
UNIT 5 WRITING RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND RESEARCH REPORT

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5.0 OBJECTIVES

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- outline the major sections of writing a research proposal;
- explain the methods of preparation of work plan;
- enumerate the planning for resources;
- enlist the criteria for evaluating research plan
- state the purpose of writing research report;
- identify the types of research report;
- describe the content of research report; and
- explain the style of writing report.

5.1 INTRODUCTION

In **Unit 4**, you have learnt about sampling error, hypothesis testing, parametric and non parametric tests, bivariate and multivariate statistical analysis. In this **Unit 5**, you will be studying about major sections of writing a research proposal, criteria for evaluating research plan, purpose of writing research report and how to communicate these research findings. Normally researchers have their research plans reviewed by several experts before proceeding to actual implementation of the plan. When a researcher, needs financial support for the conduct of the study, the research plan is usually presented as a formal research proposal to a potential funding agency. Students conducting a study as a part of a course or degree requirement have their plan reviewed by faculty advisers.

5.2 RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Research proposal is written for the purpose of conducting research and for funding.

5.2.1 Definition and Purposes

Research proposal is a document specifying what the research proposes to study. It communicates the research problem, its significances planned procedures for solving the problem, and when funding is sought.

A research proposal is a written document, which outlines the plan of research study. Proposals are written before the research project is started. Proposals serve several purposes.

- Teachers, academic bodies, funding agencies or the scientific community can examine what the researcher intends to do.
- It helps researcher to get a clear and precise views of what s/he intends to do, how actually to conduct the study, how does s/he monitor the progress of work. This is also a university requirement for student researchers.
- Funding agencies that sponsor research usually allot fund on a competitive basis. They go through the proposal to judge the relevance and significance of the study as well as the researcher's competency of conducting such research project. The document also becomes a contact for the projects.

5.2.2 Major Sections of Research Proposal

The major parts of the proposal are presented below: (Remember each educational institution or funding agency usually prepares the general outline of proposal presentation. The instructions may vary a little but the basic elements are same.

i) **Background of the Problem**

This will explain how the proposed research builds upon what has already been done in an area. The background material should strengthen the investigator's arguments concerning the significance of the study, and should orient the reader to what is already known about the problem and how the proposed research will increase that

knowledge. It should have a discussion of highly selective studies which are clearly related to what the investigator proposes to study. A well integrated, thoughtful and critical review should be given. Details of related literature reviewed need to be done in the appendix.

ii) **Statement of the Problem**

The statement of the problem which the investigator wants to study, need to be stated clearly and concisely. The statement should clearly indicate the key variables in the study, specify the nature of population being studied and suggest the possibility of empirical testing.

iii) **Purpose of the Study**

The investigator should state clearly the reasons for undertaking the research. A specific research study may have two or more goals.

iv) **Objectives of the Study**

This should include the specific objectives to be achieved in the proposed study. The objectives should be clearly stated in achievable and measurable terms. The objectives will provide the criteria against which the proposed research methods can be assessed. Objectives should be formed on the basis of specific questions to be answered.

v) **Assumptions**

An assumption is a statement whose truth is either considered self-evident or has been satisfactorily established by earlier research. This will act as a foundation of accepted knowledge.

vi) **Conceptual Framework**

The investigator should explain the framework of concepts on which the problem is linked. The framework also should explain the interrelationships among the phenomena under investigation.

vii) **Definition of Terms**

This refers to the clarification of the terms in such a way that they are potentially observable. It is the specification of the operations which the researcher must perform in order to collect the required information.

viii) **Hypothesis**

Hypothesis is a statement of the expectation of a researcher regarding relationships between the variables under her study, In simple terms it is prediction of expected outcomes. Hypotheses which are to be tested should be stated clearly on the basis of objectives of the study.

ix) **Research Methodology**

This part should explain clearly and completely the following:

- a) Selection of research method/strategies
- b) Selection of research design
- c) Research setting
- d) Population, sample and sampling technique
- e) Selection and development of study instruments, including reliability and validity testing of the instruments.

