

RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND SYNOPSIS

An outline of a proposed research work

- Useful basis for the evaluation of project and guidelines for researcher
- For an academic degree or a funding agency
- A clear and concise statement of the problem
- The hypothesis involved
- A recognition of the significance of the problem
- Definitions of the important terms
- Assumptions and limitations
- A brief survey of related literature
- An analysis of proposed research producers
- Time schedule involved

Writing a research proposal and synopsis

A well-prepared and well-designed proposal has:

- The problem and statement of the problem
- The review of literature or theoretical framework of the study
- The hypotheses and objectives
- The methodology and procedure of the study
- Educational implications or significance of the problem
- Definitions, assumptions and delimitations
- A tentative structure of the report
- Bibliography
- Time frame

Components of a research proposal

- The statement of the problem:
 - Limited enough in scope
 - A definite conclusion possible
 - Suggesting a specific answer or conclusion
 - Specific and clear-cut words
- Review (literature) and theoretical framework:
 - Summary of previous research
 - Why?? What is known and unknown?
 - Past knowledge is important
 - Eliminating replication
 - Basis for the formulation of hypotheses and deciding the methodology of the study
 - Concluding with a 'gap' and comment on area of agreement and disagreement in findings
- The hypotheses and objectives:
 - Based on hypotheses
 - Expected outcomes and the investigation
 - If hypotheses can not be formulated but objectives of the study can be written to indicate the direction of the research work
- The methodology and procedure of the study:
 - Method, sample, population, tools and statistical analysis techniques of the study
 - Info on data gathering devices and sources of data
- Educational implications or significance of the problem:
 - Answering the question or the solution to the problem
 - How may influence educational theory or practice
 - Why the project calls for an urgency - justifying its worth

- Definitions, assumptions and delimitations:
- Technical terms and variables - operational definitions
- What assumptions (underlying variables)?
- Delimited to what variables, sample, method, tools and statistical techniques?
- A tentative structure of the report:
- Chapterization
- Proposed final shape or look of the study
- Bibliography:
- What books were studied or are important?
- Books of research, conceptual framework
- Hand-books encyclopedia, journals
- Unpublished and published thesis

Evaluating a research proposal

Criteria for evaluating proposal or synopsis

- Significance of the proposed research
- Contextual, practical and national level significance
- Quality of the proposed research project
- Relation to previous work
- Likelihood of success
- Adequacy of design, methodology and tools etc.
- Qualification of the researcher?
- Facilities available?
- Reasonableness of the budget and anticipated results?
- Realistic timeframe?