**Writing a research proposal**

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**Introduction:**

. A research proposal is a written document specifying what the investigator proposes to study. Proposals serve to communicate the research problem, its significance, and planned procedures for solving the problem to some interested party. Proposals are written for various reasons. A student enrolled in. is search class is often expected to submit a brief plan to the professor before data collection actually begins.

**Definition of research:-**

Systematic inquiring that uses "orderly scientific methods to answer questions- or solve problems.

**Definition of proposal:**

A document specifying what the researcher propose to study ; it communicates the research problem, its significance, planned procedures for solving the problem, and when funding is sought, how much the research will cost.

**Components of research proposal:**

1- The preparation of the proposal.

2- Funding for research proposals.

**The preparation of the proposal:**

The preparation of the proposal Include the following:

a- Statement of the problem

b- Back ground of the problem.

c- Objectives.

d- Methods.

e- The work plan.

f- Personnel.

G-facilities

h- Budget.

i- Final aspects of the proposal.

**Statement of the problem:**

The problem that intended research will address should be clearly and directly identified early in the proposal.

The problem should be stated in such a way that its importance is apparent to the reviewer. The proposal should indicate the expected generalizability of the research, its potential for improving nursing practice and patient care, and possible applications or consequences of the knowledge to be gained.

**Background of the problem:**

- Background material should strengthen the author's arguments concerning the significance on the study.

- This section should orient the reader to what is already about the problem and indicate how the proposed research will augment that knowledge.

- The background section offers an excellent opportunity for the proposal write to make evident his or her level of professionalism and grasp of a field.

**Objectives:**

- A section of the proposal usually addresses the specific objectives to be achieved in the proposed study. The objectives should not be phrased as vague generalities such "the aim of this project is to improve patient care".

- The form in which the objectives are stated depends on the nature of the investigation and the current level of knowledge.

- Objectives stated as hypotheses to be tested are the preferred form.

**Methods:**

Reviewers typically read the methods section of the proposal with greater care than any other part. Therefore, it is important to discuss procedures clearly and completely, with a considerable amount of detail methods section includes a description of the sampling plan, research plan , instrumentation, specific procedures, and analytic strategies, together with a discussion of the rational for the method's, potential methodological problems and intended strategies for handling such problems. .

The proposal reviewer normally expects to find a through description of the population, the sample, the sampling plan, and the number of subjects.

**The work plan:**

A; proposal should always describe the plan according to which the various tasks and subtasks will be accomplished. In other words, the researcher must show the sequence of tasks to be performed, the anticipated length of time required for their completion and the personal required for their accomplishment the work plan indicates to the reader how realistic and through the researcher has been in designing the study.

Usually the work plan can be most effectively presented in tabular or graphic form, accompanied by appropriate textual comments. Tables are useful in that they permit diverse information to be present simultaneously.

**Personnel:**

In proposal addressed to funding agencies, the qualifications of key project personnel should be prominently highlighted. The research competencies of the project director and other team members are typically given major consideration in evaluating a proposal.

Resumes of the personnel who will play key roles in the study should be included.

The resumes should clearly specify relevant background and experience. In addition to resumes, the proposal should include a brief narrative that explains the specific activities to which individual will be a signal. The personnel section should be scrutinized by the author to determine if there is any weakness of the staff as a whole,

**Facilities:**

The proposal should document the extent to which special facilities required by the project will be available. Access to physiological instrumentation libraries, data processing equipment, computers," special documents or records, and so forth should be described order to reassure sponsors or advisors that the project will be able to proceed as planed

**Budget:**

The preparation of a budget often intimidates beginning proposal writers. The budget translates the project activities into monetary terms. It is a statement of much money will be required to accomplish the various tasks

**Final aspects of the proposal:**

It is advisable to begin the text proposal with a brief abstract. The abstract will establish a farm of references for the reviewers as they begin to read the proposal. The abstract should be brief but concisely state what the goals of the study are and what general methods will be used.

Ordinarily the very first page of a proposal is the title page the title page includes such information as the project title, the project director's name and signature.

The name and signature of an official who is in a position to commit the instruction. The name of instruction, the name of the agency to which the proposal is being submitted, an identification of the competition into which the proposal is being entered and the date of the proposal.

In many cases it is necessary to submit proposals to funding agencies in two separate parts. The technical proposal includes the problem statement, objectives, methods, work plan and descriptions of the personnel and facilities. The business proposal includes the budget and certifications.

**Funding for research proposals:**

**If is including the following:**

a) Federal funding.

b) Private funds.

**Funding for research projects:**

Is becoming more and more difficult to obtain. As increasing numbers of nurses become prepared to carry out significant research, so, too, will applications for research monies increase, successful proposal writers need to have good research and proposal-writing skills, and they must also know how and from whom funding is available. The combined set of skills and knowledge is sometimes referred so as "grants man ship".

**Federal funding:**

The federal government is the largest contributor to the support of research activities. The two major types of federal disbursements are grants and contracts.

Grants are awarded for proposals in which the search

Idea is developed by the investigator. The researcher who identifies an important research problem can seek federal monies through a grant program of one or more agencies of the government.

The contracts is an agency that identifies the need for a particular piece of research issues a request for proposals (RFP), which details the work which the government wants done. The contract method of securing research support severely constrains the kinds of work in which investigators can engage. For this reason, most nurse researchersprobably will want to compete for grants rather than contracts. Government agencies are increasing using contracts as the mechanism for supporting research.

**Private funds:**

Health care research is supported by number philanthropic foundations and professional organization Private organizations typically are less rigid in their proposal regulations, their reporting requirements, clearance of instruments, and their monitoring of progress. Professional associations such as the American nurses foundation, sigma Theta Tau, the American association of university women, and the social science research council offer funds for conducting research. Health organizations such as the American heart association and the American Cancer society also support research activities.

**Conclusion**

Proposal represents the means for opening communication between researchers on the one hand and party's interest at in the conduct of research on the other. Those parties may be funding agencies, faculty advisors, or institutional officers, depending upon the circumstances. The proposal should be written in appositive, confident tone. Instead of saying "the study will try to ...."It is better **"** .to indicate more positively that the study will achieve some goals similar it is more optimistic to specify what the investigator will do, rather than what it would do, if approved. Proposal writing, like research, is both a skill and an art. We hope we have been helpful in communicating some of what goes into the (skill) part and offer all readers our best wishes in cultivating the art of doing and writing about research.