



UNIVERSITAT_{DE}
BARCELONA

Master's Degree in:
CITIZENSHIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS: ETHICS AND POLITICS

Subject: Research Methodology

GUIDELINES FOR THE RESEARCH PROJECT

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0.- Summary



1.- Introduction



2.- Method

- a. Subjects
- b. Instruments
- c. Procedure
- d. Data analysis
- e. Ethical considerations



3.- Importance, impact and study limitations



4.- References



5.- Annexes

0. Summary

You should write a summary of the entire report, specifying your objectives and presenting a brief description of the method and procedure.

Length: 250 to 350 words

1. Introduction

The introduction should comprise a theoretical overview of the subject matter, indicating the background and frame of reference with a brief summary of other related research studies or reports and a current state of the situation of interest. You should specify where the information is extracted from, cite books or articles properly, and end the section by listing the objectives of the study.

2. Method

Participants

In this section you should: define the reference population and indicate the sampling techniques to be used for the sample selection; determine the sampling frame available and explain the procedure for selecting the subjects who will be part of the study; calculate the sample size needed based on the precision and confidence level you want to apply; include a detailed description of the sample, with distribution by gender, age, or other characteristics that are considered relevant. You must be consistent and describe the sample in terms of variables which are relevant to the study and which may be useful for drawing conclusions.

Instruments

Depending on the technique(s) used, you should describe the process of designing the questionnaire, interview, guidelines for moderating a discussion group or observation code that you want to use in each case. You should also: indicate which concepts you want to assess and which variables will be considered; specify studies or other sources consulted for formulating questions and selecting variables or codes; describe the type of items in the questionnaire and give examples; describe how you plan to carry out the pilot study; and indicate and justify the type of administration of the questionnaire or the data collection mode.

Procedure

You should describe how the study is to be carried out, detailing the steps that should be followed including the procedure for the pilot study (questionnaire, interview, etc.).

Data analysis

Indicate how you will conduct the qualitative and quantitative analysis: how you will transcribe and code the qualitative data, which variables should be analyzed and related in order to respond to the objectives of the study, etc.

Ethical considerations

You should describe the ethical considerations that you will consider to conduct the research: voluntary participation, informed consent, data confidentiality or anonymity, and other ethical issues. Indicate if the research will be submitted for ethical approval in any Institutional Review Board.

REMEMBER! *Participants, Instruments, Procedure, Data analysis* and *Ethical considerations* should be explained for both the qualitative technique (e.g., interview, focus group, Delphi) and the quantitative technique (i.e., survey).

3. Importance, impact and study limitations

Comment on the importance of the research. Why is it important to be carried out? Who or what sectors of society will benefit? You have to assess what the expected results will be and what you want to achieve (for example: a new theory or model, a solution to a practical problem, a specific help to professionals or citizens in a certain area, a new measurement instrument, etc.). It is important to discuss the contribution of the proposed project to the body of knowledge in the field of study in particular. It should also be indicated which evaluation mechanisms of impact (based on quantitative and qualitative criteria) will be used to assess the results achieved. Lastly, the possible limitations of the study should be noted.

4. References

Specify the references used in the report (using a standard format: APA, Vancouver, MLA, CMS,

etc.).

5. Annexes

In this section you should include any additional material that is not part of the research report.