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Module: Research Methodology
Level: Master 1
Lecture: 07

Research Proposal

The research proposal is a written document that communicates what you propose to research, in a concise format. It's where you put all that stuff that's spinning around in your head down on to paper, in a logical, convincing way.

The purpose of a proposal is to help an investigator think through all aspects of the study and anticipate problems. A proposal also provides a written document that faculty and advisers can read, evaluate, and critique to improve a study. The research plan or proposal becomes a document to sell the study a written narrative that must convince the faculty of the need, importance, and value of the proposed study.

Research Proposal Format (Quantitative Proposal)

1- Introduction

1- Statement of the problem (issue, significance of issue)

2- Purpose of the study and delimitations

3- Theoretical perspective

4- Research questions or hypotheses

5- Review of the literature

6- Methods

7- Type of research design

8- Population, sample, and participants

9- Data collection instruments, variables, and materials

10- Data analysis procedures

11- Anticipated ethical issues in the study

12- Preliminary studies or pilot tests

13- Appendixes: Instruments, timeline, and proposed budget

Research Proposal Format (Qualitative Proposal)

Introduction

Statement of the problem (including existing literature about the problem, significance of the study)

Purpose of the study and how study will be delimited

The research questions

Research design and philosophical assumptions of qualitative research

Data collection procedures

Strategies for validating findings

Anticipated ethical issues

Expected outcomes

Appendixes: Interview questions, observational forms, timeline, and proposed budget

Research Proposal Format (Mixed method Proposal)

- 1- Introduction
- 2- The research problem
- 3- Purpose of the study
- 4- Aim of the study and objectives
- 5- The research questions and hypotheses
- 6- Literature review
- 7- Research Design and philosophical foundations for using mixed methods research
- 8- Data collection tools
- 9- Data collection analysis procedures
- 10- Validity approaches in both quantitative and qualitative research
- 11- Potential ethical issues
- 12- Timeline for completing the study
- 13- References and appendixes with instruments and visuals

FIGURE 9.2**Format Quantitative and a Qualitative Proposal**

Quantitative Format	Qualitative Format
Title Page	Title Page
Abstract	Abstract
Introduction	Introduction
Statement of the Problem	Statement of the Problem
Purpose and Research Questions or Hypotheses	The Purpose and Research Question
Theoretical Perspective	Delimitations and Limitations
Definition of Terms	Procedure
Delimitations and Limitations of the Study	Qualitative Methodology and Design
Review of the Literature	Research Site and Purposeful Sampling
Methods	Data Analysis Procedures
Study Design	Researcher's Role and Potential Ethical Issues
Procedures, Instruments, Reliability, Validity	Methods of Validation
Data Analysis	Preliminary Findings
Preliminary Results	Anticipated Outcomes of the Study and Tentative
Potential Ethical Issues	Literature Review (Optional)
Time Line, Budget, and Preliminary Chapter Outline	Time Line, Budget, and Preliminary Chapter Outline
References	References
Appendices	Appendices

Proposed Research Proposal

1- Introduction/ Background of the Study

You should cover the following:

1- Research problem

2-An overview of the broad area you'll be researching – introduce the reader to key concepts and language

3-An explanation of the specific (narrower) area you'll be focusing, and why you'll be focusing there (Rationale)

2- Scope

Next, you'll need to specify what the scope of your research will be – this is also known as the delimitations/limitations

3- Statement of Problem

4- Significance of the Study

5- Your research question(s) and sub-questions (if applicable) and hypotheses

6- Your research aims and objectives

7- Literature Review

8-Research Methodology

In this section, you'll need to answer two critical questions:

1. How will you design your research? I.e., what research methodology will you adopt, what will your sample be, how will you collect data, etc.
2. Why have you chosen this design? I.e., why does this approach suit your specific research aims, objectives and questions?

(Data collection and data analysis)

8- Resources