- f) Result of pilot study
- g) Plan for data collection
- h) Plan for data analysis

x) **Work Plan**

This is the plan according to which the various tasks and sub-tasks will be accomplished by the investigator.

xi) **Budget**

This should give the proposed expenses towards the investigation in terms of money, material and manpower.

xii) **Ethical Considerations**

The plan of the investigator to conduct research within the ethical considerations need to be explained.

xiii) **Reference and Appendices**

5.2.3 Work Plan

The work plan refers to the step by step plan of conducting the research within a time frame. The work plan gives an idea of the specific activity/job to be performed with a realistic description of the sequence and duration of completion.

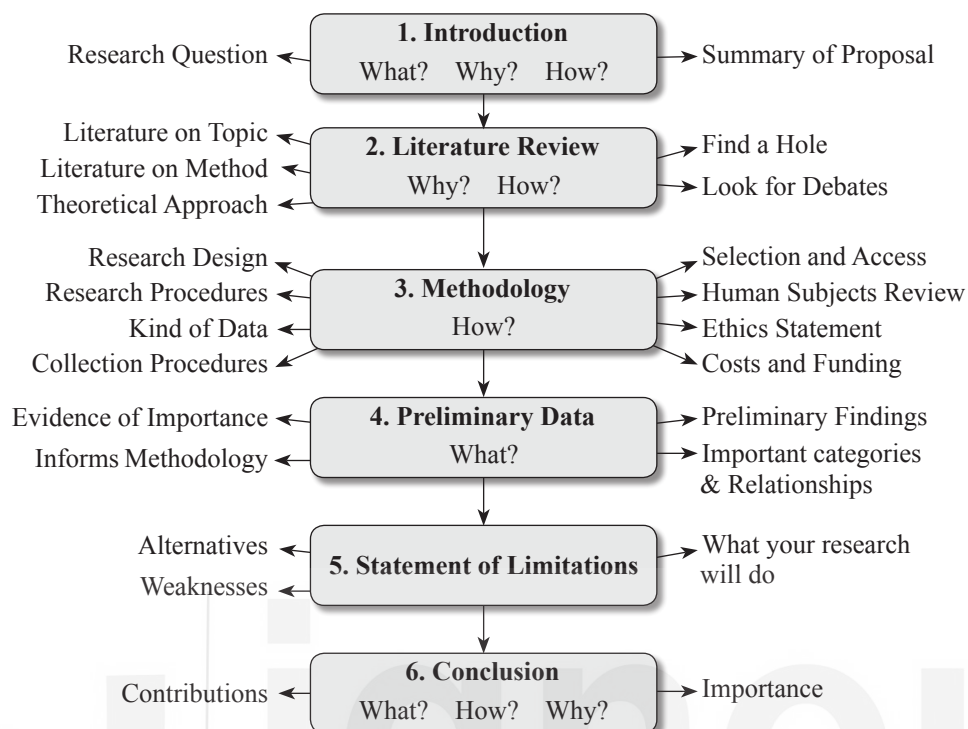
Work plan is usually presented in a tabular or graphic form. An example of each is given below:

The Gantt chart

The Gantt chart is a planning tool which shows graphically the order in which various tasks must be implemented (done) and the duration of each activity

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April
Identify research area								
Formulate research questions								
Formulate research strategy, research design and select methods								
Write research proposal			15th					
Negotiate access								
Literature review								
Data collection								
Data analysis								
Write first draft								
Write second draft								
Write final draft								
Dissertation due								21st

Research Proposal Flow Chart



5.2.4 Budget

The budget translates the project activities in monetary terms. First, researcher has to locate the availability of grant from institution, organization, association or other funding bodies. For graduate students it is difficult to get money for research. Therefore while budgeting for advanced studies student should plan for research expenses.

Research projects cost money and funding sources are frequently sought by researchers. Many organizations provide funds for nursing research. If funding is received for the study, the researcher is expected to provide final report at the completion of the project. The report may be brief summary or a lengthy report similar to one written in thesis or dissertation.

