Exercise V: Writing a research proposal

In your research journey, you have now reached a point where you can think of putting together your research proposal even though you have not yet covered everything that needs to be included in the proposal.

In this exercise you need, in the light of the contents proposed in Chapter 13, to decide on an outline specifically for your research proposal and start putting together the material already developed in other exercises.

As suggested, the outline for a research proposal for quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods studies is the same. The difference is only in the contents which are already described in this book. Look at Chapter 13 again and extract the relevant information from the various exercises you have already done to complete your research proposal.

Your proposal should be written in an academic style, incorporating appropriate references in the body of the text, integrating your literature review at relevant places in a thematic rather than chronological manner, raising your research questions, specifying the objectives of your study and detailing the whole procedure that you propose to go through in undertaking your research journey in a clear and succinct manner.

Follow the outline below in completing this exercise. Keep in mind that you have already completed most of the tasks when completing the exercises attached to each operational step.

The points given in the following outline are merely prompts. You need to work through them with a lot more depth and understanding. As mentioned, you have already done most of the work; here you only need to put it together.

Good luck, you are nearly there!!!

Introduction

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Objectives of the study

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Hypotheses to be tested (if applicable)

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Study design

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Setting of the study

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Research instrument

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Sampling design

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Ethical issues

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Data processing

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Proposed chapters of the report

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Problems and limitations of the study

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Proposed time-frame

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Proposed budget

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