

## **Annex – A INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

The importance and role of the research proposal in research/study for Ph.D. degree should be obvious to students applying for admission to this program as the major criteria of selection of the student would be based on the results of evaluation of the proposal. The research proposal also determines the individual program of research/study, selection of advisors, prospect and possibility of the research in relation to available academic facility etc. The students are expected to submit a preliminary research proposal along with the application. This proposal will be refined and developed during the first two semesters. The research proposal shall outline the research that the student is proposing to undertake for the doctoral degree. The proposal may be written as per the following outline:

### **INTRODUCTION**

Here the area of proposed study is introduced and located in the problem field. Some of its interesting and problematic aspects of concern are presented. It will also act as a background to the justification of carrying, out the research study that will be defined in the next paragraph/section.

### **NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF THE RESEARCH**

In these paragraphs, the area of research field/problem is further elaborated and clearly defined.. It should be sufficiently focused and clearly identify the areas and nature of incomplete knowledge/method of application of knowledge or gaps that the students expects to fill up partially/fully through the research study. It should also explicitly state the need and importance of the research and potentials of originality.

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

This section of the research proposal elaborates the problem in real life that makes the background to the focus of your research. It seeks to establish the area where the practical application of the research could be made and thereby its relevance to the development of the applied field or the nation. The section should lead to and include the statements on development objectives of the research.

### **RESEARCH PURPOSE**

A short narrative statement of the goals of the research is drawn from the above problem statement and the research problem is defined here. This may take the form of general objectives of the research. The scope and limitations of the research is then clearly summarized and stated in the form of either research objectives or research questions or hypothesis. The research questions are those questions that the proposed research in your area and topic will definitely seek to answer. The research questions should preferably be posed in simple and straight forward manner and must avoid ambiguity. The limitations of the proposed research program could also be clarified through research questions. If your research is expected to have measureable outcomes, the research questions may be stated in the form of specific objectives. If you already have some hypotheses or proposed responses to the research question or solutions to the research problem, these may also be presented here, in such a case, your research purpose could be stated in the form of a hypothesis, which would be either tested /proved or disproved through your research.

### **VALIDITY OF RESEARCH**

Here a short literature review to indicate validity of research purpose and research questions is made. This section essentially elaborates the state of the knowledge and state of research works on the issue at

local, regional and global levels and through the elaboration validates the need for further research. If you have already started works in the research, you may also add a synopsis/statement on the status of research here.

### **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY**

In this section, you will present a research design proposed for approaching to answer the research questions or meet specific objectives or test hypothesis/propositions. It will contain the conceptual framework of the organization of your research study including paradigmatic and methodological consideration. Methodology should address all aspects of your research such as research set up, data collection, analysis of data or results, and drawing conclusions. This actual Quantitative (experiments, models and field survey, etc.) or Qualitative (ethnography, case studies, etc) or mix of methodologies used needs to be identified here.

If there are specific field and laboratory needs for the research methodology proposed, they should be included here.

### **EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

In this section, state the expected output in terms of discoveries, theories or interpretations and or possibilities there of making new applications of extant knowledge. Whatever new contributions in terms of development and/or application of knowledge are expected out of the research should be presented here. Also describe how the research output helps in moving towards achieving the development objective here.

### **SCHEDULE**

A calendar of activities to achieve the research proposal over about two and half years shall also be included.

### **REFERENCES**

At the end of the proposal present a brief list of references and bibliography. References should be listed in alphabetical order and include the name of the author, date, title, place of publication and name of publisher, city of publication of the works cited in the proposal.

The research proposal shall be presented in about 2000 words.