There are various ways of writing budget outline. Some budgetary categories are listed below:

- a) Personnel (Salaries and benefits)
- b) Consultant fees
- c) Equipment and rent of space
- d) Supplies and Xeroxing
- e) Travel
- f) Analysis costs (statistical consultant, computer services)
- g) Miscellaneous expenditures (for example, illustrations, graphs, postage)
- h) Overhead

5.2.5 Legal and Ethical Considerations

For conducting research many institutions have developed Institution Review Committees for research.

Research involving humans requires a careful scrutinising for procedures to be used to protect the rights of human subjects. Codes of ethics have been developed to guide researchers. The three major ethical principles that are incorporated into most guidelines are beneficence, respect for human dignity, and justice. (Refer BNS-101).

Beneficence encompasses the maxim: Above all, **do no harm**. This principle involves the protection of subjects from physical and-psychological harm, protection of subjects from exploitation, and the performance of some good.

The principle of respect for **human dignity** includes the subject 'right to self determination, which means that subjects have the freedom to control their own activities, including their voluntary participation in the study. The respect principle also includes the subjects' right to full disclosure. Full-disclosure means that the researcher has fully described to prospective subjects the nature of the study and subjects' right. In some research situations, researchers have used deception (either withholding information from subjects or providing false information) to avoid biases. When deception or concealment are necessary, researchers should use extra precautions to risks and protect the other rights of subjects.

Most studies should **involve informed consent procedure** designed to provide prospective subjects with sufficient information to make a researcher know about the potential costs and benefits of participation. Informed consent involves having the subject sign a **consent form**, which documents the subject **voluntary decision to participate** after receiving a full explanation of then research.

The **third principle**, justice, includes the right to fair treatment (both is on selection of subjects and during the course of the study). And the right to Privacy of subjects can be maintained through anonymity (wherein not even researcher knows the identity of the subjects) or through formal confidential procedures.

The present ethical standards used in nursing research, and in research conducted by other disciplines, are based on the guidelines that were developed for research are:

- 1) Researcher must inform subjects about the study.
- 2) Research must be for the good of society.
- 3) Research must be based on animal experiments, if possible.
- 4) Researcher must try to avoid injury to research subjects.
- 5) Researcher must be qualified to conduct research.
- 6) Subjects or the researcher can stop many institutions the study if problems occur.

5.2.6 References

Research Journals articles conclude with a list of books, reports and other journal articles that were referred in the text of the report. For those interesting in pursuing additional reading on a substantive topics, the reference list of a current research study is an excellent place of begin.

Nurses are often interested in learning the current state of knowledge regarding particular research topic. In such situation, S/he needs to turn to research literature to find recent developments. To be thorough, nurse should attempt to identify, locate and examine all major relevant research reports on the topic. For this she needs to learn the skills to find the references about books, reports etc.

5.2.7 Personnel Planning for Resources

- **Resources:** Resources include Men, Materials and Money. While planning for budget it is necessary to highlight the requirements of personnel who would play the key role in the study. When the student herself is doing the study, s/he may need a research consultant, a statistician and an editor. For a full fledged project, the qualification and experience of the project director should be highlighted. In addition to the director, there may be project team members according to the appropriateness of the job to be performed. For example, if the major function of the person is administrative, the proposal should stress the person's experience in supervising others on research work. Most funding agencies look for competent statistical experts in the team.
- **Cost:** All research projects cost money; some studies are much more expensive than others. The researcher must realistically consider the financial resources available. Many sources of outside funding exist but not nearly enough to cover all the needed research.
- **Equipment and Supplies:** "The best laid plans of mice and men of times go astray," according to a line in Robert Burns' poem To a Mouse. This saying is certainly true in the research situation. The researcher can devise a study, which is significant to nursing and that, appears to be feasible to conduct, and suddenly find out that there is no equipment to accurately measure the research variables. Even if equipment is available, it may not be in proper working condition. All research projects require some type of resources. An accurate determination of the needed equipment and supplies should be made before the final decision is made to conduct a study.

Some questions that should be asked (and answered) before beginning a research project are:

- 1) What equipment will be needed?
- 2) Is this equipment available and in proper working order?
- 3) Is there a qualified operator of the equipment?
- 4) Are the necessary supplies available or can they be obtained?

