

Research Proposal Guiding Tool for M & D Studies

Mphahlele Ramashego Shila

Emphahrs@unisa.ac.za

University of South Africa

ORCID: 0000-0002-9917-7089

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1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This section should have at least two paragraphs. The opening sentence should catch the readers' eye with general and move to specific. Explain why you have chosen this research. The first paragraph of the introduction should make a clear and logical argument for the importance or relevance of the study. Your argument should be supported by evidence from the literature that is not older than four years.

The second paragraph of the introduction should make a clear and logical argument for the study's originality. This should include a summary of what is already known about your topic and clarify the knowledge gap this study will address. Your argument should be supported by evidence from the literature that is not older than four years.

1.2 RATIONALE FOR THE STUDY

Explain why your research is important and what contributions it will make. Highlight the value and relevance of your study to academic, societal, and practical contexts. Explain (with evidence in the form of citations) how your study addresses gaps in current research, which are often uncovered during your literature review. Indicate how this gap justifies a need for your research.

1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Formulate a problem statement and link it with the introduction and background. Outline the specific issue or challenge your study will address. The problem should be narrowed down enough to be researchable but broad enough to be significant. Explain the nature and scope of the problem, including who or what it affects and how it manifests.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS/HYPOTHESIS

1.4.1 Formulate the main research question that is aligned with your research title.

1.4.2 Formulate a minimum of three sub-research questions that complement your main research question and help to address different aspects of the problem in a focused and systematic way.

1.5 Aim and objectives of the study

1.5.1 Formulate your study aim which is aligned to the main research question.

1.5.2 Formulate your study's objectives that are aligned to the sub-research questions.

1.6. LITERATURE/SCHOLARSHIP REVIEW

Define the literature review with two or three sources. Identify various types of literature reviews, select one that you will use for your study, and give reasons for using it. Use all the research questions as sub-headings for the literature review discussion. Follow the framework of your selected literature review type to review recent literature.

1.7 RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

Define the research framework using two or three recent sources. Identify various types of research frameworks, e.g. theoretical or conceptual frameworks. Specify your study's theoretical or conceptual framework and explain your choice. Review the literature related to your chosen research framework to summarise and synthesise the arguments and ideas of the framework's current existing knowledge. From the literature you reviewed about this theory, highlight the key points that link this theory with your study.

1.8. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

Define research methodology using three recent sources and develop a definition that suits your study. Conclude the section with a sentence linking the research methodology and paradigm.

8.1 Research paradigm

Define the research paradigm (3 sources) and develop a definition that best suits your study. Indicate various paradigms, select the one suitable for your study, and give reasons for your choice. Conclude the section with a linking sentence that links the research paradigm and the research type.

1.8.2 Research type

Indicate the type of research your study will undertake and give reasons.

1.8.3 Research approach

Define the research approach (3 sources) and develop a definition that best suits your study. Indicate various research approaches, select the one suitable for your study, and give reasons for your choice. Link the selected approach with the research type you selected in 6.2 above. Conclude the section with a sentence linking the research approach and design.

5.7.4 Research design

Define research design (3 sources) and develop a definition that best suits your study. Indicate various research designs for the research approach you selected in 6.3, select the one suitable for your study, and give reasons. Conclude the section with a linking sentence linking the research design, population, and sampling.

5.7.5 Population

Define population (3 sources) and develop a definition that best suits your study. Indicate the population for the study and estimate the quantity. Conclude the section with a linking sentence that links the population and the next section.

5.7.6 Sampling

Define sampling (3 sources) and develop a definition that best suits your study. Indicate the various sampling strategies suitable for your research design and select one that best suits your study. Explain in detail how you will use the sampling strategy to sample each set of participants, outlining inclusion and exclusion criteria. Conclude the section with a linking sentence that links the sampling and the data collection methods.

7.7 Data collection methods

Define data collection methods (3 sources) and develop a definition that best suits your study. Indicate various data collection instruments suitable for your research design, select those suitable for your study, and give reasons for your choice. Describe each data collection instrument and explain how you will use each in your study. Include how you will uphold confidentiality and anonymity. Conclude the section with a linking sentence that links the data collection methods and the data analysis.

5.7.8 Data analysis and interpretation

Define data analysis (3 sources) and develop a definition that best suits your study. Indicate various data analysis strategies suitable for the research design you selected, select one suitable for your study, and give reasons for your choice. Indicate how you will prepare the data for analysis (for example, if you have audio data, mention how you will transcribe and indicate if there will be any translations done if the data was collected in a language that is not English). Conclude the section with a linking sentence linking the data analysis and interpretation to the next section.

5.8. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY/CREDIBILITY AND TRUSTWORTHINESS

Check which concepts suit your research approach, define each with three or more sources, and describe how you will apply each in your study.

5.9. RESEARCH ETHICS

Indicate steps that you will take to obtain permission from various gatekeepers to conduct this study and how you will uphold ethics during data collection.

5.10. CONCLUSION

Give an overview of the whole proposal to give the reader a clear understanding of what you have addressed, and link this chapter to the next

5.11 LIST OF REFERENCES

Include all the sources you cited in the document in alphabetical order.