

# CHAPTER 7 Writing a Research Proposal

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# Possible sources in finding a topic

- **A problem of our own interest. Such a problem may be suggested by our past experience in business, government agencies or other organizations. Choosing a topic from personal interest is one of the best methods.**
- **Articles in the newspaper and journals**
- **Projects works in college libraries, which have been completed by previous graduate students and researchers.**

# Possible sources in finding a topic

- **Another possible topic is the development of a research instrument. After developing a method to measure opinion about a certain product or attitude about an existing service, a similar topic would be a questionnaire assessing the need for a community service or evaluating an existing service organization** (अर्को सम्भावित विषय अनुसन्धान उपकरणको विकास हो। कुनै निश्चित उत्पादन वा अवस्थित सेवाको बारेमा मनोवृत्तिको बारेमा राय मापन गर्ने विधि विकास गरेपछि, एक समान विषय सामुदायिक सेवाको आवश्यकता मूल्याङ्कन गर्ने वा अवस्थित सेवा संगठनको मूल्याङ्कन गर्ने प्रभावली हुनेछ)
- **Discussing with advisor.**

# Possible sources in finding a topic

When choosing your own topic, we need to consider the following

- Brain storm for ideas
- Read general background information
- focus on a manageable topic
- make a list of useful keywords
- be flexible
- define topic as a focused research question
- research and read more about topic
- formulate a problem statement which usually is one or two sentences that precisely states what is to be answered or proven. (एक समस्या कथन बनाउनुहोस् जुन सामान्यतया एक वा दुई वाक्यहरू हुन् जसले स्पष्ट रूपमा जवाफ दिन वा प्रमाणित गर्नुपर्दछ)

# Possible sources in finding a topic

Suggestions which can aid in making a wise topic selection:

- The sooner we start, the easier our project report writing will be
- Consider the size of the topic. Pick a subject that is not too broad or too small.
- Choose a topic which is not too complex. More than two or three variables should not be investigated.
- be sure there is available material and data on the topic.

# Attributes of a Good Research Topic

- राम्रो अनुसन्धान विषय को विशेषताहरू
- Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill (2003)
- Does the topic fit the specifications and meet the standards set by the University?
- Is the topic fascinating? आकर्षक
- Is the issue feasible (technically) or researchable?
- Do we have necessary skills?
- Is the research topic achievable within the time available?

# Attributes of a Good Research Topic

- Are financial resources sufficient?
- Is the required data accessible?
- Are the research questions and objectives are clearly stated?
- Does the research topic match career goals?
- Will it contribute to attaining such goals?