Some of the more common pieces of equipment that are used in nursing research are physiological data-gathering devices such as **thermometers** and **stethoscopes**. Also, **office equipment** such as **word processors** and **duplicating machines** may be needed. Access to a **computer** may be a necessity if a large amount of data need to be analyzed. If the researcher takes into consideration equipment and supplies in the early phases of a research project, there is less likelihood that the project will have to be revised or discarded later because of equipment or supply problems.

Administrative Support. Many research projects require administrative support. Nurses working in health care institutions, such as hospitals, may seek released time to conduct research or financial support for a proposed project. Research requires time, money, manpower and materials.

Activity 1

Read and identify the following from the research sample:

- i) Statement of the problem
- ii) Research method used by Researcher
- iii) Plan of data analysis
- iv) The two appendices used by the writer

Check Your Progress 1

- 1) Outline the major items of a budget plan for a research.

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5.3 WRITING A RESEARCH REPORT

No research is complete unless the report is written and communicated. It is necessary for you as the researcher to maintain proper notes on progress made, e.g., problem statement objectives, justifications for the study, review of literature, development of instruments for data collection, hypothesis, sample description and sampling technique, pilot study, problems faced in data collection, the data and the analysis. These notes help in preparing the research report.

5.3.1 Purposes

The main purpose of research report is to let others interested in the subject know the findings of the research. The researcher himself or herself may have definite purpose of writing the research report.

Examples of purposes are listed below:

- 1) Research is conducted for the partial fulfillment of the degree like M.Sc, Ph.D. Therefore writing report is a part of the academic programme.
- 2) Research is conducted to find an answer to the problems faced by the practitioner, teacher or administrator. Here the report is written to communicate the findings to others in the profession for critiquing, application of result or future investigation in the area of research.
- 3) When the research is funded by the government or a research foundation. They stipulate the requirements of the report.

5.3.2 Types of Research Reports

The factors that govern the types of research report are **purpose of writing** the report, **expected readers** of the report, **time at hand** and the **money available**.

Most common types of research reports are:

- **Thesis:** The research report written for the partial fulfillment of the degree requirement.
- **Research Monograph:** The research report written to communicate the methodology and findings of a scientific work specially when it is supported by a funding agency.
- **Research Article:** The research report written for publication in a professional journal. .
- **Newspaper Magazine Article:** The research report is written to communicate the findings to the general public. Usually a non-technical language is used in writing an article for general public.

5.3.3 Content

The content of a research report may vary according to the institutional or publication requirements. Before a researcher sits down to write, S/he should find out the requirements of the academic institution, funding agency or the publication agency. An outline of the contents of a typical report is given below:

Introduction

This section contains background of the problem, need for the study, problem statement, statement of objectives, theoretical/conceptual framework, operational, definitions, assumptions, scope and delimitation and statement of hypothesis, if any,

- **Background of the Problem:** Outlines the problem area, studies done in this area and the findings of such studies, the areas not explored and needing further investigation.
- **Need for the Study:** This is an extension from the previous section but specific to the research topic. The researcher explains the need for the study by quoting available statistics where needed, mentioning the recommendations of other researcher suggesting for further investigation of the problem, and justifying the need for doing the present study.
- **Problem Statement:** You are advised to review block 3 Unit 1 for writing the statement of a problem. The problem statement should indicate the nature of the study e.g., “to find relationship between”, “to compare the performance of”, “to explore the” or “to answer the question”, etc.
- **Statement of Objectives:** The objectives are written in observable and measurable terms. Each objective states one purpose. These may be stated in declarative form or question form.

For example

Do families prefer to use untrained dais when trained personnel are available?

This can be stated in a declarative form: e.g.

To identify the preference of the families regarding their choice of untrained dais when trained personnel are available.

- **Rationale for the Study:** This could be developed into a theoretical/conceptional framework that supports the investigation, development

of hypothesis, construction of instrument and analysis and interpretation of findings.

- **Operational Definitions:** All variables are defined in a way that indicate how they are observed and measured.
- **Scope and Limitation:** The scope indicates the areas that are covered and where the results could be applied, whereas delimitation indicates what the researcher is not investigating and the limitations that are taken into consideration, while planning the research.
- For writing a Thesis or Monograph these areas (listed from (i) to vii) are usually included in Chapter I, whereas for an article these descriptions are included in the introductory section of the article covering three to four paragraphs.

