**Research Design Form**

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| **## Section 1: Introduction** | |
| 1. **Researcher name** |  |
| 1. **Research project title** | Short title |
| 1. **One sentence summary of research question** | Jargon free |
| 1. **Substantive motivation: [half page]** | Why should anyone care about the results of this research? Does your topic address specific policy concerns? |
| 1. **Theoretical motivation [half page]** | What theoretical questions can this research shed light on? |
| 1. **Key literatures** | List 3 or 4 readings that this work will speak to |
| 1. **Primary hypothesis** | List 2 or 3 hypothesis |
| 1. **Estimand** | What is your estimand? (e.g., average treatment effect) |

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| **## Section 2: Sample** | |
| 1. **Where** | Where and when will your study take place? |
| 1. **Units** | Who/what units are in your study?  How many units are in your study? |
| 1. **Sample selection** | How is this sample selected? |
| 1. **Ethics** | Are there any ethical concerns about who is in the sample or who may not be able to consent to being in the study (e.g., prisoner populations)? |
| 1. **Subgroups** | Do you expect the intervention to work differently for certain subgroups? |

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| **## Section 3: Intervention** | |
| 1. **Interventions** | Describe your intervention(s)  Single or multiple intervention arms? |
| 1. **Control condition** | What will your control condition be? Will it be a pure control or placebo? |
| 1. **Ethics** | Are there any ethical concerns with the intervention? |
| 1. **Level** | At what level will you randomize the intervention? |

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| **## Section 3: Outcome** | |
| 1. **Outcomes** | What is your primary outcome? |
| 1. **Data** | How will you measure it? What data do you need? (e.g., administrative data, surveys, other) |
| 1. **Levels** | At what level is or will be the measure available? (e.g., individuals, villages, schools) |
| 1. **Priors** | |  | | --- | | What are your priors about the outcome (mean, SD)? This may come from previous studies or educated guesses. | |
| 1. **Rounds** | How many rounds of data collection will you conduct? |
| 1. **Attrition** | How will you minimize attrition? |
| 1. **Measurement** | How will you minimize mismeasurement and untruthful reporting? |

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| **## Section 4: Identification Strategy** | |
| 1. **Identification** | What type of identification strategy will you use?  Random assignment simple; complete; blocked; cluster; factorial two level; phase-in |
| 1. **Blocks** | How many blocks and what are they (if any)? |
| 1. **Clusters** | How many clusters and what are they (if any)? |
| 1. **Interference** | Is interference a possible concern? If so, what is your plan for minimizing interference? |

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| **## Section 5: Implementation** | |
| 1. **Randomization** | If applicable: How will you do the actual randomization? In public, drawing from a bowl, on a computer? |
| 1. **Implementation** | Who will implement the intervention? |
| 1. **Quality** | How will you track the quality of implementation? |
| 1. **Compliance** | How will you track compliance with the intervention? How will you minimize non-compliance with the intervention (if applicable) |
| 1. **Data management** | How will data be anonymized and securely stored (if applicable)? |

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| **## Section 6: Power** | |
| 1. **Effect Size** | What is your expected effect size? What effect size do you want your experiment to show? What effect sizes have similar studies found?  This might be from a previous study or a target size below which one would not be interested in future interventions. |
| 1. **Intra-Cluster Correlation (ICC)** | If you have clusters, what is the intra cluster correlation?  This requires insights from previous studies or representative data |
| 1. **Power Calculation** | What is your power?  If you want to calculate your sample size, given expected effect: use STATA/R.  If you want to calculate effect size, given a maximum sample: use STATA/R.  Take into account type outcome (binary, continuous) and clustering (ICC) if applicable. |

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| **## Section 7: Analysis & Threats** | |
| 1. **Analysis strategy** | What is your estimator? (e.g., difference in means, OLS with block weights, any clustering). Note that this should be closely linked to your design. |
| 1. **Interpretation strategy** | If you find that your results are consistent with your hypothesis, what alternative explanations might there be? What data would help you distinguish between your explanation and alternative ones? Make sure you have a plan to collect this data.  If you find that your results are not consistent with your hypothesis, what data will help you figure out what might have happened? Make sure you have a plan to collect this data. |