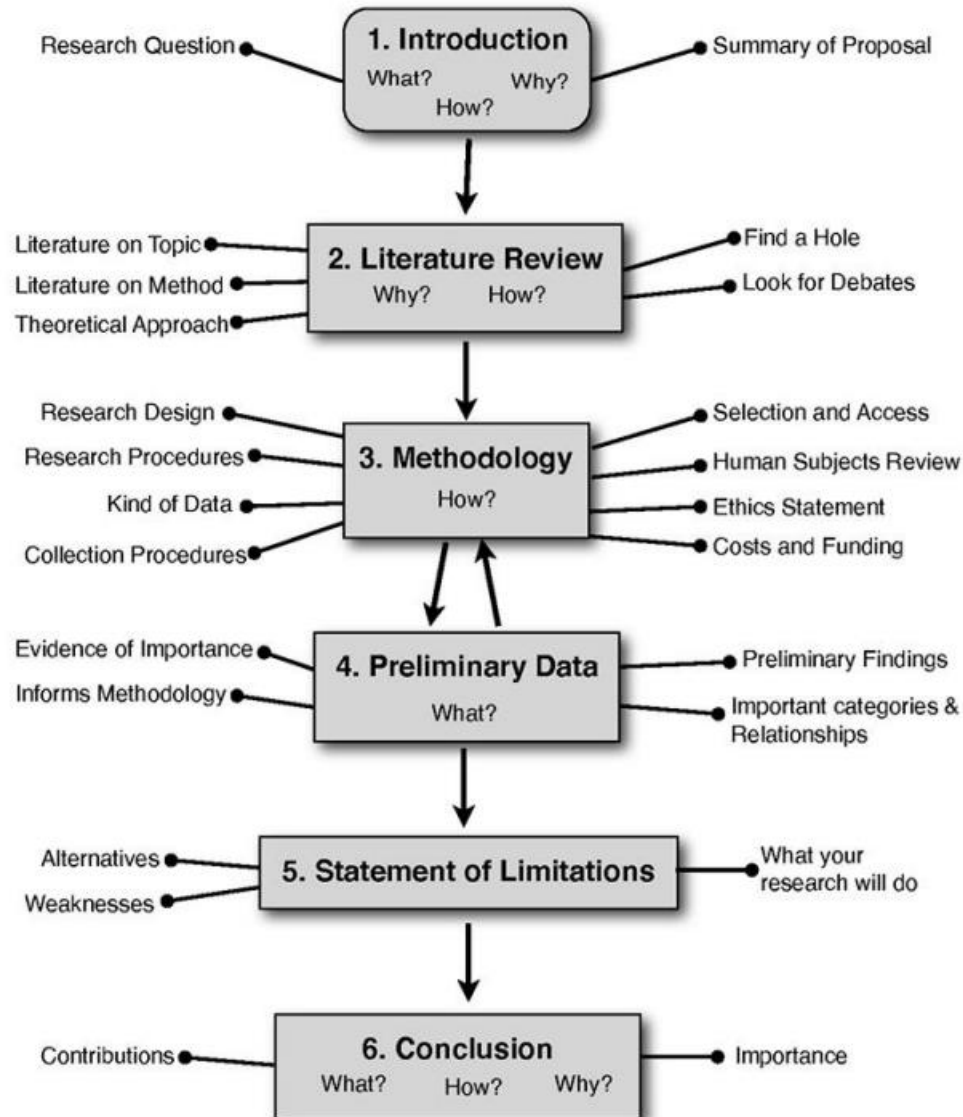
# Criteria for selecting a Research Topic

- 1) Interest
- 2) Relevance
- 3) Avoidance of duplications
- 4) Feasibility
- 5) Acceptability
- 6) Applicability
- 7) Cost Effectiveness
- 8) Ethical Considerations



# Research Proposal Flow Chart

## Research Proposal Flow Chart



# Research Proposal

- It is the presentation of an idea we wish to pursue. It is an argument for the proposed study. It needs to explain the logic behind the proposed study, rather than simply summarize or describe the study. A good research proposal presumes that we have already thought of our project and devoted some time and effort in gathering information, studying and then organizing our thoughts.
- यो हामीले पछ्याउन चाहेको विचारको प्रस्तुति हो। यो प्रस्तावित अध्ययनको तर्क हो। यसले केवल अध्ययनलाई संक्षिप्त वा वर्णन गर्नुको सट्टा प्रस्तावित अध्ययनको पछाडिको तर्कलाई व्याख्या गर्न आवश्यक छ। एउटा राम्रो अनुसन्धान प्रस्तावले हामीले हाम्रो परियोजनाको बारेमा सोचेका छौं र जानकारी सङ्कलन गर्न, अध्ययन गर्न र त्यसपछि हाम्रा विचारहरू व्यवस्थित गर्न केही समय र प्रयास समर्पित गरेका छौं।

# Research Proposal

- **Document describing the research plan, objectives and approach to research undertaking.**
- **It is important to persuade research organizations/ funding agencies to fund research undertaking.** अनुसन्धान संस्थाहरू/अनुसन्धान गर्ने निकायहरूलाई अनुसन्धान कार्यमा लगानी गर्न मनाउनु महत्त्वपूर्ण छ।

# Research Proposal

- For Graduate students, it is a scholastic document(शैक्षिक कागजात)which answers:
  1. What research are you proposing?
  2. Research problem or Research (statement in the form of questions identifying the relationship or parameters that the researcher wishes to evaluate) question? (What are you looking at?)
  3. Approach or Methodology How are you going to address or explore the problem?
  4. What time frame? What is your working calendar? What cost and resources?