Literature Study

- There are different sections in the report on review of literature. The first para usually contains the areas of related literature reviewed and the outline of the presentation. While organizing the written report, present the broad areas first and then the specific areas: For example in IND-HND-007 first the author writes on maternal mortality and mobility, and then presents on utilization of rural health services.

In a thesis while presenting the review of research literature, a brief description of the research is given including design, analysis and findings. The reviewer also emphasizes on what areas are explored and what is yet to be studied.

Sometimes non-research literature are also included in the review but these are mostly theories and principles. The writer should acknowledge all sources of literature using accepted form of presentation. At the end of the chapter summarize the review presented.

This is the second chapter of the thesis report. Theoretical framework may follow the review of literature. It is important to bring out a comprehensive summary in the last paragraph of the chapter. For an article, usually a paragraph or two are written on the related research review.

Methodology

This section contains i) the research approach, design (specially if experimental or evaluative method is adopted), ii) description of dependent and independent variables (if these are not discussed in Chapter II), iii) development or selection of research instrument including pretesting, reliability and validity, iv) description of the tool, v) description of study setting, vi) sample and sampling technique, vii) procedure for data collection, and. viii) plan of data analysis.

The summary of the chapter is a necessity if the chapter is long.

This is the third chapter of the thesis report. The organization of different section may vary on which comes first or second because there is no hard-and-fast rule about it. The writer using her/his intuition and logic. Use figures necessary to show the design or relation of variables.

If the researcher has used a standardized tool or an instrument prepared by some other researcher, he or she needs to take the author's (instrument)

permission. There are tests which are confidential in nature, In that case the instrument is not given in the Appendix.

This is also a major section in an article. A brief description of each of the subsection are mentioned above are presented in brief. Usually the content is presented under the heading of method or research design and cover at least 4-5 paragraphs in the article.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

This is one of the major chapters/sections which presents: i) the methods used for analysis, and ii) the findings of the study. It is a logical development of analysis presented according to the objectives and hypothesis stated in earlier section.

One of the most common methods of presentation of descriptive analysis is: i) To use table and graphs, ii) The statistical analysis for the test of significance is presented by stating the null-hypothesis, the inferential statistics selected and indicating the result of test of significance, iii) Use tables to present data.

Usually interpretation of statistical analysis is done as the author presents each table or graph. Testing of hypothesis should indicate rejection or acceptance of null hypothesis and its interpretation. At the end of analysis chapter a summary of major findings are presented following a discussion of findings. In a thesis or monograph, sometimes a chapter is written on discussion of the findings where the author compares the present result with findings other studies indicating the similarities and differences. This may be presented in one chapter forming either the fourth or the fourth and fifth chapters.

Data analysis and discussion make the main body of the article. Essential tables and figures are included. Discussion is presented under a separate heading.

Summary, Conclusion, Implication and Recommendations

The summary contains briefly all the research steps including the list of major findings; usually tables and figures are not used in this chapter.

- All expected and unexpected findings and the conclusions drawn from each of the findings are presented. It also explains how far generalization of results can be made The researcher also reasons out if the hypothesis tested is found to be not significant.
- The implication indicate author's reflective thinking in terms of possible application of the result. For example, if the survey indicate 70 per cent of pregnant women are anaemic, the implications may be written on the probable reasons for anaemia and what health care strategies can be adopted to improve the status. In other words, that implications suggest the values of these findings in terms of patient care improvement educational changes or the administrative strategies to be adopted.
- Limitations of the present study are noted here. Limitations are those restrictions or problems which the researcher had not deliberately planned out but comes across while doing the study.

- The recommendations give direction to future research and suggestion for improving the present study.
- Usually a monograph expounds on the conclusions and implications. It not only says what may happen if the system continues but also what need to be done for future.
- Besides a summary, an abstract is prepared (executive summary) which usually contains 500-1000 words.

In an article two or three paragraphs are written to discuss the implications. A short summary is made which is usually put as a synopsis at the beginning of the article.

