so that you can assess whether you have achieved them by the end of the study.
4. Ensure that your objectives are feasible within the scope of your study, considering factors such as time, resources, and available data.
5. Align each objective with the problem statement and research gap identified in your study. Ensure that they directly contribute to addressing the research problem and advancing knowledge in the field.
6. If your study has multiple objectives, consider organizing them hierarchically, with broader objectives leading to more specific ones. This can help maintain clarity and focus throughout the research process.
7. Start each objective with an action verb that clearly describes what you intend to do. This helps convey the intended outcome of each objective and makes them easier to understand.

In short, Mention the objectives (Primary and Secondary objectives) of the research. The objective must be set in line with the problem statement. Basically, your objective is to do research that can solve the research problem. Therefore, the objective must be to identify/study/analyze those things that may contribute towards answering the problem statement.

5. Research Methodology:

Research methodology refers to the systematic approach and techniques used to conduct research, gather data, and analyze findings in order to address research questions or objectives.

When outlining your research methodology, consider the following components:

- A) Research Design:** Describe the overall strategy or plan that guides your research. Common research designs include Exploratory, Descriptive and Causal. Explain why you chose a particular design and how it aligns with your research objectives.
- B) Data Collection Methods:**
 - i. Primary Data:** Explain how you will collect primary data directly from sources such as surveys, interviews, observations, or experiments. Also, discuss the specific data collection instruments or tools you will use and justify their selection. Explain the one/all which will be used with proper justification.
 - ii. Secondary Data:** Describe how you will gather secondary data from existing sources such as literature reviews, databases, or archival records. Explain your criteria for selecting and evaluating secondary sources.
- C) Sampling Strategy:**
 - i. Target Population:** Define the target population or group of interest for your study.
 - ii. Sampling Method:** Explain the sampling technique you will use to select a representative sample from the population. Common methods include random sampling and Non-random Sampling. That further includes stratified sampling, convenience sampling, or purposive sampling etc. Specify the sampling techniques that will be used.
 - iii. Sample Size:** Justify the size of your sample and explain how it ensures adequate statistical power to detect meaningful effects or relationships.
- D) Data Analysis Techniques:**
 - i. Quantitative Analysis:** Explain the statistical techniques you will use to analyze

quantitative data, such as descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, regression analysis, or factor analysis.

- ii. **Qualitative Analysis:** Describe the approach you will take to analyze qualitative data, such as thematic analysis, content analysis, grounded theory, or narrative analysis.
- iii. **Mixed-Methods Analysis:** If using a mixed-methods approach, explain how you will integrate and triangulate findings from both quantitative and qualitative data.

E) Ethical Considerations:

- i. **Informed Consent:** Discuss how you will obtain informed consent from participants and ensure their voluntary participation in the study.
- ii. **Confidentiality and Anonymity:** Explain how you will protect the confidentiality and anonymity of participants' data.
- iii. **Ethical Approval:** If applicable, mention any ethical approvals or protocols required for conducting the research, especially when involving human subjects.

6. Proposed Model (If Any):

Portray (Draw) Model and propose relationship with/among variables that are to be tested along with hypothesis with proper citation. propose a model for a study examining the relationship between employee training, job satisfaction, and job performance in a corporate setting.

[Fig 1: Proposed Model]

The proposed model includes the following variables:

- i. **Independent Variable (IV):** The independent variable represents the factor that is manipulated or controlled by the researcher. It is the variable that is believed to have an impact on the dependent variable (shall be manipulated and/or measured).
- ii. **Mediating Variable (MV):** The mediating variable is an intervening variable that explains the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. It helps to understand the mechanism or process through which the independent variable influences the dependent variable.
- iii. **Dependent Variable (DV):** The dependent variable is the outcome variable that is measured to assess the effect of the independent variable. It is the variable that researchers are interested in understanding or predicting. (shall be interested infer)

Based on the proposed model and previous research prepare certain number of hypotheses, List them all here: (Example)

Hypothesis 1 (H1):

There is a positive relationship between Variable 1 and Variable 2, indicating that higher levels of Variable 1 lead to greater Variable 2 among subject under study.

In short, the hypothetical model provides a framework for understanding the complex relationships between/among variables under study.

7. Importance of the Study

When describing the importance and benefits of your study, it's crucial to highlight how the findings and outcomes will be valuable to various stakeholders, including academicians, corporate entities, and society. Here's how you can address each of these groups:

1. Academicians:

- a) Emphasize how your research fills a gap in existing literature or contributes new insights to the academic community. Discuss how it advances theoretical understanding, expands the body of knowledge, or introduces innovative methodologies.
- b) Highlight how your findings can stimulate further research and discussion within your field of study. Explain how they may lead to the development of new theories, concepts, or research agendas.

- c) Discuss how your research can be integrated into academic curricula or used as case studies for teaching purposes. Explain how it can enhance learning outcomes and provide real-world examples for students.

2. Corporate Houses:

- a) Illustrate how the findings of your research can be applied in real-world business settings. Discuss how they may inform decision-making processes, strategic planning, or operational practices within corporate organizations.
- b) Explain how insights from your research can provide a competitive edge to businesses by identifying market trends, consumer preferences, or opportunities for innovation.
- c) Discuss how your research findings can help corporate entities mitigate risks, overcome challenges, or adapt to changing market conditions. Highlight their potential to improve business performance and sustainability.

