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LEGAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR STUDENTS OF LAW

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Abstract

An abstract is usually the first indicator as to the strength of a particular research work/project, and can form the basis for accepting the research proposal. Research proposal is a brief introduction outlining the general area of study and identifying the subject area within which study falls. This article covers research, legal research process, type of legal research, the essential component in legal research proposal conducted under the doctrinal method, empirical or qualitative and quantitative methodology depending on the topic of legal research. Legal research is never finished but the experienced researcher identifies when to stop.

Keywords: Research- Legal Research- Elements of Research Proposal

1.0 Introduction

Research is derived from a French word ‘*recherch*’ meaning ‘to search’ and a Latin word ‘*circare*’ meaning to ‘to go round in a circle.’ Research¹ is *continuum*. Research is an enquiry for the verification of a fresh thing or for supplementary prevailing theories by new knowledge.² The

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¹ Many authors, Encyclopaedia defined research namely Mannheim, Redman and Mary, Lundberg, Cook, Clifford Woody, John Best, Rusk Whites, Heetehins, Craford, Young, Mayura Mathur, Encyclopaedia Britanica; Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences.

² Raj Kumar Agrawala, ‘Indian Legal Research: An Evolutionary and Perspective Analysis.’ *Journal of Indian Law Institute*.. Vol.24, Nos.2, 3 and 4, 1982. p.470.

research is undertaken as a part of the process of law reforms. It is undertaken for making suggestion for improvements in the law of concrete and easily identifiable matters and the formulation of those proposals in precise format.³ The purpose of legal research is to find "authority" that will aid in finding a solution to a legal problem and to suggest reform in the existing law; to establish the relationship between law and some 'X' disciplines affecting human activities; to search as collect and make available the legal principles which are useful for society, but which have not yet become the part of statutory law; to suggest a set of rules where no rules exist at all; and out of these purposes.⁴ Legal research is defined by legal studies since it is the materials that are used in legal studies and the topics that are taught and learnt that determine legal research. In a similar light, legal studies⁵ are also defined by legal research as the discoveries of legal research shape legal studies.

Primary authorities are the rules of laws, ie., statutes, rules and regulations, government/executive orders, court order plus decisions that are binding upon the courts, government, and individuals. Secondary authorities are commentaries on the law that do not have binding effect but aid in explaining what the law is or should be. The resources available to find legal authority are vast, wide, and complicated leading many law schools in India both traditional universities and national law universities to teach legal research/legal methodology classes to students of law in all levels ie both undergraduate/post graduate or Ph. D. level too.⁶ Proposal definition is 'an act of putting forward or stating something for consideration.'⁷ A student or pupil is a learner, and someone who attends an educational institution regular or private or distant mode etc. In Britain those attending university are termed "students". Law is enacted to regulate the social and economic actions of individuals. The end result or outcome of the law is the socio-economic, political, cultural welfare and prosperity of the society.

Research proposal is a brief introduction outlining the general area of study and identifying the subject area within which study falls. One should also refer to the current state of knowledge and any recent debates on the subject. There should be need to reference this in the same would do if it was writing an essay, for example any articles or books you refer to should be footnoted with the full details of author, title, publication date, year and so on. The author is concerned with legal research proposal and that aspect only covered in this article. This research proposal with slight modification is going to be the research first chapter in general in every research.

An attempt is made in this article through light each word of title explanation with research process, purpose of legal research with its complexity, types of research; brief outline of legal research proposal and on the elements of legal research proposal with details and ends with conclusion plus recommendations.

³ Bakshi, P.M., 'Legal Research and Law Reform.' *Journal of Indian Law Institute*. Vol. 24, No.2,3, 1982.p.391.

⁴ Tewari, H.N., *Legal Research Methodology*. Faridabad, Allahabad Law Agency, 1997.p.29.

⁵ Prepared and Submitted by: Dr. Sope Williams-Elegbe and Edefe Ojomo Institutional Affiliation(s): Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and University of Lagos, Nigeria. Date of Submission: February 2013.