Appendices, Bibliography, References

This section is specially needed for thesis and monograph and is not required for an article. Except that all references used in the content are to be listed at the end of the article. An approved style is to be adopted to write the references and bibliography.

Acknowledgement, Preface, Table of Content

Acknowledgement, table of content, list of tables and figures are included in the first part of the research report. The monograph in addition also includes a page on preface. Articles do not require this section.

5.3.4 Style of writing: Language, Bibliography, References, Quotations

This unit does not attempt to teach the art of writing. Some guidelines “are given for effective writing. Correct grammar, though important, is not enough for good communication; use of precise and unambiguous words, orderly presentation of ideas, simple (not too complicated) sentences, smooth flow and clear expressions are the key to good writing.

Language

- Use precise words. For example, do not mix up words like “disinterested” (means impartial) and “uninterested” (means apathetic, not interested).
- Avoid qualifiers e.g., “almost never” “almost always”, “extremely good” as every reader attaches different meaning to these words. Thus qualifiers weaken statements that express empirical observations.
- Avoid ambiguity: Simple words that are used “as referents e.g., this, that, these and those can be troublesome. Instead of saying “in this table” write” in “Table No. 12”.
- Throughout units the sequences must be orderly. Presentation need to be organized. Use punctuation, like commas but do not over use them.
- Use short simple sentences which are easy to comprehend, but make sure that writing is readable and not a choppy prose. If long sentences are required for explaining concepts, do not break the content in short sentence.
- Do not introduce topic abruptly. The reader should not ask “from where did it has come or “how does that fit in”?

- Avoid change of tenses, i.e., from past tense to present tense and vice-versa. Verbs must agree with the subjects.
- Avoid use of abbreviations unless it is absolutely necessary. Make sure that the abbreviations used are useful and standard abbreviations.
- Writing is a difficult task, specially when one is not used to writing research report is advisable to take help of a critic or editor.
- Use headings and sub-headings for writing an article or thesis as headings indicate organization.

The following style is suggested:

A Centered Main Heading

Side Heading

An indented paragraph heading

The three headings are underlined (instead bold prints may be used). Note that every word starts with capital letter for centre and side headings but not in paragraph heading. Except for paragraph heading no punctuations (like period/fullstop, comma, colon) are used at the end of the heading statement. Whichever pattern is used for organizing the content, method consistently in the manuscript.

- Use the symbol for per cent (%) only when preceded by a number e.g., 22%. Otherwise use the word percentage when a number is not given. If the per cent is used in the running text it is better to use the word and not the symbol. But use the symbol in the table or when the number is used in parentheses.

Examples:

Majority (80%) of the children were malnourished.

Children in the age group of below five years 80 per cent were malnourished.

- Usually a sentence is not started with a number; but if used write the number in words.

Example 1

- Eighty per cent of children were malnourished.

Some numbers are expressed in words in the text, i.e., any number below 10 is written in words. Example:

- Out of 100 subjects nine were female students.

Bibliography and References

There are different styles of writing bibliography and references. The writer has to select one of the recommended methods or follow the method prescribed by the publisher or the institution. There may be minor changes in punctuation and order, but basic elements remain the same between methods. In this unit the form recommended by the American Psychological Association (APA style) is used.

A reference list cites works that are specifically referred/quoted in the writing, e.g., in quotation; in reference to theory, in reference to the selection of tool

etc. Each reference cited in the text must be entered in the reference list. This is in contrast to a bibliography list which cites works for background or further reading and not necessarily they have been referred in the text. In other words all the relevant studies that have helped the researcher in planning and conducting the research and in analyzing the research result are included in the bibliography list.

The writing of reference or bibliography style is followed religiously. If there is any omission or haphazard writing, the manuscript is usually returned, i.e., not accepted. Therefore, the students are cautioned for proper use of the style

Arrange the elements in a reference entry in the following order:

Author: All authors of the work, with surnames and initials (not full name) in inverted order.

Title: article, chapter, or book

Facts of publication: For journals — journal name in full, date of publication, volume number, inclusive pages. For books — city of publication, publisher's name, date of publication.

