

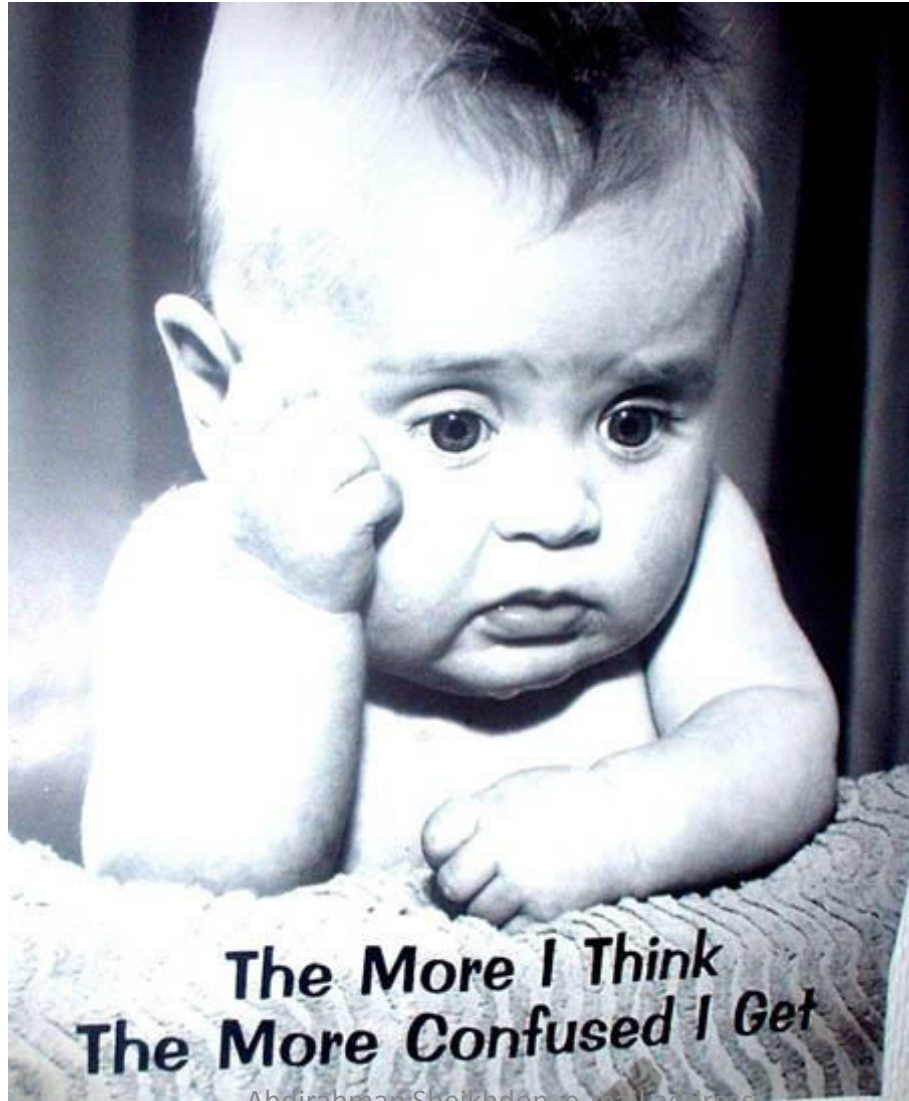
**HOW TO WRITE AN
ACADEMIC RESEARCH
PROJECT?**

Jan. 2017



Abdirahman Sh. Ali

Where do I Begin?



**The More I Think
The More Confused I Get**

Abdirahman Sheikhdon, e-mail address.
sheikhdon4@yahoo.com

Introduction

The research is a vital tool that leads human being towards progress.

Research leads to an expansion of knowledge such as new products, new facts, new concepts and new ways of doing things.

Therefore, it is necessary to understand basics about research methods that enable us to conduct a systematic research.

Research Concepts

- Meaning of Research
- Definition of Research

The word research is composed of two syllables, a prefix *re* and a verb *search*. *Re* means again, over again and *Search* means to examine closely and carefully, to test and try, to explore

Research is the systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data to answer a certain question or solve a problem.