⁶ https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/legal_research (Accessed on 17th February 2017).

⁷ merriam-webster.com/dictionary. (Accessed on 18th February 2017).

1.1 Research Process

There are the five steps in Legal Research Process. a) Formulate a Research Plan; b) Consult Secondary Sources; c) Consult Primary Sources; d) i) Expand Primary Law; and ii) Update Primary Law; e) Analyze and Organise Results.⁸

1.2 Complexity of Modern Legal Research

There are many tools for conducting legal research than earlier time but still the research task has become tough rather than easy. There are more bases to cover these tasks. Computer research has introduced the need to be completely current to make task easy, and to develop new skill sets. There has been a dramatic increase in the volume of judge made law and statutory material. Secondary sources have grown exponentially and the law of other jurisdictions must often be researched so that comparative study could be conducted in legal research.⁹

1.3 Types of Legal Research¹⁰

Types of legal research is i) Theoretical Research; ii) Applied Research; iii) Action Research; iv) Inter-disciplinary Research; and v) Evaluation Research. Legal Research can also be classified based on sponsorship such as i) Institutional or sponsored research; and ii) Academic or doctoral research.

2.0 Brief Outlook on the Research Proposal

Conducting a research work or study, in whatever specialisation, is neither simple nor a complicated thing. How simple or complicated it might be, largely depends on how much information a researcher has, in the area he or she intends to conduct the research or study. The researcher, in whatever circumstances, is obliged to have either gathered or collected much information widely helping him or her to conduct the research work or study intended in a successfully manner. In a similar point, however much information obtained or collected by the research is just one side of a coin since even though the researcher may well be knowledgeable about what he or she wishes to conduct research about, which is regarded as a substance of the research or study, the next important thing, which must be born in mind is the methodology of the research or study intended to be carried out. In this case, the researcher must well be alerted that having a substance of the research/study are one thing and the methodology to be well applied impacting a meaning of the said substance is a matter which should be carefully dealt by every researcher expecting to conduct the meaningful research/study in a particular specialization. In this regard, the hereinabove points must not, in any case, be left unconsidered, while carrying out the successful research/study. Indeed, it is indeed important to understand that conducting research/study is not a matter of completion of the task in a day, week, month or year.

Depending on the level the research which is conducted, some researches/studies may sometimes take a longer period than expected, particularly Ph.D. research/studies. Taking a short or longer duration is, however, justified by specialisation of the research/study the researcher is taking or

⁸ http://guides.law.ufl.edu/slrh_5steps (Accessed on 17th February 2017).

⁹ <http://legalresearch.org/essentials/importance-of-legal-research/> (Accessed on 17th February 2017).

¹⁰ To reduce the length of our article details are not discussed or explained.

in other situations, activism or commitment and concentration of the researcher in having ambitions to complete the task within deadline, and without delay or further request of extension of time from respective academic authorities, let say, the Faculties or Schools. With all this in mind, it is clearly that research/study is also a step-by-step completing task, for which the researcher must make possible plans since when he/she formulate an idea of his or her research/study until when the researcher fully embarks himself or herself to the task.

As stated earlier that conducting the research/study is the step-by-step activity, for sure it is undisputable fact that, there is no a difficult point of starting conducting the research/ study, for the researcher of whatever levels, than preparing research proposal. For Ph.D. level, this research/study level is only possible after the researcher to take his or her admission in the respective Faculty of School, and furnishing the necessary fees. Preparation of the “research proposal” needs so much skills and knowledge that the researcher should have been taught in the “Research Methodology” course before preparing the same. Some of the skills and techniques that the research must have, are some also useful to know, especially at the time of making defence of the research/ study already prepared.

