

# **MASTERING SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

## **A Step By Step Guide**



**Dalili Izni  
Marwan Milhem**

# TABLE OF CONTENT

<i>Dedication</i>	v
<i>Preface</i>	ix
<b>CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Understanding the Research Proposal</b>	<b>3</b>
Key Components of a Research Proposal	3
<b>Additional Components (Depending on the Study)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Preparing to Write</b>	<b>5</b>
Identifying Your Research Area	5
Example Scenario	6
Choosing a Research Topic	7
Identifying a Research Setting	9
Constructing a Research Problem Statement	12
Identifying a Research Gap	18
Formulating Research Questions and Research Objective	21
Demonstrating Significance of Research Study	24
Structuring a Research Definition of Term	28
Reviewing the Literature	30
Functions of Underpinning Theory	32
Linkages of Research Variables	35
Developing a Research Theoretical Framework	41
Developing Research Hypotheses	45

# PREFACE

---

Welcome to “*Mastering Social Sciences Research Proposal: A Step-by-Step Guide*.” This book is designed as a comprehensive resource for anyone navigating the intricate process of crafting a research proposal in the field of social sciences. Whether you are a graduate student embarking on your thesis or a seasoned researcher seeking to refine your proposal-writing skills, this guide aims to equip you with the essential tools and insights needed to succeed.

## **Purpose and Scope**

The journey of writing a research proposal can often be daunting, requiring clarity of thought, methodological rigour, and a deep understanding of scholarly conventions. This guide is structured to demystify the process, offering practical advice, step-by-step instructions, and examples drawn from real-world research scenarios. It covers every essential aspect of proposal writing, from formulating a research problem to presenting a compelling rationale, from designing rigorous methodologies to anticipating potential challenges.

## **What You Will Find Inside**

This book carefully crafts each chapter to build your expertise incrementally:

- **Understanding Research Proposals:** We begin by defining what a research proposal is and why it is crucial in the social sciences.
- **Crafting Your Research Problem:** Learn how to formulate clear, focused research questions and hypotheses.

# Chapter 1:

# INTRODUCTION

---

The importance of a research proposal in social sciences cannot be overstated, as it serves multiple crucial purposes in the academic and practical realms. Here are several key reasons why research proposals are essential in the field of social sciences:

1. Clarifying Research Objectives and Scope:
  - **Focus and Direction:** A research proposal helps researchers clarify their research objectives, defining what they aim to achieve and the scope of their study. This clarity is essential for maintaining focus throughout the research process.
2. Justifying the Research Problem:
  - **Rationale and Significance:** Proposals provide a rationale for why the chosen research problem is critical and worth investigating. They justify the significance of addressing the problem within the broader context of social sciences, highlighting its relevance to theory, practice, or policy.
3. Planning and Methodological Rigor:
  - **Methodological Framework:** Proposals outline the research methodology, including data collection methods, sampling techniques, and analytical approaches. This planning ensures methodological rigor and ethical considerations in conducting the research.
4. Anticipating Challenges and Mitigating Risks:
  - **Feasibility Assessment:** Proposals demonstrate feasibility and practicality by addressing potential challenges and risks upfront. Researchers can outline contingency plans and address ethical considerations, ensuring the study can be carried out effectively.

***Mastering Social Sciences Research Proposal: A Step-by-Step Guide*** is an essential resource for students, researchers, and academics seeking a comprehensive understanding of crafting impactful research proposals. This guide demystifies the complexities of proposal writing by presenting a systematic approach to developing well-structured and compelling research plans. Covering essential components such as problem identification, research objectives, methodology, and ethical considerations, the book bridges theoretical insights with practical strategies. Authored by seasoned academics, this guide integrates examples and actionable tips tailored for the social sciences domain. Whether you are preparing for your undergraduate project or embarking on advanced research, this book equips you with the tools to articulate your ideas confidently and meet academic standards. A valuable companion for navigating the competitive academic landscape, this guide ensures that your research proposals resonate with clarity and purpose.



Dr. Dalili Izni Shafie (Universiti Teknologi MARA UiTM, Malaysia), Senior Lecturer at UiTM Penang, has over 15 years of experience in teaching and research, specialising in Human Resource Management (HRM). She teaches business research and HRM for MBA and undergraduate students and has served as a visiting lecturer in Research Methodology in Indonesia. Dr. Dalili has held leadership roles, including MBA Program Coordinator and Coordinator for Research and Publication. A prolific author and mentor, she supervises postgraduate students, leads research grants, and provides consultancy to organisations. She holds a Doctorate in Business Administration specialising in HRM from Universiti Sains Malaysia.



Dr. Marwan Milhem (Gulf University, Kingdom of Bahrain) is an Assistant Professor and the Director of the Community Engagement and Continuing Education Centre at Gulf University, Bahrain. With over 19 years of experience in academia and industry, he specialises in Human Resource Management, leadership, and organisational behaviour. Dr. Milhem has co-authored 50+ Scopus-indexed articles, reflecting his dedication to research and innovation. He holds a Ph.D. in Business Management from Malaysia and leads initiatives that foster community collaboration and lifelong learning. Passionate about empowering learners, Dr. Milhem combines academic excellence with practical insights to inspire growth and sustainability.