

FORMAT OF SYNOPSIS (MS/MPHIL & PHD)

Given below is an outline for synopsis writing. It provides guidelines for organization and presentation of research in form of synopsis as well as organization of material within each section. Contents in each section tell what needs to be included in each section and how sequence of this content can be consistent across different Departments as well as within a Department.

For overall format guidelines please follow APA, Chicago or any other format prescribed by your discipline but stay consistent.

Overall synopsis organization

Title Page: Title of the study, Participant (Student)'s name, Supervisor's name, Name of the Department, Institute

List of Contents

Summary / Abstract (150-200 words)

1. Introduction (2-4 pages)

- Give Background information e.g. prevalence, statistics etc
- List down conceptual Definitions of the Constructs Under study
- Provide brief overview of theories / Models linking the topic to the available body of knowledge
- List down the theoretical frame work you will base your research work on.

2. Literature Review (2-4 pages)

- It mainly consists of review of existing relevant and related research
- Subsections can be included based on the nature of your work.
- Presents relationships between different specific constructs the researcher wants to study i.e. specify the relationships between and among variables
- Correlates and predictors of outcome variable identified in research
- May consist of a combination of mathematical, graphical, and/or diagrammatical presentations
- Provide an overview of Indigenous Researches i.e. overview of relevant research done in Pakistan

Statement of the Problem

- Identify the research gaps and justify the conduct of the study
- It serves as a guide in formulating the specific objectives of the study

Significance / Rational of the Study

- It refers to justification, importance, and vital contribution of the findings of the study / research and its likely benefits.
- Why is it worth doing?
- While the particular topic and its context will determine a study's significance and contribution of a study in terms of: adding to the existing knowledge in the area; policy considerations; implications for practitioners etc.

Objectives of the Study

List down main objectives of the Study

Hypotheses / Research questions

- States the researcher's expectations concerning the relationships between the variables or differences in groups or treatment conditions in research

3. Methodology (2-3 pages)

Research Design

- Specify whether descriptive, causal/explanatory, correlational, comparative, exploratory, evaluative or combination of two or more designs
- Design: Strategy & Frame work
- What strategy is proposed, quantitative or qualitative?
- If both quantitative/qualitative (mixed method) approaches are targeted then what would be the mixture of the proposed strategies.

Sample/ Participants

- The sampling strategy, especially whether it is probability (its type), non probability (its type), or both and what claims will be made for the generalizability of findings.
- Inclusion / exclusion criteria of the sample
- How Sample will be recruited and approached
- What would be the Sample size and how the size will be determined

Operational Definitions of the Variables (optional)

- Define constructs of the study as they will be measured / assessed

Data Collection Techniques / Assessment Measures

- Whether you will use already developed Instruments Used (provide detail).
- Whether Instruments will be development, (give detail)
- Other ways of eliciting Data (qualitative e.g. focus group discussion, interviews, texts etc)
- Material and method for observations

Procedure

- How the data will be collected i.e. taking necessary approvals /permissions, logistic arrangements and assessment etc

Ethical Considerations: consent/access/and participants' protection

- List down issues like informed consent, anonymity, confidentiality of data, data storage, and the use of the results etc.
- Other can be study specific like intervention and advocacy etc. etc.

4. Proposed Analyses

- Indicates the most appropriate analysis used for both quantitative (descriptive, inferential statistics) and qualitative data.
- Mathematical expressions must be italicized and numbered accordingly
- All models/equations must be properly numbered
- All major/key variables must be properly measured/categorized, indicating their specific units of measure.
- The sources of formulas must be indicated in the text.

5. Limitations & Delimitations (if Applicable)

- Limitations refer to limiting conditions or restrictive weaknesses
- Delimitations refer to defining the limits or drawing the boundaries around the study, and showing clearly what is and what is not included.

6. Time Frame of Dissertation

Must be provided for planning.

7. List of References

- Follow APA, Chicago or any other format prescribed for your discipline for writing references
- Ensure to match list of references with those given in citations.

8. Appendices

- Participant Information Sheet, Letter for permission, Participant Consent form, Measuring instruments
- Interview guides, observational schedule, Assessment tools
- Example of pilot study or any other data/work already completed.

Prepared by the Committee constituted in the 100th Dean Committee meeting