3.0 Conducting the Research

Bearing this in mind on what had been earlier stated; there are a number of issues that should be carefully considered by the researcher while preparing the research proposal as indicated hereunder:

- i) Knowing the elements of the research proposal;
- ii) Understanding the essentials or components of each and every element of the research proposal;
- iii) Understanding how each component of the essentials of the research proposal fits or relates with the research intended to be carried out; and
- iv) Understanding and collecting full information related to the title¹¹ or topic of the research/study, by reading a good number of literatures before even embarking into the task of writing the research proposal. Here, it is important to note that some components of the research proposal can not be easily tackled or answered based on imaginative or brain thinking capacity, rather it is only useful information obtained in various literatures consulted by the researcher.

To answer the above issues, which are about for the research to understand all the elements of the research proposal, these are as follows:

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Background to the Problem

3.3 Statement of the Problem

3.4 Significance of the Study

3.5 Objective of the Study

3.51 General Objective

¹¹ The title should be brief; it should be accurate, descriptive and comprehensive, clearly indicating the subject of the investigation/research.

3.5.2 Specific Objective

3.6 Literature Review

3.7 Hypothesis¹²

3.8 Research Methodology

3.9 Limitation and Scope of the Study

3.10 Time, Research Progress and Financial Tables

3.11 Chapterisation

3.12 Bibliography/Selected Bibliography

3.13 Annexure/Appendix if any

As earlier stated, it is an obligation of the researcher carrying out the research, as a second step, to understand all important components contained in each elements hereinabove indicated. The components are as outlined hereunder:

3.1 Introduction

Introduction forms part and parcel of the research proposal of the research or study. The researcher is expected, in this part, to clearly introduce his or her topic for readers or reviewers to understand what exactly the research/study conducted intended to give what a message. This part basically deals with following hints, for the researcher preparing the research proposal must know as:

- Stating clearly as what does the topic/title¹³ specifically relate to, for example, whether it is a field of public or private law, international law, civil or criminal law, etc.
- The viability of the topic to do the research
- Stating clearly the nature of the subject in relation to the proposed topic at hand.
- Showing any possible relation of the subject, for instance, whether the proposed topic covers both national and international laws.

3.2 Background to the Problem

Forming an important part of the research proposal of the research/ study, the researcher while preparing background to the problem must cover the following components as:

- The researcher intending to carry out the research/study must clearly indicate what created him or her in mind about conducting such research/study.
- He or she must, in this part, show as to what made him or her interested to conduct such research or study.
- He or she must also indicate as to what inspired/motivated him or her to do such research/study.

¹² It is better use side heading only Hypothesis rather using the Research questions. Research questions are nothing but the specific objectives. But the author has dealt too regarding Research question as the every student has to know what is Research Question.

¹³ Topic of research should not be more than 10 to 12 words and should specific and avoid the acronyms in the research proposal topic. To be strict strive for the title to be ten words or 60 characters only.

- He or she must also indicate as to what has caused the legal system to completely change as a result of the occurrence of the matter, for which the research/ study is carried out for such purpose.

3.3 Statement of the Problem

This is basically what makes a research/ study to be carried out. In most of the cases, for intended research/study to acquire its academic credibility, this is an area, which mostly the supervisors are interested to look at first. The supervisors will give go ahead to their respective supervisees on whether the title is researchable or otherwise after carefully and deeply examining this part of the research proposal. It is also important to note that ‘statement of the problem’, should consider position of the laws in various aspects, which are definitely of very contemporary. This is due to the fact that the legal system has been drastically changed from time to time, and the old rules have been replaced by new ones, and eventually existing gaps in laws have now been accommodated. In line of this, the very newly rules have also been installed to the current legal system, of which they nowhere covered under applicable statutes. To state briefly, for instance, before 1980’s, Tanzanian legal system lacked a number of important rules, which later introduced to suit the modernity. Today, there are emerged several new rules in areas like environmental law rules, intellectual property, human rights, and ADR, etc. Emergency of these rules have created a chance to the researchers to conduct more researches/study to inform the general on what exactly surfaces on these new rules. Usually, the components that have to be considered in this part are as follows:

- Absence of the law
- Inefficiency of the law
- Implementation/enforcement of the law
- Court interpretation of such a law may be wrong, etc.

