

## **\*RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORMAT**

- A. A concise abstract of the research proposal (about 500 words).
- B. A detailed research proposal (3000 words).

An indicative outline for the detailed research proposal is given below:

### **1. Title:**

The research proposal should have a clear, meaningful and concise title reflecting the scope of the investigation.

### **2. Introduction and / or Statement of the Problem**

The research proposal should begin by clearly stating the research problem to be investigated in the light of its theoretical and/or empirical context in the relevant area.

### **3. Aims and/or Objectives of the Study**

The general aim of the study as well as its specific objectives should be clearly stated in the proposal.

### **4. Conceptual Framework**

Given the problem and the theoretical perspective for investigation of the problem, the proposal should clearly bring out the concepts to be used and demonstrate their relevance for the study. Besides, the dimension of empirical reality that needs to be explored for investigating the problem should also be specified.

### **5. Research Question or Hypotheses**

Given the conceptual framework and the specification of dimension, the specific questions to be answered through the proposed research should be sharply formulated. In the case of an explanatory research design, specification of variables and positing of relationship among them through specific hypotheses must form a part of the research proposal.

### **6. Review of Literature**

The proposal should summarize the current status of research in the area and major findings, including the researcher's own work in the area. Existing empirical findings may also be discussed. The overview should clearly demonstrate the relevance as well as inadequacy of existing findings or approaches and provide a rationale for the proposed study.

### **7. Scope and Methodology**

The researcher must describe in detail (a) the scope and coverage of her/his study; and (b) approach and methodology with adequate justification. Emphasis should be given to bringing out innovativeness in approaches proposed to be followed. The detailing of the methodology may include research design, data to be collected and empirical and analytical methods to be used. The description of the methodology must be clearly linked to the aims of the research and the research questions/hypotheses of the study.

### **8. Relevance, Anticipated Outcomes and Proposed Outputs from the Research**

The proposal should include a statement on the relevance of the study and the anticipated outcomes. It should bring out the significance of the research problem, the contribution which the proposed study is expected to make to theory and to methodology as well as its practical importance to society and policy making. It should also describe the proposed outputs from the study (Books, research papers, occasional papers with themes etc.)

### **9. Tentative Chapterisation**

Details chapterisation should be clearly spelt out in the research proposal

**10. Time Frame**

The research proposal should include a phased time frame for different components of the study.

**11. Estimated Budget**

The budget for the study should be formulated for the grant sought. It should be clearly linked to other elements of the proposal and must include a detailed justification of each item that is proposed.

**12. Bibliography:**

Bibliography should be prepared in Chicago Manual Style.