Punctuation: Use periods (or full stop) to separate the three major subdivisions of a reference citation: author title and publication data. Use - commas (,) within subdivisions (e.g., between data and volume number in a journal entry) use a colon (:) between the place of publication and the publisher, use parentheses (()) for extensions, qualifications or interpretations of each sub-divisions or the entire entry. Underline the title of the book and the name of the journal.

Example 2

- Periods separate the sub-division:

I-----I	I-----I	I-----I
* Author	* Title of the Work	* Publication Data
- Commas separate within sub-divisions:
 Journal (Underline the volume number and Journal title)
 'Nursing Journal of India. 1996.86, 221-229
 * Book J.B. Lippicott Company, 1979
- A Colon separates the place of publication and the publisher:
 Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1979
- Parenthesis extended, qualify, or interpret (note the book title is underlined)
 Book

r-----i

 Publication Manual (2nd ed.) Journal
 'S6 (2), 221-229

Where each issue of journal starts with page 1, enter issue number after volume.

- Inverted order of names (surname first)

Polit, D.F. — One author

Polit, D.F. & Hungler, B.P. — Two authors

Writing Book Reference

Example 3

Polit, D.F. & Hungler B.P, Nursing Research, Philadelphia : J.B. Lippincott Company, 1979.

Writing Journal Article

Example 4

Alderson, M.J., “Effect of Increased Body Temperature on the Perception of Time”. Nursing Research, 1974, 23, 42-49.

For details of writing magazine articles, reports, unpublished literature reference, the reader is advised to refer any of the books given in the reference section of this module.

Quotations

Quotations used are usually short quotations of not more than four typed lines. The quotations are writing in exact words of the writer quoted. When long quotations a no quotation marks (“ “) are used and usually typed in single-space as below (i.e., is set off in a separate paragraph, or paragraphs).

Short Quotation

Example 5

They stated “Evaluation research has an important role to play both in localized settings and in programmes at the National level” (Polit and Hungler, 1978, p. 210).

OR

Polit and Hungler (1978) explained that “evaluation research has an important role to play in localized settings and in programmes at the national level” (p .210).

Block Quotation

Example 6

Kaith (1987) explains that, ethical theories provide a framework which let us determine what we ought to do. Professional nursing decisions made by an appeal to justice should, in the long run, carry more weight than just doing the best we can. Such approach may remove some of the inequalities in health care that have come through the ‘he who shouts loudest gets the most way of allocating resources’.

5.3.5 Sample Research Report

Title: A Study on Development of Evaluation Model for Nursing Programme through

Distance Education

The Development of Programme Evaluation Model for Nursing Programme through Distance Education was carried out by Kapoor, Bimla in the partial

fulfillment of the requirement for the award of degree of Doctor of Philosophy. A developmental approach with opinion survey was adopted to achieve the objectives of the study. The present study was carried at the School of Education, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, India.

The objective of the study were: i) To construct a set of evaluative criteria for the development of a programme evaluation model, ii) To develop a programme evaluation model for nursing programme through distance education, iii) To determine empirical validation of the programme evaluation model on the B.Sc. Nursing Programme of IGNOU.

The sample of the study comprised experts from nursing education and distance education. All 405 third year learners who appeared for the mental health nursing terminal examination conducted in December, 2002 and their 35 Academic Counsellors who were involved in conduct of theory and practical courses of mental health nursing were a part of the study. The records of IGNOU also formed the sample of the study.

The instruments developed and used for generating necessary data were:

- evaluative criteria checklist for the development of PEM,
- programme evaluation model checklist,
- records checklist,
- opinionnaire for the learners on mental health nursing course on theory and practical and
- opinionnaire for the academic counselors on mental health nursing courses in theory and practical.

The data obtained were analyzed using frequency and percentage. Qualitative analysis was done for open-ended responses. Chi-square was used to test the significance of references in the responses of two groups.

Significant findings of the study revealed that all the experts agreed on the most of the items on the evaluative criteria. However, some suggested a reorganization of items which were incorporated. The final evaluative criteria had eight areas. Guidelines were developed as suggested by experts.

