



RESEARCH TITLE:

STUDENT NAME:

**School of Dental Sciences, Health Campus
Universiti Sains Malaysia**

**Research Proposal
Month, Year**

Supervisor name:

Co-supervisor (if applicable):

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ABSTRACT:

The abstract should have research aim/objective, method, expected results, and current progress or preliminary conclusion.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Introduce the scope and context of the study. Describe the general area of research, the broader issues being addressed, and how your topic fits within the larger body of knowledge. This sets the foundation for understanding the significance of your research focus.

1.2 Problem statement & Study rationale

Explain the problem that your study seeks to address. What gap in knowledge, practice, or policy exists? Why is this problem important? Justify why the study is being conducted and how the findings could provide meaningful contributions or solutions.

1.3 Research questions

List the specific questions derived from the problem statement that your study aims to answer. These should guide your methodology and data analysis and help maintain focus throughout the research.

1.4 Research hypothesis

Present your research hypothesis (if applicable), especially for quantitative or experimental studies. A hypothesis is a testable prediction about the relationship between variables. Include null OR alternative hypotheses.

1.5 Research Objectives

General Objective:

A broad statement of the overall aim of your research.

Specific Objectives:

Detailed, measurable goals that your study will achieve to fulfil the general objective. These should align with your research questions and methodology.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

Critical review of previous published studies to:

- *Identify gaps of knowledge*
- *Justify your study rationale*
- *Justify your methodology*

Conceptual framework

Diagrammatic illustration of the study framework based on literature review with some text to explain the diagram

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study design

Describe the type of study you are conducting (e.g., cross-sectional, cohort, experimental, qualitative). Justify why this design is suitable for your research question.

3.2 Study population/samples

Define the population of interest and the sample you will study. Include reference population, target population, source population, sampling frame, demographic or clinical criteria, setting, and any relevant inclusion or exclusion criteria.

3.3 Sampling method

Describe the technique used to select the study sample (e.g., random sampling, purposive sampling).

3.4 Sample size determination

Explain how the sample size was calculated. Include formulas or software used, expected effect size, confidence intervals, and power if applicable.

3.5 Study variables

Define the key variables in your study. Distinguish between independent, dependent, and/or confounding variables (if any), and provide operational definitions.

3.6 Experimental procedure/data collection method

- *Description of experimental procedure, equipment, and materials needed (for experimental study).*
- *Description of data collection procedure, and instrument/tools used (for non-experimental study).*

3.7 Statistical analysis

List the statistical methods and software to be used in analyzing your data. Describe how data will be summarized, and which tests will be used.

3.8 Ethical considerations

Explain how you will protect participants' rights, ensure confidentiality, obtain informed consent, and secure ethical clearance from the appropriate committee.

3.9 Flow chart of the study

Provide a visual flow chart illustrating the sequence of research activities, from sample recruitment to data analysis. This helps readers understand the overall process.

CHAPTER 4

EXPECTED RESULTS/OUTCOMES

Dummy tables

Include sample tables that you expect to generate from your data analysis. These are not real results but show the intended format for presenting findings (e.g., mean values, group comparisons, regression outcomes).

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION (if any)/ WORK IN PROGRESS

5.1 Conclusions for work in progress

Briefly summarize the current status of the project. If the study has started, describe preliminary progress or partial findings.

5.2 Limitation (if any)

Discuss any potential limitations or challenges in your study (e.g., sample bias, measurement error).

5.3 Plan for future work

Describe the future steps for completing your research or extending the study, including analysis, writing, or follow-up studies.

5.4 Gantt chart for research activities

Provide a Gantt chart that visually outlines the timeline of each research activity, including proposal writing, data collection, analysis, and reporting.

REFERENCES

List all references cited in your proposal, formatted using APA, Vancouver or others style.

APPENDICES (IF ANY)

Note:

The following formatting guidelines should be followed:

- a. The research proposal must be written in English*
- b. One-and-a-half spaced type*
- c. Font size 12 pt, Times New Roman.*
- d. Submitted as a PDF file in A4 size layout in portrait format*