

Format for Preparing of Proposal for a Research Project

1. **Title:** The Title of the project should be concise (with sub-title, if any) reflecting the scope of the investigation.
2. **Statement of the Problem:** The problem to be investigated should be clearly contextualised in the theoretical framework of the discipline. Justification/need for the study and implication of the issue (being studied) for India require to be presented.
3. **Aim of the Project:** The broad Aim of the project emphasizing the overall thrust of the proposed investigation should be clearly mentioned.
4. **Review of Literature:** The problem identified should be logically linked to other studies on the theme in the available literature delineating the need for the present investigation. How this research addresses knowledge gap in the proposed area of research?
5. **Conceptual Framework** (if applicable): The concepts to be used, their relevance and applicability to the study and their operationalisation should be indicated.
6. **Research Questions OR Hypotheses:** The research questions to be answered/ addressed need to be unequivocally stated.
7. **Research Methodology.**
 - (a) **Coverage:** The proposal should clearly indicate the universe of the study, (sampling methods, sampling size, units of observation etc in case, it is an empirical study).
 - (b) **Data Collection:** The proposal should indicate sources of data types of data, tools and techniques for collection of various categories of proposed data.
 - (c) **Data Analysis:** It should indicate the statistical techniques, if any, proposed to be used in data processing, specific packages for data analysis, content analysis, and techniques proposed to be used etc.
8. **References:** The proposal should include a 'List of References' mentioned in the text along with other important recent additions to the literature on the theme. The references should indicate the author, title, publisher and year of publication.
9. **Duration of the Project and Tentative Chapterization:** The duration of the project, can be estimated depending upon the scope and size of the project but should not exceed three years. It should indicate the timeline for the study as also different phases of research, presentation of fellow papers and final research output. Tentative Chapterization should be mentioned.
10. Implications of the issue from the standpoint of policy inputs or methodological and theoretical projects, should form part of the publication in the concluding section.