3.4 Significance of the Study

Basically, the researcher has to indicate in this part of the research/study as to how this study/research is important. The findings of research would be helpful in particularly to the students, scholars, legal practitioners and judiciary in addition to that in general to the nation

3.5 Objective of the Study

This is also another important aspect contained in the research proposal. It is important to understand that many researchers confuse with this part, and eventually they write a total different thing from what they really intended. Confusion appears in getting the meanings of two words, for examples, “object” and “objectives”. The two mentioned words are totally different in meaning, and experience shows that many researchers write the former to mean the later, where certainly is absolutely improper in the research/study. To make the points clear in terms of their distinctions, and how they mean and differ from one another in the research context, let say, by object is meant “an intention”, while objective is meant “motive” to do something. The researchers while carrying out their respective researches/studies are, in this case, obliged to

concentrate on the second word, which is “motive” and by using this word contextually will give a real meaning of what “objective of the study” is all about in a research/study.

3.5.1 General Objective

To attempt this part well, a number of components must be considered as indicated hereunder:

- What is going to happen when a particular research/study is completed?
- What the researcher is going to achieve in conducting the research/study he or she doing.
- What the research/study is going to change in the current legal system relating to the research/study intended to be carried out.

More importantly, objective of the study is divided into two main parts in any research/study, especially legal research/study. These are “General” and “Specific” objectives. It is, however, important to bear in mind that the two objectives are interdependent in many ways. Equally, general objective of the research/ study should always be a source of the other specific objectives in the research/study. Putting it in another form, specific objectives should always be generated from /elements of the general objective in the research/study. To give a clear illustration, though it may not be so relevant for legal research/study, but definitely it would be of very much assistance in better understanding of the concept under discussion by the researchers. The researcher may, for instance, keep such general objective thus: ***“The Government has shot demonstrators in order to maintain peace”***. Here, “maintaining peace,” in this case, when it is used in the research, is exemplified as the General Objective.

3.5.2 Specific Objectives

Having composed such hereinabove indicated general objective of the research/study, then follows the composition of the specific objective of the research/study, of which to recall, we earlier said that the specific objectives should always be generated from the general objective of the research/study. To compose the specific objectives of the research/study based on hereinabove indicated example of the general objective, the researcher could thus compose: ***“The Government has shot the demonstrators in order maintain peace.”*** to achieve the following:

- Maintaining good life for its citizens.
- Maintaining tranquility in the country.
- Stopping chaotic behaviors of the political parties when threatening peace and order, etc.

Therefore, all stated above shown examples of the specific objectives as evidently observed here generate from the main or general objective and they all serve the general objective of the research/study as proposed.

3.6 Literature Review

Literature review is a very complicated as well as confusing part to many researchers conducting the research/study. It is also on the other hand, a simple one if the researcher knows how best to make it out. Again, how simple, complicated confusing it is, depends on a number of factors,

including but not limited to, much information the researcher has acquired from different sources of information such as books, journals, encyclopedias, dictionaries, website materials (authentic sources and not like Wikipedia which is easily edited), and so on,¹⁴ and also how those materials are written or well presented while writing this part, to make a proper literature review of the research/study. It is indeed important that, while preparing literature review of the research/study, two concepts should also be employed. These two concepts actually help and indicate how the researchers have done in the literature review part. The stated concepts are: “Theoretical” and “Operational” review. In each case, the researcher has to indicate in the work how each of the above aspect has been accordingly applied in the research proposal.

