

COURSE : DISASTER MANAGEMENT (MA/ MSc PART I)

Paper : VI

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Topic : Research Proposal

SCOPE OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Scope of research proposal sets the boundary of a research. It gives an overview of the limit and extent of a research. The scope takes into cognizance the direction to follow and the areas that need to be covered. It is arranged in such a way that every singular action and areas to be covered are well outlined for easy follow up. The scope of a research proposal covers the following areas :

- Immediate purposes of the research. This should be a statement of the research question or hypotheses to be tested and should be quite clear and precise
- Theoretical foundations and conceptual framework should be an indication of the theoretical model upon which the study will be based.
- Relation to other research: This is a statement of the study and how it would relate to other published or ongoing theoretical or empirical work in the same field. Would it replicate, disconfirm, confirm or add to existing studies?
- Research design: This should describe the entities or phenomena/variables to be studied, the logic underlying the investigative procedures; data collection procedures; measurement techniques and statistical tools and techniques to be used
- Implementation of the design; How does the researcher hope to gain access to the research situation or gain the co-operation of entities to be studied.

- Overall schedule or logical flow chart for the study: There should be specific dates and deadlines for each stage of the research work from conception to submission which the researcher must attempt to stick to religiously. It disciplines the researcher in terms of time keeping.
- Resources for the study: How much money and time would be required to complete the study. What plans are there to obtain these resources without any hitch that might jeopardize the research?
- Contingency plans: Every research is bound to experience problems at some stage. What are the probable problems that may arise? What are the plans that the researcher has developed for the project to be viable if initial plans fail at a critical stage?
- Possible application of the results of the research: Who are likely to be the end users of the results of the research? Indicate, Government, Educational Institute, other researchers.
- Directions for further research: What are the other areas not covered in the original scope of the study but uncovered during the research that require further investigation in subsequent research? Summarily, the scope of a research proposal in scientific investigation covers areas such as Statement of the research problem, Aims and objective of the research, Review of related literatures, Conceptual framework for the study, and the methodology of data collection, presentation, and analysis. It also entails hypotheses formulations, testing, verification and confirmation or rejection.

ROLE OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL IN SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS

A good research proposal serves the following roles in scientific investigations

1. It gives the research a graphic and mental image of how the study will be done, mode of gathering the pertinent data and the analysis of data
2. The research design, no doubt, provides guides to the research in his efforts to generate required data for the study
3. It facilitates the proper delineations of the scope of the study
4. It is the research design that allows the researcher to be acquainted with the likely problems in the execution of his study
5. It enhances development in fields of science, technology, education, politics, medicine, management, social sciences and the likes.
6. It exposes learners or trainers to various skills in the acquisition of critical thinking, rational reasoning, logical analysis as well as deductive and inductive inferences
7. It is aimed at generating hypotheses, principles, laws and theories
8. It stands on empirical evidence
9. It gives room to accurate observation of information collected through the usage of standardized, reliable and valid measuring tool or instrument.
10. It aimed at offering solutions to scientific enquiries
11. It helps in validating and updating some form of knowledge for the purpose of innovations
12. Research proposal provides trainees and practitioners with special skills in problem solving

