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***BROAD GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THE
OUTLINE OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL
FOR PH.D.***

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Broad Guidelines for writing the outline of research proposal for Ph.D.

Where it is essential to encourage, expand and improve the quality of Ph.D. research to make it a more active part of the academic life of the university, it is also important to ensure that a reasonable standard of quality of research is maintained. The Ph.D. research programs must be properly planned and executed to maintain the standards.

A research proposal for Ph.D. registration, whether the area of study belongs to Faculty of Science and Technology, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Commerce and Management and Interdisciplinary studies should include certain basic components, in which number of questions need to be addressed. Why research on the proposed topic should be undertaken and what gains are likely to be achieved? What has been done previously in this or related areas? What are the objectives of this study and how these will be achieved? Are the facilities required for doing the proposed research available at the proposed research center? Will the output of research will be useful to humans and how? Such an extensive initial exercise would help in designing a sound research project, which is likely to make a significant contribution in successful completion of Ph.D. research.

Components of outline of proposed research proposal

The following compounds should be provided in a synopsis / outline of a Ph.D. research project. The details may, however, vary according to the field of study. Any alteration to the following format may be in a specific discipline only with good justification.

A. Title Page of proposed research:

A title page of the synopsis should include the name of the University, Logo of University title of the research project, and name of the student (with qualifications), name of the

supervisors (s) with place of work, subject, faculty and date (month and year) of submission.

Proposed Topic of research: The topic for proposed research should be selected carefully. Due consideration should be given to social relevance, local / regional needs, National requirement and international importance. It should be specific and worded to show the nature of work involved as far as possible.

B. Outline of the Proposed Topic of Research

- 1. Introduction of proposed research:** It should provide a brief description to introduce the area of the proposed research work.
- 2. Literature review of the proposed topic:** A review of the relevant literature showing the work done previously in the area of proposed research is essential to plan further research effectively. The information given in the review should be supported by the latest references. Literature reviews should be arranged in chronological order of their year of publication (latest first).
- 3. Gaps in the existing research:** Unsolved issues on the topic of research and importance of the proposed project in the context of current states are to be given in this part.
- 4. Statement of proposed problem:** State the research problem. Give detailed explanation about the purpose of the study than what stated in the introduction.
- 5. Scope of research work:** Candidate will have to define what the study is going to cover and what it is focusing on.
- 6. Relevance of the research work:** Social relevance, local/regional needs/National requirement and International importance of proposed research outcome should be highlighted.
- 7. Significance of proposed problem:** Clearly indicate what is worth doing. Describe major issues or problem that will be addressed by proposed research. This can be in the form of question to be addressed. It can be melded into your introduction to help with the organization and narrow flow of your proposal.
- 8. Objectives of the proposed research:** As a result of literature review, main gap in research area should be identified on which there would be focus during Ph.D. program. Once the research problem is identified then the main aim and objectives of project will be sorted out.

9. Hypotheses/Assumptions: Hypothesis should be generated on the basis of gap in existing research.

10. Research Methodology: A plan of work describing the various aspects of the study in a logical sequence along with the methodologies to be employed. Sufficient details to demonstrate that the researcher has a fairly good idea about the nature of work likely to be involved should be provided. In the case of experimental sciences, e. g. which equipment's and experimental procedures would be used; whether the required information would be obtained from primary or secondary sources etc?. The tentative time schedule (number of months) for the various aspects of the proposed research must be provided.

In general methodology should comprise:

- a. Methods of research
- b. Sampling design
- c. Conceptual framework if any
- d. Research design (Explanation of how research is being conducted and the tools to be used for the same)
- e. Methods of data collection
- f. Methods of data analysis (Use of parametric and non-parametric tools and techniques as case may be)
- g. Details of equipment's and instruments to be used and their source (Available in research center or facility is to be hired from other center / institute / laboratory etc.).

11. Chapter Scheme: (objectives must be reflected in the scheme)

12. Expected outcome: The expected outcome should be the result of the activity described for the element in order to meet the objectives and overall aim. It should include an explanation of how the proposal will address the needs shown in the statement of the Problem. It should also include clear information about who will benefit and how they will benefit from the proposal

13. Plan of work (Time schedule of activity): Time (month/years) versus phase wise activity chart should be preferred to highlight time bound activity of proposed research.

14. References and Bibliography: Synopsis/outline should contain at the end a list of recent & relevant references, and a bibliography. These should be written on a standard pattern.

NOTE:

It will be difficult to define an overall length for a synopsis/outline for Ph.D. research in such varied fields of study. Whereas it should be concise as far as possible and avoid repetitions, it should also provide sufficient details on the various aspects mentioned above to show that the research involved has been well understood and planned, and it is of an acceptable academic merit. The total length of a synopsis may run from 1500 to 3000 words (6 to 10 A-4 pages). The synopsis must be forwarded through Head of the Department / Principal of the college where supervisor is working and it should have permission letter from the Principal of research Centre if department of the supervisor is not recognized for research. Both guide and researcher should sign the proposal (Not applicable if candidate doesn't have supervisor).

Be Attention for preparing the outline of proposed topic of research

1. The research topic should be original, rational, clear and understandable.
2. There should not be repetition of the research work or topic.
3. The proposed research proposal should be self – contained.
4. Minor changes may be allowed in the research proposal in context of nature and need of work.
5. Expected length of the research proposal is 6 to 10 A-4 pages.
6. Font size: 16 for Heading; 14 for subheading and 12 for running text.
7. Font: Times new Roman / Arial.
8. Spacing: 1.5
9. Page number and subject may be mentioned in footer.

Important

1. Along with the application form (for Registration) the researcher has to submit eight copies of his/her research proposal.
2. As per UGC regulation, 2016 and D.O.NO.F.10-6/2011 (PS) Misc dated 6th July 2015, research supervisor, co-supervisor should be working within the territorial jurisdiction of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.