



Statement of Problem Template

Haidy Henry Dusim
Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Sabah
Haidy302@uitm.edu.my

ABSTRACT

Writing a clear problem statement in research helps the reader to understand the purpose of the study more clearly. However, writing a clear problem statement still becomes an issue. As a result, the reader unable to understand what is the purpose of the research. Hence, this innovation aims to develop a statement of problem template on how to write a clear problem statement. Through this template, researchers may able to have better guidelines on developing a clearer problem statement.

KEYWORDS: Problem Statement, guideline, clear, research

1 INTRODUCTION

In research, the statement of the problem defines the problem that will be addressed. The main objective of a statement of the problem is to covert the generalised issues into a specific problem so that it can be resolved more objectively in research. A problem statement is supposed to define the purpose of the study clearly. A clear problem statement helps the research proposal to be easily understood by the reader and helps them to identify what is the purpose of the research.

Ideally, a statement of problem statement should able to define the purpose of the research clearly. However, many researchers failed to write a clear problem statement. As a result, the reader unable to identify the purpose of the research. Therefore, in this paper, it will provide a template for writing a clearer problem statement.

2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM TEMPLATE

This section will explain how to use the statement of the problem statement. Table 1 will illustrate the four main themes that are used to develop a clear problem statement. The four main themes are known as, ideally, reality, consequences, and aim (IRCA). Tables 1, 3 and 4 will give an example of how you can use the theme to develop a more detailed problem statement.

Table 1: Statement of Problem Template

Themes	Description
Ideally	The researcher needs to describe what is considered as an ideal situation in the context of their study/topic
Reality	The researcher needs to demonstrate how the ideal situation contradicts with reality or the real situation
Consequences	The researcher needs to demonstrate the negative consequences of such a contradiction between the ideal situation and the reality
Aim	The researcher needs to show the intention or the aim of the study

Table 2: Weight lose

Themes	Description
Ideally	Ideally, a person who exercises regularly will lose more weight
Reality	The reality, many who exercise regularly still failed to lose their weight
Consequences	Consequently, many give up exercising and become overweight
Aim	Aim of the study to explore why some people who exercise regularly still failed to lose their weight

Table 3: Cholesterol level

Themes	Description
Ideally	Ideally, a person who is not overweight has a lower cholesterol level.
Reality	The reality, many people who are not overweight are found to have a higher cholesterol level
Consequences	Consequently, many people may not be motivated to monitor their body weight.
Aim	The study aims to explore why people who are not overweight still have high cholesterol levels.

Table 4: Degree holder

Themes	Description
Ideally	Ideally, people who have a degree may have higher chances of getting a job.
Reality	The reality, many people who have a degree are still unemployed.
Consequences	Consequently, many people may not be motivated to further their studies to a degree level.
Aim	The study aims to explore why people who have a degree still unemployed

3 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, by using the statement of the problem template, the researcher able to write a clearer problem statement. This because the statement of problem template helps the researcher to organise problem statements more appropriately. As a result, the reader easily understands the purpose of their research.