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(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
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A CMI INSTITUTION | BENGALURU | INDIA

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF DOCTORAL RESEARCH

Generic Research Proposal Template & Guidelines

(To be Submitted along with PhD Application)

Note: This template provides general direction and structure for academic research proposals across disciplines. Feel free to modify the organization, sections, and approach according to your field's conventions, and research methodology. Use this as a starting framework, not a rigid formula.

Template Structure

Title (5-15 words)

Create a clear, descriptive title that captures your research focus and key variables or concepts. Avoid jargon and ensure it's understandable to reviewers outside your immediate specialty.

Abstract (150-300 words)

Summarize your research question, methodology, expected outcomes, and significance. Include the problem statement, your approach to investigating it, and the potential impact of your findings.

Introduction & Background (300-500 words)

Establish the context and importance of your research problem. Present the current state of knowledge in your field, identify gaps or controversies, and explain why your research is needed now.

Literature Review (400-800 words)

Review relevant existing research, identify key theories and findings, highlight gaps or limitations in current knowledge, and position your study within the broader scholarly conversation.

Research Questions & Objectives (100-200 words)

Research Questions (1-3 main questions with sub-questions):

1. *[Primary research question]? a. [Sub-question 1]? b. [Sub-question 2]?*
2. *[Secondary research question]? a. [Sub-question 1]? b. [Sub-question 2]?*
3. *[Tertiary research question]? a. [Sub-question 1]?*

Research Objectives (3-5 objectives with sub-objectives):

1. *[Primary objective] a. [Sub-objective 1] b. [Sub-objective 2]*
2. *[Secondary objective] a. [Sub-objective 1] b. [Sub-objective 2]*
3. *[Third objective] a. [Sub-objective 1]*
4. *[Fourth objective] a. [Sub-objective 1]*
5. *[Fifth objective] a. [Sub-objective 1]*

Methodology (400-700 words)

Describe your research design, data collection methods, analysis techniques, sample size/selection criteria, and timeline. Justify why these approaches are appropriate for addressing your research questions.

Expected Outcomes & Significance (200-400 words)

Explain the anticipated results, their potential contribution to knowledge, practical applications, and broader implications for your field or society.

Budget & Resources (100-300 words)

Outline required funding, equipment, personnel, and institutional resources needed to complete the research successfully.

Timeline (100-200 words)

Provide a realistic schedule for completing different phases of your research, from data collection through analysis and writing.

References

Include all cited sources following APA format (7th edition). Ensure all in-text citations have corresponding reference entries and vice versa.