



TRAINER:

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PREP@SOM Series 3/2021

PROPOSAL WRITING WORKSHOP : CHAPTER 1

A Few Questions Before We Begin



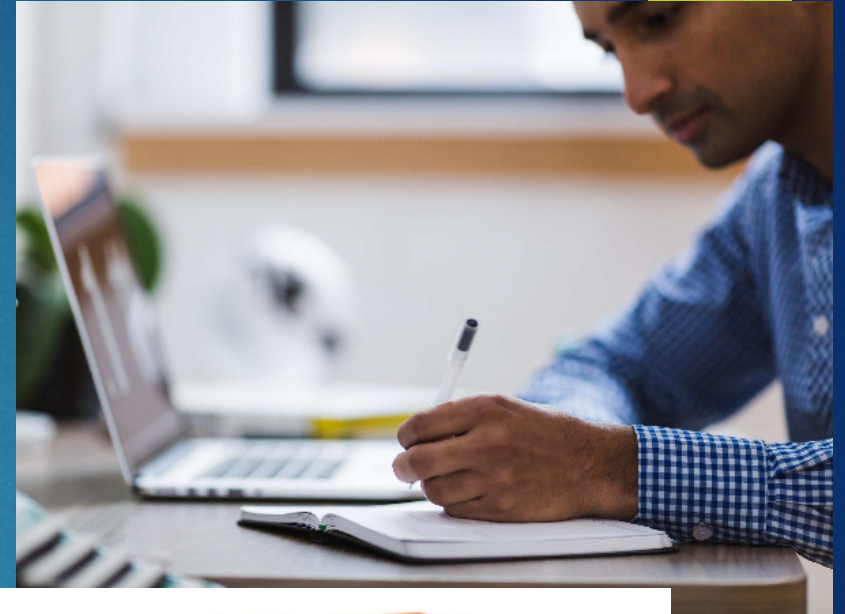
- ▶ Are you pursuing an MA (1) / a PhD (2)?
- ▶ Are you a fulltime (1) / part-time student (2)?



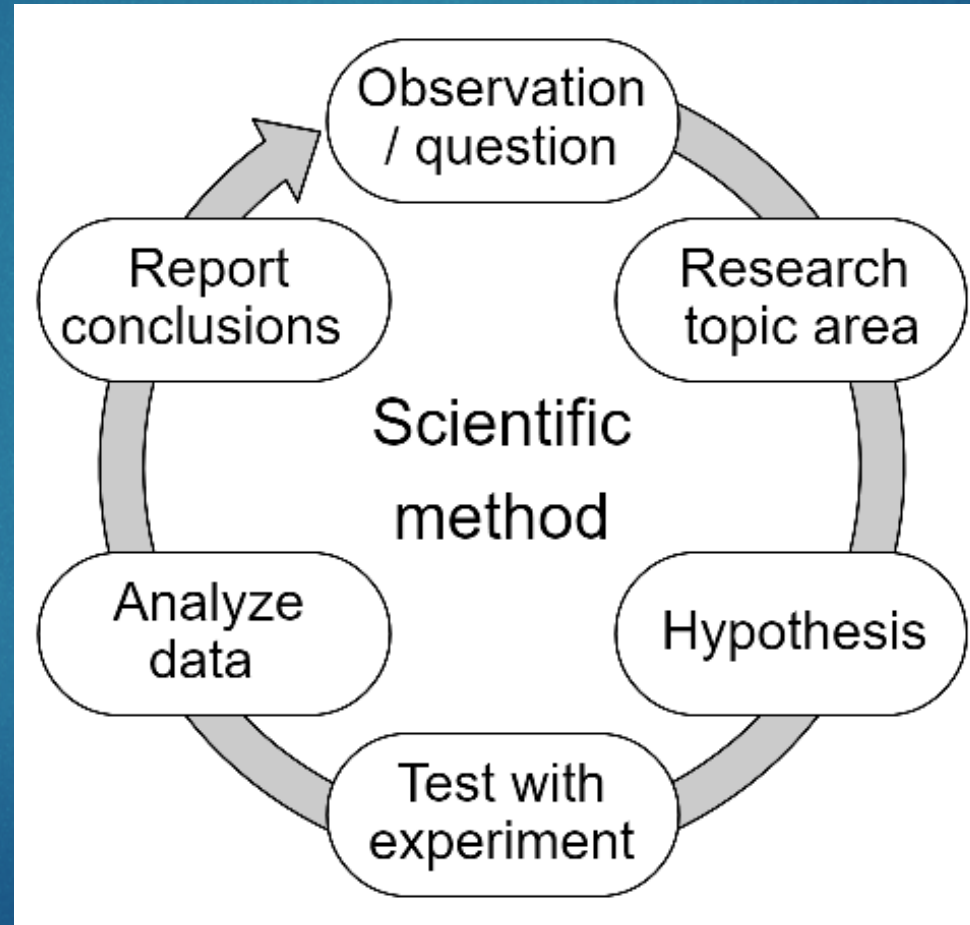
At what stage are you?

1. Just joined the program
2. Doing library research
3. Writing the proposal
4. Awaiting Proposal Defense
5. Making corrections
6. Conducting fieldwork
7. Running analysis
8. Writing
9. Awaiting Viva

Who are you?