3.6.1 Theoretical Review

This has to deal with how much literatures the researcher has collected and read them in the course of preparing his or her research proposal. In this case, the following components must be considered as:

- The researcher should clearly write in this part of the research proposal that the literature is reviewing was conducted by so and so author or writer. To show it clearly, for instance, the researcher may indicate thus: *“this research/study was conducted by Sulaiman Ameer Sulaiman, and in his research, he wrote.....”*
- With reference to the above hint, the researcher may also write what the author or writer has written by quoting what is written in a paragraph manner, and in quotation style.
- In theoretical review, the researcher should also indicate how such the literature used is tallying with the research/study or idea he is writing or intending to write about.
- It can also be indicated, in this way, if the author or writer has written his or her research the research is using or intend to use, in different angle than the researcher is conducting his or her research.
- What the authors are not covered depending upon the topic the research has to dwell upon it and conduct his or her research in different angle or different perspective and clearly mention that the author has not dealt this aspect and the research doing or conducting that grey area and proceeding where the author stopped.

3.6.2 Operational Review

Having covered the theoretical review part, the researcher while preparing the research proposal of the research/ study, the researcher should on other hand, consider other way of conducting literature review, which is “operational review”. In this case, the researcher while attempting this part perfectly, he or she must consider the following components as indicated herein below:

- The researcher has to indicate in the literature review how practical the author or writer he uses his or her reference has done such referred research.
- It must also indicated by the researcher on whether the referred author or writer has used interview¹⁵ or otherwise, and the extent to which the researcher intends or will rely or use the same.

¹⁴ One should not use reported or unreported cases in literature review.

¹⁵ Types of Interview: The types of interview may be categorized on the basis of the grounds viz., a) Formless- i)

- In case where the referred author or writer has used tables or not, the researcher should also clearly indicate it during preparation of his or her research proposal of the research/study.

3.7 Hypothesis

In conducting any research/study of whatever specialisation, particularly while preparing the research proposal, there is nothing which more complicated and difficult to the researchers than formulating hypothesis of the research/study.

Hypothesis (plural form is hypotheses) is combination of two Greek words. ‘Hypo’ means less than or under; and ‘thesis’ means idea or general opinion to be defended by a persona and thus ‘hypothesis’¹⁶ means an idea formed beforehand which has less value than the generally formed view. In other words hypothesis is a brief summation of the researcher's prediction of the study's findings, which may be supported or not by the outcome.

The function of Hypothesis

The function of the hypothesis is to state a specific relationship between phenomena in such a way that this relationship can be empirically tested. That is, hypothesis must be empirically demonstrated as either probable or not probable.¹⁷ Hypotheses can be categorised in two broad categories: a) Experimental; and b) Non-experimental.

Hypothesis of the research/study is simply said to be a kind of phenomena about a particular issue or incident which has occurred (for instance, to say, there is an accident). To elaborate it further, hypothesis simply means ***“a short statement, usually in tentative way, relating to assumptions obtained by the researcher, from the information obtained as a result of reading various literatures on the proposed title or topic.”*** From this explanation, it is evident that the hypothesis of the research/study should always be formulated by the researcher based on the relevant information obtained for relevant title or proposed topic of the research/study. In this regard, the following should also be put into account thus:

- The researcher has to formulate the hypothesis of the research/study based on the relevant information obtained after consulting or reading a good number of literatures relevant to the proposed title.
- In view of the above, the hypothesis of the research/study must always be formulated using what the researcher has read, and not from the researcher's brain.
- The researcher while formulating the hypothesis has to show what he has found in reading various literatures already consulted in the course of preparing the research proposal.
- The researcher while formulating his or her research/study's hypothesis may, for instance, indicate in the aspect of “Hypotheses” of the work thus: ***“According to the***

Structure; ii) unstructured; b) Methodology and Role: i) focused; ii) Repetitive; iii) Non-diection; c) Purpose: i) Treatment; ii) Selection; iii) Curiosity; iv) Innovative; d) Subject Matter; i) Qualitative; ii) Quantitative; iii) Mixed; e) Number: i) Group; ii) Individuals; f) Period of Contact; i) Short Contact; ii) Long Contact. Further See; Myneni, S.R., *Legal Research Methodology*. 5th Ed. Faridabad, Allahabad Law Agency, 2012. p.209.