# Elements of a Research Proposal

**Frontal Matter:- Letter of Transmittal, Title ( to encapsulate the essence of your research in a few words), Synopsis/ Summary**

## **Body**

### **1 Introduction**

#### **1.1 Background**

#### **1.2 Statement of the problem**

#### **1.3 Research Questions**

#### **1.4 Research Objectives**

#### **1.5 Significance of the Research**

#### **1.6 Scope and Limitation of the study**

### **2. Literature Review**

### **3. Methodology (Research Design, Research approach, study area, sampling, data collection)**

# Elements of a Research Proposal

**4. Working Calendar / Time frame**

**5. Resources and Budget**

**6. Bibliography/ References Appendices/ Annex**

# Elements of a Research Proposal

## 1. Background

**O Introduce the topic, why pertinent? किन सान्दर्भिक?**

**O Motivation statement, how you developed interest in it?**

**o Relevance of the proposed study प्रस्तावित अध्ययनको सान्दर्भिकता**

**o 1/10th of the total length or proposal**

**o well thought/ developed – navigating the research activities राम्रोसँग सोचिएको / विकसित - अनुसन्धान गतिविधिहरू**

# Elements of a Research Proposal

## **2. Statement of the problem**

- o It is the focal point of the research**
- o Good problem statements answer the question “why does this research need to be conducted?”**
- o It is just in one sentence, accompanied by several paragraphs to elaborate the problem.**

## **3. Research Questions**



# Elements of a Research Proposal

## 4. Objectives

- o Statement of intent-उद्देश्य

# Elements of a Research Proposal

## 5. Literature Review

- o Previous studies between variables/ research helps developing background information
- o Books, journals, seminar, proceedings etc., helps developing internet sources, popular articles,
- o must be updated, no more than 5 years
- o 40% of the total lengths of proposal

# Elements of a Research Proposal

## **5. Methodology (Research Methods)**

- o very important section as it tells the evaluators how you plan to tackle the research problem**
- o heart of the proposal**
- o provides work plan and describes the activities necessary for the completion of the project**

# Elements of a Research Proposal

**Major contents are as follows:**

**i) Design**

- o A brief mention about the research design to be followed what kind of design do you plan to choose?**
- o qualitative, quantitative, experimental study?**

**ii) Subjects/ Participants**

- o The population of the study, organizational details, sample size and sampling methods should be explained**

# Elements of a Research Proposal

## **iii) Instruments**

- **Sources of data, data collection instruments**
- **What kind of measuring instruments or questionnaire do you plan to choose and why?**

## **iv) Procedure**

**o Data collection strategy, how do you plan to carry out your study? What activities? How long does it take?**

**v) Analysis : The analysis of data (Test of Hypothesis) and the statistical tool to be applied, should be mentioned.**

# Elements of a Research Proposal

## References List of References /Bibliography

- List of references contains details only of those works cited in the text.
  - This is a **list of all works cited** in the proposal according to the approved format
  - Must **acknowledge authors** of all publications you have referred while writing proposal
  - Don't copy word by word
  - If done (copied word by word), do not forget to **use quotation mark**
  - Be aware of **plagiarism**

# Elements of a Research Proposal

## **References List of References /Bibliography**

- **List of references contains details only of those works cited in the text.**
- **A bibliography includes sources not cited in the text but which are relevant to the subject.(larger dissertations or thesis)**
- **Small research projects will need only a reference section. This includes all the literature to which you have referred in your report. The popular referencing system Harvard System lists books and periodicals in the following manner**

# Elements of a Research Proposal

## For Books

1. Authors surname ( alphabetically), followed by their initials
2. Date of publication
3. Title of book in italics
4. Place of publication, Publisher.



# Elements of a Research Proposal

## For Books

Philip, T.E.; 1986, *Modern Cookery for Teaching and Trade*, Mumbai, Orient Longman.

## For Journal Article:

- The title of the article appears in inverted commas and name of the journal comes in italics, followed by volume number and pages of the article. e.g.

Philip, T.E.; “Influence of British Raj on Indian Cuisine”;  
*Journal of Hospitality Education*;  
5:5-11