

DIRECTORATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES
EVENT CATALOGUE
2021

13TH SEMINAR OF DAS EVENTS CALENDAR – 2021

**TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE SYNOPSIS WRITING
(AGRICULTURE SOCIAL SCIENCES ONLY)**



13th Seminar (online through ZOOM) of DAS Events Calendar

**TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE SYNOPSIS WRITING
(AGRICULTURE & SOCIAL SCIENCES ONLY)**

Speaker: Dr. Muhammad Ali
Lecturer: Department of Agri-Extension

Dated: Thursday, June 17, 2021, Time: 02:00 p.m. - PKT GMT+5
ZOOM Meeting ID: 955 408 3170 - Passcode: 67890

Organized By ||| Directorate of Advanced Studies, PMAS-AAUR

ACTIVITIES

After Attending This Webinar?

- You would be able to understand and learn:
- What is a synopsis?
- How to write different sections?
- Dos and Don'ts

The screenshot displays the website for Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, specifically the page for Dissertation and Synopsis (DAS) guidelines. The page features a green header with the university's logo and name. A navigation menu includes links for Home, About AAUR, Administration, Directorates, Academics, Admissions, QEC, Research, DAS, Campus Life, News & Events, and Media Cell. The main content area is titled "Thesis & Synopsis Guidelines" and includes a sub-section "Thesis & Synopsis Guidelines" with a brief announcement about the 2018 manual and template approval. Below this, there are two columns: "For MS/MPhil/MSC(Hons)" and "For PhD". The MS/MPhil/MSC(Hons) section contains boxes for "Synopsis" and "Thesis", each listing documents like templates, manuals, and flow charts. The PhD section lists various rules and regulations. A sidebar on the right titled "Explore DAS" provides a list of links to various DAS-related pages. At the bottom right, there is a profile for Dr. Muhammad Azam Khan, Director, with contact information and a photo.

What is a Synopsis?

- Plan for your proposed research.
- It provides:
 - the rationale for the research,
 - the research objectives,
 - the proposed method (s) for data collection
 - and recording formats (qualitative) and/or questionnaires and interview guides (quantitative).
- Expected outcomes of the research

SAMPLE FOR ABSTRACT / SYNOPSIS INFORMATION

- 1** i Student's Name
 - ii Registration Number
 - iii Supervisory Committee along with Name & Department
 - iv Research Title
- 2** Background
- 3** Rationale of the Research Study
- 4** Objectives
- 5** Methodology
- 6** Outcome of the Research
- 7** Reference Papers
- 8** Missing gap / Need of Research
- 9** Supervisor's previous research about said topic

Thesis Topic

- Brief and self-explanatory.
- Directly relate to the main objective of the proposed research.
- Check if the keywords are found in the title.
- Whether title accurately reflects the actual research issues addressed in the study.
- Limit your title/topic (see DAS requirement).
- Be specific.

ABSTRACT

- Determine if the abstract contains a concise description of the study.
- This includes:
 - (i) problem statement and objective (s),
 - (ii) research method and design,
 - (iii) Model/theory
 - (iv) Statistical analysis technique (s)+ software to be used
 - (v) Expected outcomes

Don'ts

- Unimportant/irrelevant material
- Weak and unclear sentences (check English grammar, spellings, key words, sequence)

Introduction (why)

- Background of the study/Rationale
- Runway approach
- Reflect your topic, objectives, theory/model

Introduction-Issues

Many students do not know what to include in Introduction:

- Introduction about the main problem.
- The problem is for whom and why.
- Justification of the problem.
- Research problem (a gap of knowledge, methodology, unexplained phenomenon) based on literature not blogs, newspaper articles-due to quality control.
- Research, theoretical or/and empirical gap

RESEARCH PROBLEM AND OBJECTIVES (specific)

- Determine whether the background to the study is well discussed,
- The research problem is well defined,
- And the hypotheses would address the defined research problem.
- Check that the objectives are clearly stated and met by the research methodology/design to be used.

Objectives (general and specific)

- Objectives need to be identified on the basis of the literature review (problem analysis).
- Selection is justified and relevant.
- Specific objectives may be 2 to...

SMART Objectives

- S=Specific
- M=Measurable
- A=Achievable
- R=Realistic
- T=Time bound

Hypotheses

- Predictions of the outcomes.
- Assumed relations/associations between variables (DV and IVs) or influence of DV on IVs.
- Derived from theory knowledge
- Not formulated in qualitative research.
- $H_0 \neq$ There is no relationship/association...
- $H_a =$ There is a relationship... (research hypothesis)

SCOPE AND RELEVANCE

- Determine whether the scope of the study is appropriate for the degree it is intended,
- The field of study,
- The research issues, the practicability of the addressed research problem,
- And research objectives.

Limitations

- Methodology (qualitative or quantitative)
- Respondents (farmers, public staff, private staff, policy makers etc.)
- Area

Don't

- Time constraint
- Lack of Funding

Note: Result generalized or not

Review of Literature

- Problem analysis
- Existing work of other scholars
- Details about the research problem
- Critical review of literature
- Theories/models used by other scholars, methodology used, empirical research and gaps
- Don't describe it but synthesize knowledge.

LITERATURE REVIEW-Tips

Determine whether the literature review:

- is relevant to the research issues,
- is comprehensive and takes into consideration past and current literature,
- Is well-reviewed, summarised, organised and consistent with the sequence of the research issues addressed in the study,
- has identified the gap of knowledge,
- or contains too much textbook material.

Important: Read review papers and subscribe relevant journals

Methodology (How)

- Methods to be used in data collection.
- Method (s) is appropriate, specific and realistic
- Types: Surveys (questionnaire),
- field observations, case studies, FGDs, Key informants interviews
- Research instrument: Structured, semi structured, open ended
- Note: include references
- Data analysis
- Include pre-testing
- Mention from where taken/followed statements
- Check reliability and validity

METHODOLOGY/MATERIALS AND METHODS (How)

- Determine whether the collection, strengths and weaknesses of the data to be used in the study are clearly specified.
- The research design (e.g. sample size, choice of methods etc.) is suitable and appropriate to meet or address the specified objectives or research issues of the study.
- Method (s) use in the study is clearly described to allow replication by other researchers.
- The statistical analysis or package to be used is appropriate, method to used is properly and adequately referenced.

Common Issues...

- Sampling technique (qualitative, quantitative or mixed)
- Sample size
- Statistical analysis
- Qualitative or/and quantitative method
- Variables (DV and IVs)

REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY/Literature Cited

- Standards to be followed- in-text citations and reference list.
- Determine the extensiveness of the bibliography/reference list (last 5 years), whether current references are included, whether any reference cited in the text is missing or wrongly cited, and whether the format used is consistent throughout the list.
- Follow DAS guidelines

Other Tips

- Avoid plagiarism

LIST OF REQUIRED REVISIONS (IF ANY) Supervisor/Supervisory Committee/Fellow

- List of specific comments or suggestions that require the attention of the student to improve the synopsis.
- List of questions that may require elaborations and clarifications during the synopsis defence.

Most Common Questions???

- Number of pages (justified)
- Theory/model application
- Methodology (unclear even if completion of the study)