¹⁶ Many authors defined or explained hypothesis among them are George A. Lundberg, Werkmeister, Goode Hatt, Robert A Berlein and James A dyer, Cohen and Nagel, Mc Grigan plus Websters New International Dictionary and other encyclopedias too.

¹⁷ Goode, William J., and Hatt, Paul K., *Methods in Social Research*. Auckland, McGraw Hill, 1981.p.74.

information obtained from a number of literatures consulted, the following assumptions are formulated as indicated hereunder:"

3.7.1 Research Question

Besides, the issue of use of the “**Research Questions**” in the research proposal has also been very problematic and confusing aspect to the majority of the researcher and academic personnel in particular. It is a wrong thinking of many researchers and their supervisors sometimes that ‘research questions’ has to be omitted in case when the researcher has used ‘hypotheses’ meaning thereby that ‘hypotheses’ and ‘research questions’ cannot be used simultaneously. This assumption may be wrong since both of the two can possibly be used simultaneously in the same research proposal. In a similar note, the use of ‘research questions’ has also sometimes been conceptualised wrongly in terms on how it has to be applied or used while researcher prepares his or her research proposal. Taking experience of many researchers, they think that the use of the ‘research questions’ is simple to change a particular hypotheses from a tentative way and formulate the same into question, and by keeping ‘question marks (?)’ at the end. Again, this assumption is absolutely wrong since the application of the ‘research questions’ is made in totally and different significant way in the research work/study. The ‘research questions’ is always significantly used as ‘elaboration of the hypotheses’ formulated in the same research proposal of the research/study. To illustrate this point further, for example, the researcher may formulate thus: “**This teacher is unjust**”. This can be a possible hypothesis in the research, and therefore, the possible ‘research questions’ as may be formulated based on the same hypotheses taken as elaboration of it may be thus: The teacher is unjust in:

- Setting examination questions in the examination papers.
- Marking the examination papers.
- Awarding the marks (scores) of the examination, etc.

The hereinabove indicated points are examples of the research questions that can simultaneously used in the same research proposal of the research intended.

In short or sum up, the general objective is deemed to be the first hypothesis and specific objectives to be reflected as second, third hypotheses in sequence.

To avoid the confusion, it is better that the researcher should omit the Research Questions which is nothing but specific objectives. The author has mentioned to have an idea what would be the Research Questions. Hence, it is mentioned in this article as a side heading to have knowledge to the researcher what are research questions.

3.8 Research Methodology

Method is the way of doing something. Methodology¹⁸ is the science or study of particular subject. The concept of research methodology is much wider. In the other words the researcher follows in pursuing a research is known research methodology.

¹⁸ Methodology is defined by Dickinson Mc Graw and Geroge Watson, Kaplan, Paul Diesing, Worley, etc., Those are person who are exponent in Research. To concise the work/this paper or article full details are not mentioned.

Recalling what stated very earlier that in conducting the research/study, it is not only a matter to have gathered a lot of information, have enough knowledge on the matter for which the researcher intends to conduct the research/study, rather it is a matter of applying the knowledge the research has (substance) in a proper methodology required in the research/study. In this respect, for the research to effectively apply the methodology he wishes to apply appropriately is inevitable thing to do. In attempting this part well, the following components should be considered:

- The researcher should indicate why the chosen methods are used in the research/study.
- Indicating various stakeholders relied upon while conducting the data used in the research/study such police department, advocates, other judicial officers, etc.
- The researcher should also indicate types of data he or she would wish to collect while conducting the research/study.
- The researcher may adopt the qualitative and quantitative method it depends on the topic. In other words, there is Library Research and Field Research/Empirical Research.
- The sampling method,¹⁹ sample size, the methods employed ie research instruments and research design²⁰ observation²¹ always be present in the research methodology to testify the hypotheses as well as research questions.

To sum up most of the legal research is library-based. It means relying on information that already exists; such as books, journal articles, case reports, legislation, treaties, and historical records. Some studies, however, might require the use of fieldwork or empirical data – that is, gathering information through direct interaction with people and processes, such as interviews, questionnaire,²² and schedule²³ or court observation. Ethical values should be observed while discussing in literature review when asking or preparing the questionnaire as well as schedule too.

