

## A Guideline for Ph.D/M.Phil. Synopsis

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- **Abstract:-**

To enter a Ph.D/M.Phil program, a proposed researcher is required to submit a research proposal. Before the place is formally offered, candidate is required to submit a developed proposal. This is done to encourage the researcher to discuss his/her proposal. The proposal should highlight the area of the research project, the central problem of research & the methodology to be followed during the research work.

During the research work, these initial ideas are then refined. However, this proposal may not be followed strictly. You may even change the direction of your research. For this reason, research is asked to submit a revised synopsis at the time of submission of pre-vival documents. However, preparation of synopsis leaves some grey shades that leads to confusion among the prospect researchers. The following paper is an attempt to provide guidelines to all such researcher to prepare a standard synopsis.

- **Objectives:-**

- (1) To discuss various points to be included in synopsis.
- (2) To study in detail the contents of each point.

- **Introduction:-**

A basic criterion for the award of a Ph.D is that researcher makes an original Contribution to knowledge. Before the final registration to Ph.D course, a proposed researcher needs to determine your area of his study. Having decided your area of study, make an outline about what is 'known' about your topic already. After having done this groundwork, the researcher then needs to demonstrate how the thesis will add something original & significant to the field. This can be done in a variety of ways – like by redressing a bias or oversight in the existing literature, or by applying new method to give a new insight to an established field, or simply being the first to systematically study an important & untouched topic. There are no hard & fast rules about the research, but one must think about how & why his/her work is going to be innovative & important.

Before selecting the topic, the researcher must try to answer the following questions :-

- (1) Why research on the proposed topic should be undertaken & why gains are likely to be achieved?
- (2) What has been done previously in this or related areas?

- (3) What are the objectives of this study & how these will be achieved?
- (4) Are the facilities required for doing the proposed research available?

An extensive initial exercise should help in likely to make a significant contribution in successful completion of Ph.D. research.

- **Components of Synopsis :-**

The following components should be provided in a synopsis of Ph.D. research project.

- **Working Title :-**

Research must select a Working title that best describes the nature of his/her project. He/she may give a brief title, but it is useful to indicate, after a colon, the nature of his/her study or approach.

e.g. Financial Inclusion : a comparative study of PSBS & DCC Bank in Ahmednagar District.

- **Statement of Problem :-**

A problem statement is a clear concise description of the issue(s) that need(s) to be addressed by a researcher. It is used to focus on the problem area at the beginning, keeps the researcher on track during the study period & is used to validate that the effort delivered an outcome that solves the problem statement. An appropriate problem statement solves the 5W's – Who, What, Where, When & Why

\* **Who** - Who does the problem affect? Specific group, organizations, customers, etc.

\* **What** - (1) What are the boundaries of the problem,

(2) What is the issue?

(3) What is the impact of the issue?

(4) What will happen when issue is fixed?

\* **When** -When does the issue occur? When does it need to be fixed?

\* **Where** – Where is the issue occurring?

\* **Why** – Why is it important that we fix the problem? What impact does it have on all stakeholders.

Each of the answers will help to frame the issue Statement. The problem statement should be solvable

- **Relevance of the study :-**

This section includes the information about how the study is relevant in the current scenario. It also highlights how this study is going to be beneficial to the concerned stakeholders in particular and society at large.

- **Objectives :-**

This is the hardest step. In order to create a successful research work, clear goals & objectives must be established. Research work is based on the objectives.

Objectives should be reasonable, that is, they should reflect the goals that the researcher can accomplish in the research work. Objectives will answer :

What should the researcher do?

Under what conditions?

How well?

- **Justification & Benefits of the Research :-**

It is important to provide justification & benefits of proposed research, in the light of previous work done. It should be possible in most cases to anticipate the specific & general benefits likely to be achieved as a result of completion of the proposed research.

- **Statement of Hypothesis :-**

The hypothesis is a clear statement of what is intended to be investigated. It should be specified before research is conducted & openly stated in reporting the results.

A problem cannot be scientifically solved unless it is reduced to hypothesis form  
Nature of hypothesis:

- (1) It can be tested – verifiable or falsifiable
- (2) Hypothesis are not moral or ethical questions
- (3) It is neither too specific nor too general
- (4) It is a prediction of consequences
- (5) It is considered valuable even if proven false

- **Hypothesis are of two types -**

- **Null hypothesis & alternative hypothesis**

The null hypothesis represents a theory that has been put forward, either because it is believed to be true or because it is to be used as a basis for argument, but has not been proved.

The alternative hypothesis is a statement of what a hypothesis test is set up to establish

- **Working Definitions of Terms used :**

A definition that is chosen for an occasion & may not fully conform with established or authoritative definition is called working definition. It is a tentative definition that can be tailored to create an authoritative definition.

- **Sampling methods :-**

- **Probability and Nonprobability Sampling:**

Probability sampling (a term due to Deming, [Deming]) is a sampling process that utilizes some form of random selection. In probability sampling, each unit is drawn with known probability, or has a non-zero chance of being selected in the sample. Such samples are usually selected with the help of random numbers. With probability sampling, a measure of sampling variation can be obtained objectively from the sample itself.

