



GUIDELINES FOR THE Ph.D. SYNOPSIS

Choosing your research topic

Topic of research or the research problem should be chosen with care because it will play a vital role in the Ph. D. program as well as shaping your career. Your heart, mind and of course your supervisor must be involved in the process of identifying the right research problem. The first step in this direction should be to identify the broad area which usually is the area of specialization in post-graduation. You should choose an area where you feel the urge to explore deeper, which excites you because research is a long and arduous journey and there may be moments when only your love for the subject will sustain you. At the same time it is important to see the practicality of the topic. Scholars in the applied subjects must gauge the practical utility of the proposed topic while scholars in humanities must be aware of the recent trends. Flipping through standard journals of respective subjects will certainly help in knowing the recent trends in research as well as confirming the uniqueness of the problem that you have in mind. In this regard, Shodhganga portal of UGC is very useful to know the recently submitted Ph.D.s in various universities across India as well as formulation of the research topics. Supervisor with his experience and knowledge will help you in knowing about the practicality, facilities available and other practical aspects. Summing up, selection of topic will depend upon specialization, interest, contemporarity, uniqueness, and availability of facilities and manageability.

Writing your synopsis

Significance of synopsis or the research proposal cannot be overrated. Synopsis is virtually a blueprint of research which will guide you throughout your Ph.D. program. It will also act as reference point for the examiner in evaluating your final thesis. Hence preparation of the synopsis needs serious efforts from you and your supervisor and this vital task should not be hurried into but must be done calmly and patiently even if it takes more time than you planned for.

It is recommended that the synopsis must follow the following format:

1. Introduction

Introduction may include a brief background of the problem followed by necessity, utility and importance/ significance of the proposed research work for the Ph.D. Thesis. Introduction should be as brief as possible.

2. Literature Survey

Literature review surveys scholarly articles, books and other sources (e.g. dissertations, conference proceedings) providing a description, summary, and critical evaluation of each work relevant to your research problem. It can be arranged thematically or chronologically. Works cited in the literature survey must have proper

referencing. The review of literature should lead to synthesis and identification of research gap.

3. Objectives

In this section the scholar is supposed to give clear cut objectives of the research work related to his/her proposed Ph.D. thesis. Objectives ought to be precisely stated, in numbered form.

4. Scope, Limitations and Delimitations

Scholar is supposed to state the scope, limitations and delimitations of the investigations/study.

Scope means what does your proposed research cover and what are its boundaries.

Limitations are the shortcomings, conditions or influences that cannot be controlled by the researcher that place restrictions on your methodology and conclusions. Any limitations that might influence the results should be mentioned.

Delimitations are choices made by the researcher which should be mentioned. They describe the boundaries that you have set for the study, for example, the things that you are not doing (and why you have chosen not to do them); the population you are not studying (and why not); and the methodological procedures you will not use (and why you will not use them).

5. Research Methodology/ Requirements of the Research Work

This section should be precise, focused and must include the following:

- Statement of Research problem
- Research design: The design of a study defines the study type (e.g. descriptive, correlational, semi-experimental, experimental, review, meta-analytic) and sub-type (e.g., descriptive-longitudinal case study), independent and dependent variables, research questions, hypotheses, experimental design, and if applicable, data collection methods and a statistical analysis plan.
- Sampling design
- Planning of analysis of data
- Plan about time scheduling of research

5. References

Text of the manuscript should have proper citations wherever necessary. Synopsis must contain latest references. References must follow APA style for Humanities/ Management, MLA style for Literature, and IEEE style for Sciences/Engineering.