Research Concepts

- Purpose of Research
- Types of Research

- To discover new facts
- To expand the existing knowledge.
- To verify and test important facts.
- To find solution to scientific or social problems.

By Application:

Basic research
Applied research

By Objectives:

Descriptive
Correlation
Explanatory
Exploratory

By Method

Quantitative
Qualitative

Research Concepts

Systematic
Empirical
Valid:
Controlled
Critical
Analytical
Courage

- Characteristics of Research
- Why to study research Methodology?

To write academic Project

To improve our critical thinking skills.

To learn how to read and critically evaluate published research.

To learn how to design and conduct research in case the need arises one day.

Research Process

Means defining problem in systematic way that describes context of the problem and it leads to be carried out a research.

1. Formulating the Research Problem
2. Extensive Literature Review
3. Developing the objectives:

This is to make literature survey on the available body of knowledge in your area of interest. It enables researchers to familiarize insight about the problem being studied and contributions of other writers who conducted researches in similar problem as well as the methodology that employed by the writers. Moreover, knowledge gaps will be identified.

Objectives are what the researcher intended to obtain after carrying out a research. The study will be guided by the objectives. They inform a reader what you want to attain through the study.

Research Process

1. Research Design:
2. Collecting the Data

A research design is a overall plan specifying the methods and procedures for collecting and analyzing the required information.

It starts construction of a research instrument and selected a sample, followed by collecting of the data from sample to draw inferences and conclusions for your study. The researchers might use interviews, questionnaire or make observations depends their plan.

Research Process

1. Analysis of Data

This to summarize the collected data through various techniques to answer the research questions or to test research hypotheses

2. Interpretation

Means to generalize what the researcher found from the sample to entire target population.

1. Preparation of the Report

The report should be written in academic styles.

Research Project Outline

PRELIMINARIES:

- Title, Table of Content, List of figures, Dedication, Acknowledgement, declaration, Approval, Abstract.

CHAPTER ONE: Introduction

- Background of the Study, Problem Statement, Purpose, Research Objectives, Research, Questions, Scope of the Study, Significance of the Study, Definition of Terms(Operational Terms)

CHAPTER TWO: Literature Review

- Can have sections considered necessary

CHAPTER THREE: Research Methodology:

- Research Design, Population, Sample Size and Sample techniques, Data Collection, Data Analysis, Validity and Reliability, Ethical Consideration, Limitation.

CHAPTER FOUR:

- Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation of Data

CHAPTER FIVE:

- Finding, Conclusion and Recommendations

Variable and Title

Variable is central idea in research. A variable is defined as anything that varies or changes in value. According to role of variables, there are various types including: Independent Variable(subject) and Dependent Variable(Object)

- Variable
- Title

In order to develop your research title, answer the following questions:

What will to be studied? **VARIABLES**

With whom will be studied? **POPULATION**

Where will the study be conducted? **LOCATION.**

THE TITLE SHOULD ::

- Attract the reader's attention
- Be clear, concise, simple and familiar
- Reflect the main theme of the article
- Specific
- Consists of 8-15 words
- **Contain key words or phrases to give a clear and concise description of the scope and nature of the report.**

Title

- Variable
- Title
- Table of Content
- List of Tables
- List of Figures

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Experiment	2
3. Discussion	3
4. Conclusion	11
5. Acknowledgments.....	12
6. References	13

List of Tables

1.1 Short name for my table	2
A.2 Table showing not very much	4

List of Figures

1.1 Short name for a figure	1
A.2 Code for functions that do this and that	3

Sample Research Title

- The role of mass media in the electoral process of Puntland state in Garowe

Garowe Community
(population)

Garowe (Location)

Mass media and
electoral process what
will be
researched(variables)

Chapter One: Introduction

Provide reader with necessary background and setting to put the problem in proper context.

Lets the reader see the basis for the study. Justifies and convinces the reader that the study is needed.

- Background of the Study
- Problem Statement
- Purpose

A problem statement is a brief piece of writing that usually comes at the beginning of a report or proposal to explain the problem or issue the document is addressing to the reader.

The purpose refers as the research aim or general objectives.

It describes the general intention and indentifies the goal of the study.

