

Annexure II

Guidelines for the Formulation of Research Fellowship Proposal

Statement of the Problem

The problem to be investigated should be stated clearly and briefly in the research proposal with key questions, and location of the problem in theoretical context of the concerned discipline. The significance of the problem, the contribution which the proposed study is expected to make to the theory and methodology as well as its practical importance, and national relevance should be specifically indicated.

Overview of Literature

Summarizing the current status of research in the area including major findings, the project proposal should clearly demonstrate the relevance or insufficiency of the findings or approaches for the investigation of the problem at hand.

The Conceptual Framework

Given the problem and the theoretical perspective for investigation of the problem, the proposal should clearly indicate the concepts to be used and demonstrate their relevance for the study. Besides, the dimension of empirical reality that needs to be explored for investigating the problem should also be specified.

Research Questions or Hypotheses

Given the conceptual framework and the specification of dimensions, the specific questions to be answered through the proposed research should be sharply formulated. In the case of an explanatory research design, specification of variables and posting of relationship among them through specific hypotheses must form a part of the research proposal.

Coverage

If in the light of the questions raised or the hypotheses proposed to be tested, sampling becomes necessary, complete information on the Universe of Study, Sampling Frame, and Units of Observation and Sampling Size should be given. If the study requires any control groups, they should be specifically mentioned. An explanation about the determination of size and type of sample will also be necessary. Proposals not requiring a sample selection should specify their strategy appropriately and describe the rationale.

Data Collection

The different types of data that are proposed to be gathered should be specifically mentioned. The source for such type of data and the tools and techniques that will be used for collecting different types of data should be specified.

Data Processing

The manner in which the different types of data will be processed, the tabulation plan and the type of data that will be processed through the computer, should be explained in detail.