3. Society in General:

- a) Describe how your research contributes to addressing societal challenges, promoting social justice, or enhancing the well-being of individuals and communities. Discuss its relevance to broader societal issues such as healthcare, environmental sustainability, or economic development.
- b) Explain how your findings can inform policy-making processes at local, national, or international levels. Discuss their potential to influence regulations, guidelines, or interventions aimed at addressing pressing social, economic, or environmental issues.
- c) Highlight how your research findings can raise public awareness and understanding of important issues, fostering informed decision-making and civic engagement.

8. Managerial/Social Implications:

In general, managerial, and social implications refer to the practical and broader societal consequences of research findings or study results. They help bridge the gap between research findings and actionable decisions or policies. Here's a simplified understanding:

i. Managerial Implications:

- Managerial implications focus on how the findings of a study can inform decisions and actions within organizations or businesses.
- They provide guidance to managers, leaders, and decision-makers on how to apply research findings to improve processes, practices, or outcomes within their respective domains.
- Managerial implications may involve recommendations for changes in policies, procedures, or strategies based on the insights gained from the research.

ii. Social Implications:

- Social implications consider the broader impact of research findings on society, communities, or the general public.
- They address how the results of a study may influence behaviors, attitudes, or norms within society.
- Social implications may involve recommendations for public policies, education programs, or community interventions aimed at addressing societal challenges or promoting positive social change.

In essence, both managerial and social implications aim to translate research findings into actionable insights that can drive positive change, whether within organizational contexts or across broader societal landscapes. They help researchers and stakeholders understand the practical significance and real-world applications of research findings beyond academic discourse.

9. Chapter scheme:

The tentative Chapters outline with a brief description of coverage.

Chapter 1: Introduction

The introduction sets the stage for the research study, providing an overview of the topic, its significance, and the research questions it aims to address. It establishes the context for the study and outlines the structure of the thesis or research report.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

The literature review critically examines existing research and scholarly works relevant to the research topic. It synthesizes key findings, identifies gaps in the literature, and highlights theoretical frameworks or models that inform the study's theoretical foundation.

Chapter 3: Theoretical Framework

This chapter develops a theoretical framework based on the literature review, integrating relevant theories and concepts to guide the study's hypotheses and analysis. It provides a conceptual framework for understanding the research phenomena and guiding empirical investigations.

Chapter 4: Research Methodology

The methodology chapter outlines the research design, including details on the population, sampling method, data collection procedures, and data analysis techniques. It explains how the research was conducted and justifies the chosen methods and approaches.

Chapter 5: Data Analysis and Results

In this chapter, the data analysis and findings of the study are presented in a systematic and organized manner. Descriptive statistics and inferential analyses are used to summarize and interpret the data, addressing the research questions or hypotheses posed in the study.

Chapter 6: Discussion on Result and Proposed Model

The discussion chapter interprets the results considering the research objectives and theoretical framework. It critically analyzes the implications of the findings, discusses their significance, and considers their broader implications for theory, practice, and future research based on proposed model analysis.

Chapter 7: Conclusion

The conclusion chapter summarizes the key findings of the study, reiterates the research objectives, and discusses their implications. It reflects on the contributions of the study to the field, identifies limitations, and suggests avenues for future research. You may consider one paragraph for each objective initially in this chapter.

Chapter 8: Recommendations

This chapter provides practical recommendations based on the study findings, addressing implications for practice, policy, or further research. It offers actionable insights for stakeholders and suggests strategies for addressing identified issues or challenges.

Appendices/Annexure (Must have it)

The appendices/Annexure contain supplementary materials such as data tables, survey instruments, or additional analyses that provide further detail or context to the study's findings. They are included to support the main text and provide additional information for interested readers.

Bibliography/References:

Mention tentative list of Books, Magazines/Journals, Reports, and Website for the purpose of collection of secondary databases. (APA style/As per instruction)

Example (APA):

Patel, B., Pachchigar, N. (2018). "Adoption Of M-Commerce Among Youth In Surat City", Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research, 5 (7), 146-150

Glossary:

Mention some of the difficult/technical words with their meaning(s) in brief.

10. In case of funded project provide tentative schedule of work and budget (Optional)

i. Time Schedule:

This section outlines the planned timeline for the project, including key milestones, activities, and deadlines. It breaks down the research process into phases or stages, specifying the duration and sequence of each task from project initiation to completion.

Example:

- Phase 1: Introduction and Literature Review (Month 1-3)
- Phase 2: Data Collection (Month 4-6)
- Phase 3: Data Analysis (Month 7-9)
- Phase 4: Report Writing and Finalization (Month 10-12)

ii. Budget Expenditure:

This section provides a detailed breakdown of the project budget, including anticipated expenses for personnel, equipment, materials, travel, and other project-related costs. It includes both direct costs (e.g., salaries, supplies) and indirect costs (e.g., overhead, administrative expenses).

Example:

- Personnel: Research Assistant, Data Analyst etc.
- Equipment: Laptop, Software Licenses etc.
- Materials: Survey Printing, Stationery etc.
- Travel: Fieldwork Expenses, Conference Attendance etc.
- Other/ Contingency: Participant Compensation, Publication Fees etc.
- Total Budget: Total Amount

By including a time schedule and budget expenditure section, stakeholders can gain insights into the planned timeline and resource allocation for the funded project, ensuring transparency and accountability in project management and execution.

References

Provide references used for preparing the Proposal in APA Style/As per instruction. (Example):

- Patel, B., Pachchigar, N. (2018). "Adoption Of M-Commerce Among Youth In Surat City", Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research, 5 (7), 146-150
- Patel, B., Patel, V., (2018). "Measuring Service Quality using SERVQUAL Model - A Study of Business Schools in Surat City", AMIERJ, 7 (13), 1-13