Chapter One: Introduction

- Research Objectives and Questions
- Scope of the Study
-

The scope specifies the boundaries of the research in terms of content, geographical.

The specific research objectives identify in greater detail the specific aims of the research project, often breaking down what is to be accomplished into smaller logical components.

USE ACTION VERBS:

Assess, measure, establish, determine, evaluate, develop, explore, find out etc.

Research questions are similar to research objectives, but it is written in the question form.

Chapter One: Introduction

It answers the following questions:
-Why the study is important?
-How the study is important?
-For whom the study is important?

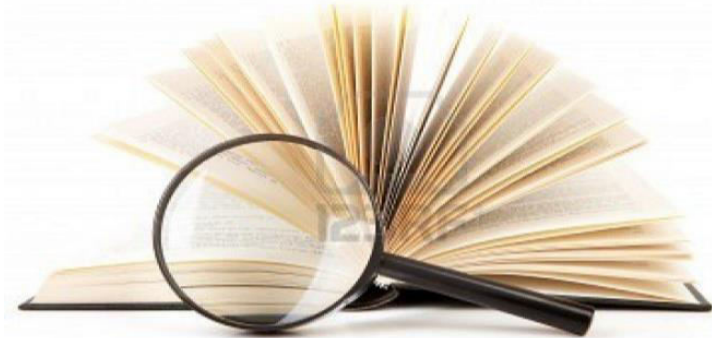
- Significance of the Study
- Definition of Terms

The delimitation of terms must be arranged in alphabetical order. It must be also stated if you used your definition of terms in technically or operationally. For instance, some researchers, hunger is defined in an animal experiment as "amount of time since last feeding" and another researcher as "amount of energy an animal would expend to seek food"

Literature Review

A literature review is a survey of everything that has been written about a particular topic

- Meaning of Literature Review
- Steps of Literature Review



Literature Review

- INFORMATION SEEKING**: the ability to identify a set of useful literature.
- CRITICAL APPRAISAL**: the ability to identify unbiased and valid studies.
- SYNTHESIS**: the ability to integrate various ideas to produce a new ideas

Literature Review

- Parts of Literature Review
- Source of Literature Review

Books
Journals
Magazines
Newspapers
Reports
Conference proceeding
Internet
Others

The introduction: Tell the readers what your literature review will introduce.

Body: In the body, discuss and assess the research according to specific organizational principles e.g Theme: Explain key themes or issues relevant to the topic.

Conclusion: provide a summary of YOUR findings from the literature review.

Literature Review

- Citation

Quotation is an exact reproduction of spoken or written words.

Paraphrasing is a way of presenting a text, keeping the same meaning, but using different words and phrasing.

Summarizing is an overview of a text, including only the main point(s).

Research Methodology

Is a set of procedure to be followed to realize the research objectives.

- Methodology
- Research Design

Design is overall plan.
There are two main research strategies: qualitative and quantitative.

-When you selecting a design, consider the objectives.
Keep in mind that each research design is intended to achieve a particular purpose .

WHEN YOU WRITING:

- Name the research design
- Describe the design in very brief and concise terms to show an understanding of the method being used.
- Provide a justification for the choice of the design.

Research Methodology

Population



- Population
- Sample

Population is the population from which the sample will be drawn.

- Data Collection and Procedure

Types of Sample:

RANDOM SAMPLING:

- Simple Random Sampling
- Systematic Sampling
- Stratified Sampling
- Cluster Sampling

RANDOM SAMPLING:

- Convenience Sampling
- Purposive Sampling
- Quota Sampling
- Snowball Sampling

Data Collection
Instrument:
Questionnaire
Interview
Observation

Research Methodology

- Data Analysis
- Validity and Reliability

Techniques of data analysis by hand or computer as well statistics methods if the research is quantitative such mean, standard deviation, correlation.

Validity - Does the instrument or technique measure what it purports to measure with this group?

Reliability - Whatever the instrument or technique measures does it do so consistently with this group?

Research Methodology

- Ethical Consideration
- Limitation

How do you ensure the safety, social and psychological well being of the person and/or community involved in your study?

Whatever may limit the validity of the findings constitute limitations.



Comments and Questions