## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter is entitled introduction to emphasize its relative functions and the chapter will contain the following subunits

## Introduction

* You outline the broad field of study. This section aims to orient the reader of what you are going to do and to get his or her attention.
* Setting the scene.
* You adopt the funnel approach in your research (The general idea is that you begin with a very broad statement, before narrowing your focus a little and providing some introductory comments pertaining to your ideas. You start with the broader aspects of your topic (the contextual background, for instance) and then gradually narrow your focus until you reach the specific aspect of the topic that you will be addressing.
* You can reference at least 4-5 authors and this is to demonstrate that care has been taken to broaden the gap of knowledge. This should be brief and indicate that its covered in detail in chapter 2

## Background to the study/ problem

* this contains a brief overview of the proposed research
* explain the factors leading to the study
* What is needed is the background of the problem and not background of the organization.
* The background places the research study into some intelligible context or perspective, touching broadly on some of the issues related to it.
* Generally you will rely on some information which led you to get to the source of this particular research problem in the first place.
* You might want to touch on the commercial, social, geographical, educational and or the various dimensions in which it manifests itself
* The researcher should identify the gap that must be filled by the present study and where the background depends on the literature, this must be cited.

## Statement of the problem

* This is the broad problem to be analyzed and should not be answered with a **yes or no**
* It should be such that thinking is needed on the part of the researcher.
* A problem statement is a discussion of exactly what is to be studied or formulated into a research problem or is a clear statement of the problem to be solved.
* Research is usually motivated by the need to handle a problem
* The problem statement should thus follow from the background, specifying what is to be studied and the problem
* It is important to demonstrate that the problem is critical and warrants a study.
* One can also discuss the potential consequences if the problem is not addressed.
* Some of the characteristics of a good research problem statement are that it should be:

1. Researchable i.e. it should be possible to investigate it empirically. It should be answered through the collection and analysis of data
2. Precise i.e. it should be written in clear unambiguous language
3. Resolved through research – the researcher should make sure that the problem chosen offers definite sources of information which when collected, can answer the key questions sufficiently.
4. Carefully fit into the broader content of current theory and relevant research
5. Clearly and logically related to its research questions, objectives and prepositions

## Research Questions

* + - * -Research questions are developed from the research problem
      * -These can be written as mere statements
      * -Good research questions ought to be amenable to some or less definite answers.
      * -However while the question must lead itself to some answer , it must not be totally answered by a simple “yes “or simple “no”
      * It must require you to collect and process research evidence as part of the answer
      * -Research questions must specify variables
      * -When research questions are addressed individually they yield responses which can be reconstituted to make up a complete answer to the main research problem
      * -The research questions must be precise
      * -The research questions must be 3-5 and not more than five

## Research Objectives

* + - * Objectives are formal expression of the researchers intentions
      * The objectives have to be clear and **smart**
      * Objectives start with “to”
      * You may want to explore, to explain or in some cases you may want to replicate what is already known (describe), hence you must make it clear. These terms are explained as:

## To explore

* Is to just to find out more about an area which few or no people have ventured into

-Exploratory studies are done in areas which are little understood and where the relationships among variables are unknown or only a little is known

## To describe

* That is to reveal patterns and trends of situations or events objects phenomena or behavior

-By describing them the hope is that they well be understood better and so answer the questions “why, how?

## To explain

-is to reveal the linkages among the elements constituting a situation, events and phenomena

-It also attempts to answer the question “why”

## Research prepositions/ statement of hypothesis

* Hypotheses are tentative answers or “intelligent guesses” or “probable answers’ to the research problem.
* The research prepositions start with **that**
* Hypothesis can be written in null or alternate form i.e. H0 and H1 (these are the exact opposite of the other)
* Research prepositions should be simple and concise
* They should guide the whole dissertation and is often used as a reference point in the subsequent chapters such that the researcher stays within the context of the research

## Justification of the research

* The research should be justified and should not address a trivial research area.
* It is not enough to show that there are gaps in the research area, they must be important gaps which when addressed would lead to contributions to the body of knowledge.
* Explain clearly the reasons why you think the research should be conducted i.e. its relevance.