3. 9 Limitations and Scope of the Study

This is also another important element in the research proposal. The researcher has to indicate, in this part, among other components:

- Geographical limitation where the research/study is going to cover.

¹⁹ There are various techniques to select the sample for a study. They are purposive sampling, random sampling and stratified sampling and each of which have their own merits.

²⁰ Research design which clearly states the problem, controls the relevant variables, and selects an appropriate logic of demonstration is a goal difficult of achievement but worthy of great effort,

²¹ In Social science research much information must be gathered before a genuine experiment can be designed, and both participat and non participate observation are used for this purpose. Further details See Goode and Hatt, *Methods in Social Research*. Auckland, Mc Graw Hill, 1981.pp.119-131.

²² The following type of questions may be applied to receive information: i) open-end questions/ii) Structured questions; iii) Dichotomous questions; iv) Multiple choice questions; and v) Leading questions.

²³ In the words of Thomas Carson McCormick “The schedule is nothing more than a list of questions which it necessary to test the hypothesis or hypotheses.” As per P.V. Young has described four types of schedule viz., i) Rating Schedule; ii) Documents Schedule; iii) Institution Survey forms or Evolutional schedule; iv) Observation schedule; and v) Interview Schedule. Further details Please see Tewari, H.M., *Legal Research Methodology*. Faridabad, Allahabad Law Agency, 1997. pp.208 & 209.

- Any financial limitations that the researcher is expecting to face in the course of conducting his or her research/study.
- Dearth of literature and grey area in the research field where no one treaded that path and the researcher has to walk on the un-trodden path depend on the topic researcher has chosen.
- Any other limitations other than the limitations stated above that likely may impediment to the researcher while conducting the research/study.
- Confidentiality of interviewee and ethical grounds not to declare the persons names those who are interviewed.
- Sensitive issue which tamper the person modesty or dignity or conduct etc.,
- Non cooperation of interviewees in certain topics of research because of social stigma or blame etc.,
- The scope is a very important part of the research as it provides a layout that guides the writer, and eventually the reader, in addressing the work

All research is limited by variables depending upon the topic to be researched. Adding limitation study does not make research any less valid or important. Scope of study, outline the limitations of the research, the specific data or literature used for the research and the theories/interpretation used to utilise or explore the data. All most of limitation and scope both mean the same idea in different platforms or spheres.

3.10 Time, Research Progress and Financial Tables/Frame Work

If the research is sponsored, the time frame, the progress and financial commitment chart should be followed.

Develop a time table in table form, indicating the sequence of research proposal phases and the time that researcher will probably need for each phase. Take into account that at this stage, it can only be estimated, but make clear that researcher has an idea about the time span that will be needed for each step. In the same table indicate the financial and time frame work column too.

3.11 Chapterisation²⁴

In general research work will run into chapters. The first one on Introduction brings out the importance of the study, and states its objectives and hypotheses. It also includes methodology and limitations. Next Chapter will contain previous reviews, history of the Problems. A Quick look on subjective well-being will also be carried out. The other Chapter will be a methodological part of the study. Analysis and Discussions is to be done. Findings, Conclusions and Suggestions for further Research will be presented in the last Chapter followed by Bibliography, Reference plus Appendices or Annexure if any.

3.12 Bibliography/Selected Bibliography

Bibliography style is used widely in literature, history, arts and in law. This style presents bibliographic information in footnotes or endnotes and, usually, a bibliography. It is nothing but

²⁴ It is optional and depends upon the policy of University or university to university it varies.

list of academic works mentioned in research outline as well as other important works to which researcher will refer during his/her research proposal.

The last but one item is Bibliography, where the researcher starts with Book, Journal, Reports, Dissertation/thesis, News papers and Website. It should be arranged in alphabetical order.