Nonprobability sampling or judgment sampling depends on subjective judgment. The nonprobability method of sampling is a process where probabilities cannot be assigned to the units objectively, and hence it becomes difficult to determine the reliability of the sample results in terms of probability. Examples of nonprobability sampling used extensively in 1920's and 1930's are the judgment sample, quota sample, and the mail questionnaire. In nonprobability sampling, often, the surveyor selects a sample according to his convenience, or generality in nature. Nonprobability sampling is well suited for exploratory research intended to generate new ideas that will be systematically tested later. However, if the goal is to learn about a large population, it is imperative to avoid judgment of non-probabilistic samples in survey research. In contrast to probability sampling techniques, there is no way of knowing the accuracy of a non-probabilistic sample estimate.

- **Sources of data Collection:-**

There are two sources of collecting the data they are primary data and secondary data.

**Primary data:** Primary data is the data where the researcher collects the data for the first time through various sources of collecting the primary data is called as primary data.

**Secondary data:** Secondary data is that data which is also called to as second hand data. When the researcher collects the data from various journals, magazines, newspaper and various other published and unpublished sources like company's reports, government reports etc. is called as secondary data.

-- **Techniques of analysis of data:-**

Data analysis is an approach to de-synthesizing data, informational, and/or factual elements to answer research questions. It is method of putting together facts and figures to solve research problem. The following categories of data analysis may be used:

- Narrative (e.g. laws, arts)
- Descriptive (e.g. social sciences)
- Statistical/mathematical (pure/applied sciences)
- Audio-Optical (e.g. telecommunication)
- Others

Most research analyses, arguably, adopt the first three.

• **Review of literature :-**

The 'literature review' is a major part of a proposal. In order to demonstrate that your project makes a significant contribution to the field, you need to show that field. A review of the relevant & upto-date 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 references.

Its purpose is to set-up your particular research project & it should therefore be focused & evaluative, rather than general. Use the literature review to define the parameters of your field. Do not, however, willfully ignore work that relates to your own. In course of your Ph.D work you will need to familiarize yourself with any significant work that intersects with your project.

- **Scheme of the report:-**

**Chapter 1**

**Introduction:** This chapter includes the research problem, need for study / significance of the research, objectives, hypotheses, methodology – scope, sample design, sources of information, tools and techniques of analysis, structure of the study with sound justifications/explanations.

**Chapter 2**

**Literature Review :** This chapter should reflect the student's understanding of the relevant theoretical and empirical background of the problem. Focus should be more on the logical presentation of the empirical evolution of conceptual and methodological issues pertaining to research problem. Also highlight the methodological clues drawn through this review for your research.

**Chapter 3**

**The company/Organisation/System:** This chapter should contain a brief historical retrospect about the entity of your study.

**Chapter 4 & 5:**

Present your data analysis and inferences

**Chapter 6**

**Summary and Conclusions :** Gives an overview of the research , conclusions, implications and recommendations. Also specify the limitations of your study. You may indicate the scope for further research.

- **Bibliography :**

List the books, articles, websites that are referred and useful for research on the topic of your specific research. Follow APA style of referencing or as per your university requirements.

- **References and Bibliography:-**

Synopsis should contain at the end a list of references, and a bibliography if required. These should be written on a standard pattern.

References should be listed alphabetically author wise.

In the text, the reference should be quoted as Sen-Sarma (1980) or Sen-Sarma and Thakur, (1981) or Sen-Sarma et al. (1982) for single, two and more than two authors, respectively. Papers by the same author in the same year should be distinguished by letters, a, b, c, etc.

For references, following pattern should be followed.

-- **FOR RESEARCH PAPERS**

Mohan, V. and Singh, Y.P. 1996. Studies on Vesicular-Arbuscular Mycorrhizal (VAM) associations in Prosopis spp. in arid zone of Rajasthan. Ann. For. 4: 55-64.

-- **COMPLETE BOOKS**

Beeson, C.F.C. 1941. The Ecology and Control of the Forest Insects of India and the Neighbouring Countries. Vasant Press, Dehra Dun, ii + 1007 pp.

-- **FOR A CHAPTER IN EDITED BOOK**

Mohan, V. 2002. Distribution of Ectomycorrhizal Fungi in Association with Economically Important Tree Species in Southern India. In: Frontiers of Fungal Diversity in India. (Eds. G.P. Rao, C. Manoharachari, D.J. Bhat, R.C. Rajak and T.N. Lakhanpal). International Book Distributing Co., Lucknow, U.P., India. pp. 863-872.

-- **CITATION FROM NEWSPAPERS**

Hanumantha Rao, C.H. and Singh Padam, 1986. Fertilizers strategy of diffusion. The Economics Times (Bombay), Jan. 29, 25(327): I-II (Suppl.).

-- **THESES AND DISSERTATIONS**

Mohan, V. 1991. Studies on ectomycorrhizal association in Pinus patula plantations in the Nilgiri Hills, Tamil Nadu, Ph.D. thesis, University of Madras, Madras, India, 260 pp.

-- **FOR ANNUAL REPORT**

Annual report, 1989-90. Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi 67-70.

-- **IN CASE OF PROCEEDING/CONFERENCE**

Khan. M. 1987. NGOs and Agroforestry. In Professional Education I Agroforestry, 209-215: Easter Zulbert, E. (ed.) Proceedings of an International Workshop, 5-10 December, 1982, ICIPE Training Centre, Dudville, Nairobi, Kenya.

-- **IN CASE OF BULLETINS/RECORDS**

Byant, M.S. 1951. bibliographic style, USDA. Bib. Bull. 6:30 pp. Or Author, year. Title Indian For. Rec. (N.S.), (Ent.) 33(5): 1-71

• **Conclusion:**

The present paper will help the proposed research scholars to prepare an excellent and appropriate Ph. D. / M.Phil synopsis and will set a ground for their further research.