**Justification fronts-** Justification can be based on the following four fronts.

1. The fact that other researcher have neglected an issue on the research problem. You must indicate that which previous researches missed on the research problem.
2. The importance of the subject matter under study. How is it going to benefit the society, the organization, the student etc.
3. Relative neglect of the research’s methodologies by other researchers i.e. either quantitative methods have been used most thereby neglecting quantitative methods.
4. Potential applications of the research findings. You should indicate that these are discussed in detail in chapter 5.

**NB:** Justification can be on all fronts and you must put sections to the fronts used.

## Methodology

* State the aim of the study.
* Which methodology is going to be followed, ie is it an exploratory study, explanatory study or descriptive study.

## Data collection and analysis

* Explain how you are going to collect data and how you are going to analyze the data.
* Are you going to use primary sources of data or secondary sources or both?
* Which system/ package of data analysis are you going to use.

## Assumptions

* These are statements of what the researcher believes to be fact but these cannot be verified.
* Assumptions are not the object of the research but do strengthen the basis of your research
* These assumptions, like the significance of the study have practical and theoretical

implications

* Without assumptions, your research cannot be carried out.
* For you to be able to carry out the study you should hold certain facts about the study as given.
* These are the assumptions that your study makes which would influence your research findings.

## Delimitations of the study

* Delimitations refer to the boundaries of the study.
* These enable you to point out clearly what is included in the study and not
* A description of both conceptual and practical (physical) boundaries is needed.
* Delimitations answers the following questions:-

1. What are the concerns of this study?
2. What are not its concerns?
3. How far does it go into the treatment of the given issues and where does it stop?
4. How wide is the field from which it sources its data.
   * In short, delimitations point out what is included in the study such as the population or sample size and the variables etc.

## Limitations of the study

* Limitation are those conditions beyond the control of the researcher that may place restrictions on the conclusions of the study and their applications to other situations.
* It is not enough just to state these limitations (weaknesses or constraints) without suggesting the compensatory factors that ensure that the research remains valid and reliable.
* Limitations are weaknesses that are inherent in the research, which the researcher is given credit for pointing out and serve to alert the reader /user of the research about what to take note of when interpreting and generalizing the findings and conclusions of the study.
* These limitations should be comprehensive hence you need to sufficiently clarify them to the reader.

## Definition of terms

* You should identify all terms that need to be defined in order to avoid any misinterpretations.
* These definitions help you to establish the frame of reference with which you as the researcher approach the problem.
* The variables to be considered should be defined in operational terms, that is, they should either be observable or measurable so that they can be manipulated scientifically.
* These terms should be employed consistently throughout the research project.
* Dictionary meanings do not serve adequately in defining terms of a research project.

## Thesis/report outline

This is an outline of what is covered in each chapter of the thesis or dissertation.

## Timeframe (Gantt Chart)

A proposed timeline to carry out the research. Below is a sample of a Gantt chart, you can customize as per your research.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ACTIVITY** | **Aug.** | **Sept.** | **Oct.** | **Nov.** | **Dec.** | **Jan.** | **Feb.** | | **March** | **April** | **May** | | **June** |
| Problem Identification |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
| Reviewing Literature |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |
| Devising Objectives, Questions, Prepositions |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
| Designing Research |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
| Writing Research Proposal |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
| Submission of Research Proposal |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
| Further Literature Review |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ACTIVITY** | **Aug.** | **Sept.** | **Oct.** | **Nov.** | **Dec.** | **Jan.** | **Feb.** | **March** | **April** | **May** | **June** |
| Designing and Pilot Testing Questionnaire |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Documents Review |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Conducting Interviews and Focus Group Discussions |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Data Analysis |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Submission of Draft Research |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Revision of Draft Research |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Final Submission |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Resources/budget

* + - A budget outlining the resources needed to carryout the research.

## 1.12 Conclusion

* You should highlight the constituent parts of chapter one and the emerging issues.
* A statement linking this chapter with chapter two is needed.

N.B (***This above serves as the guideline for your proposal stage, which if accepted will turn into***