There was 100 per cent agreement by the experts on most of the items on the PEM in terms of experts' comments the PEM was finalized under three frames: evaluation of and development, evaluation of implementation and evaluation of monitoring.

The empirical validation of the PEM was established by testing it on the B.Sc. Nursing Programme of IGNOU through records checklist, opinion of learners and opinion academic counselors.

Findings revealed that records were available on almost all the areas listed in the records checklist.

It was found that the mean age of learners were 40.3 years and most of them were female. Three fourth of nurses worked as staff nurses. The mean gap of resuming education was 8 years.

The profile of Academic Counselors indicated that about half of the ACs were in age group of 29-50 years. Most of them were women. As many as 46 per cent had specialization in mental health and psychiatric nursing.

On an average, ACs had 15 years of teaching experience and 18 years of clinical experience.

It was found that both the groups, the learners and academic counselors provided evidence to the effect that the various dimensions mentioned in the recommendations of PEM were relevant.

The two groups differed in their opinion on adequacy of lab facilities and use of academic media. Both the groups emphasized that increasing theory counseling and practical contact sessions in mental health nursing course was important.

Based on the findings on the research, it was recommended that a study may be conducted on empirical validation on implementation of PEM on larger sample. It was also recommended that PEM can be tested on other distance education programme for nursing. Empirical validation of PEM may be done by using other tools to establish its reliability.

Good Research generally builds on existing knowledge. Links between new research and existing knowledge are developed through review of the prior research on a topic and through efforts to identify an appropriate theoretical framework for the research problem. Both these activities are important not only because they provide a conceptual context for a scientific investigation, but also because they may help the researcher to refine and delimit the problem to be studies.

Activity 2

Read the research report of IND-HND-007 given in the beginning of BNS-211, Block 3 and answer the following questions.

- What was the purpose of her writing the research report?
- What is the type of report?
- How many paragraphs have been used to explain the methodology?
- How are the findings-of descriptive analysis presented?

Check Your Progress 2

- 1) Outline the broad content areas included in the methodology of the thesis.

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- 2) What do you include in the appendix section of the thesis?

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- 3) Define research proposal?

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5.4 LET US SUM UP

Unit this contains two major sections, developing research proposal and writing research report. The main areas are background of the problem, statement of the problem, purpose and objectives of hypotheses, research methodology, work plan, budget, ethical considerations, references and appendices. Preparation of a work plan increases the efficiency of conducting research step by step. A research report can be in the form of an article, thesis or monograph. The length and form of each section of the report differ according to the purpose of writing the report, space and time and money available. Scientific communication should be presented as simply and clearly as possible. Various styles of writing references exist to assist the researcher to adopt an acceptable style. The proposal writing demands certain acceptable format.

5.5 KEY WORDS

Ethics : The quality of research procedure with respect to their adherence to professional, legal and social obligation to the research subjects.

Proposal : is a document the researcher plans to study.

Resources : includes the involvement of various resources like manpower, money and materials

5.6 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Check Your Progress 1

- 1) Major items of a budget plan are:
 - i) Direct labour (salaries and benefits of personnel)
 - ii) Supplies and xeroxing
 - iii) Equipment-purchase and rental
 - iv) Statistical analysis and computer expense
 - v) Typing and printing
 - vi) Travel
- 2)
 - i)
 - Is the problem stated clearly and explicitly?
 - Is the problem researchable, relevant and meaningful?
 - What is the core idea against which the investigation is organized? or can you identify the variables, setting and the type of relationship under study?
 - ii)
 - What is the population of subjects sampled?
 - Are the pertinent characteristics of this population clearly stated?
 - Is the size of the sample appropriate?
 - iii)
 - What is the evidence to support the reliability of the instrument chosen.
 - Is the tool valid?

- Is the tool objective?
- Is the tool appropriate?

Check your progress 2

- 1) The broad content outlines are research approach, study design, descriptions and definition of variables, hypotheses, development of tools, description of setting, sample, size and sampling, and procedure for data analyses.
- 2) Appendix includes:
 - Copies of important relevant correspondence
 - Master sheet
 - Description of treatment variables
 - Tools
- 3) Research proposal is a written document which outlines the plan of research study and is written before the research project is started.



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