In referencing the uniform style of referencing should be followed: Kate L. Turabian or APA style or Chicago style or Blue Book Style 18th Edition or 19th Edition should be adopted. It depends on University to University policy how the reference citation should be.

3.13 Annexure/Appendix²⁵

An appendix cannot be submitted without the main copy. The aim of an appendix is to add greater details, visuals and examples for better understanding of the main copy. An annexure, however, is different from an appendix in that it can be considered without the main text. It cannot be added to the main text but still has importance as regards the original copy.

4.0 Conclusion

Research is *continuum*. Legal research and methodology is a compulsory paper for both under/post graduate students as well as Ph.D. scholars both traditional universities and National Law Schools in India and abroad too. Framing of a research proposal might serve as starting point for a report, a project, a dissertation and a Ph.D. thesis. The research proposal is not a fixed blueprint. There is no fixed formula for writing a research proposal. Only acceptable guidelines or hints are stated to write or develop research proposal. Every research proposal is designed based on the topic of research and also based on universities rules and regulations or guidelines too.

Now the outcome of research is only advices to think. Libraries and computers are two major tools to make research proposal to the student of law.

Finding the right materials is a very important step, because knowing what to look for can 'make or break' the resulting document. Finding the law is an important part of legal research, but the ability to analyse what researcher has found and reach a conclusion or formulate an argument based on it is just as essential. The proper research strategy and pre-research planning are also an important factor in legal research. It helps to sort out the legal databases and save researcher's time. Even where the researcher has found the right source and information, they must know how to use that information in their legal research proposal. Important issues such as citation, language and arrangement, among others, can reduce the value of the hard work of a researcher. Legal research is to conduct efficient and effective is to develop a research strategy, and following good research methodology. The researcher is more familiar with the resources available, the faster researcher can develop his/her strategy, and the more effective it will be. Qualitative research may be doctrinal or non-doctrinal, while quantitative research is non-doctrinal.

The law is constantly changing. The decisions of Apex Court show fluidity of legal doctrine. Even where there is a decision of Apex Court, split decisions of the court make it difficult to

²⁵ An annexure and an appendix are both forms of addendums to a main document..Plural form of Appendix appendices.

determine how the next case will be decided. In many areas there are conflicting decisions, or no binding authority then researcher should know which law of other jurisdictions, and apply creative analysis to the existing case law or create an argument.

5.0 Recommendation

The researcher greatest challenge might be narrowing the topic either in the title or in the abstract research or research proposal. The title of research proposal is the most important determinant of how many people will read it. The good research proposal title should be typically around 10 to 12 words. Avoid using acronym ADR better write in the title Alternate Dispute Resolution in the title of research proposal/topic. A striking topic or title should be in research proposal.

Readers get all the details of the research proposal in the abstract itself, they might be discouraged from reading the entire research proposal or topic of research. The title, abstract, and keywords play a pivotal role in the communication of research. Hence the title, abstract and keywords should be appealing or strike the mind or eyes of the reader to read or allure the reader to read the research proposal. The abstract should work like a marketing tool.

Now the time to know or proceed to know about legal reasoning, scientific method, concepts, theory, and sociology plus inter disciplinary research must and should be encouraged in all levels of legal institutions. Researcher should state clearly how researcher research proposal will contribute to the existing research in the literature review. There is never any hard and fast rule or path. Researchers choosing different paths for the same research question may be equally successful.

The hypotheses should be tested properly once the research proposal is accepted. The researcher either writes specific objectives or writes research questions in their research proposal and tries to avoid using both side headings in the research proposal.

There should be good research strategy which is based on good research methodology. The more familiar researchers are with the resources available, the faster researcher can develop his/her strategy, and the more effective it will be. Each researcher or students of law should and must have computer savvy. In entire research work uniformity of referencing should be adopted or followed viz., Entire work Turabian style of referencing or Blue Book referencing. The proposal should be between 1500 and 2000 words (excluding bibliography). Researcher should give some thought to any ethical or safety issues that may arise in respect of fieldwork in particular.