The Scientific Method



Your Tools



To Do



Differences

- ▶ Thesis
- ▶ Proposal
 - ▶ A paper presenting and justifying a research idea significant enough to warrant an investigation

Research Proposal Writing

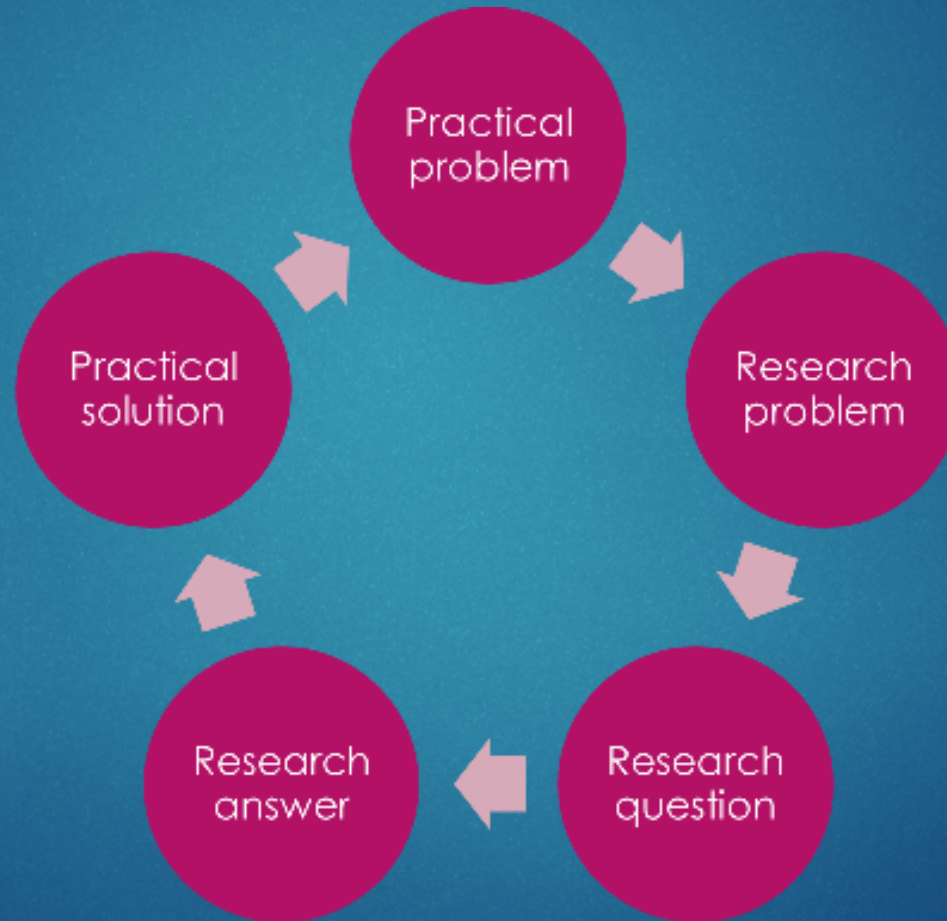


- ▶ Structure
 - 1. What do I need to write?
 - 2. Why do I need to write it?
 - 3. How do I write it?
- ▶ Language

Note that..

- ▶ This is a writing workshop, not a research methodology workshop
- ▶ The rules for proposal/thesis writing and journal article writing are not the same
- ▶ Master and doctoral proposal/thesis writing are not entirely the same (Replication permitted, underlying theory and pilot study not compulsory, no requirement for novel contribution for master research)

Significance of Practical/Real-World Problem



Significance of Writing in Research

Follow conventions to satisfy expectations

- ▶ Country
- ▶ University
- ▶ School
- ▶ Section/Field



Some Sources

- ❑ USM thesis format guidelines
 - ▶ file:///C:/Users/60124/Downloads/FormatThesisGuidelines_210219%20(2).pdf
- ❑ APA 7th Ed Style and grammar guidelines
 - ▶ <https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication-manual-7th-edition?tab=3>
 - ▶ <https://www.scribbr.com/apa-style/apa-seventh-edition-changes/>

Components of a Proposal

Front matter

- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- List of Tables
- List of Figures
- List of Abbreviations

Body

- Ch. 1: Introduction
- Ch. 2: Literature Review
- Ch. 3: Methodology

Back matter

- References
- Appendices

FRONT MATTER

- ▶ Title Page (Research proposal/thesis title vs Journal article title)
- ▶ Table of Contents (Headings must be the same as in body)
- ▶ List of Tables
- ▶ List of Figures
- ▶ List of Abbreviations

Roman numerals

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Background of the Study
- 1.2 Problem Statement
- 1.3 Research Questions
- 1.4 Research Objectives
- 1.5 Scope of the Study
- 1.6 Significance of the Study
- 1.7 Definition of Key Terms
- 1.8 Organization of the Chapters

Arabic numerals

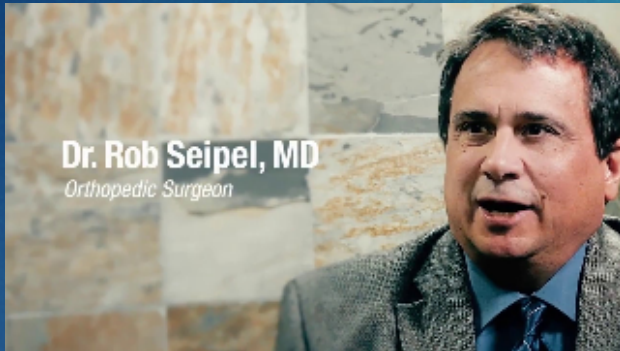


1.1 Background of the Study

- ▶ Describes the real-world problem leading to the research problem
- ▶ Grouping and order of ideas critical
- ▶ Purpose of your study?
- ▶ Guidelines:
 - ▶ Tell a convincing story to explain your problem
 - ▶ Start with the general information and move to the more specific details
 - ▶ Supply relevant statistics to backup your claim (i.e., existence of the said problem)
 - ▶ Cite key relevant sources to justify the purpose of your research

Significance of Statement and Evidence (RWP)

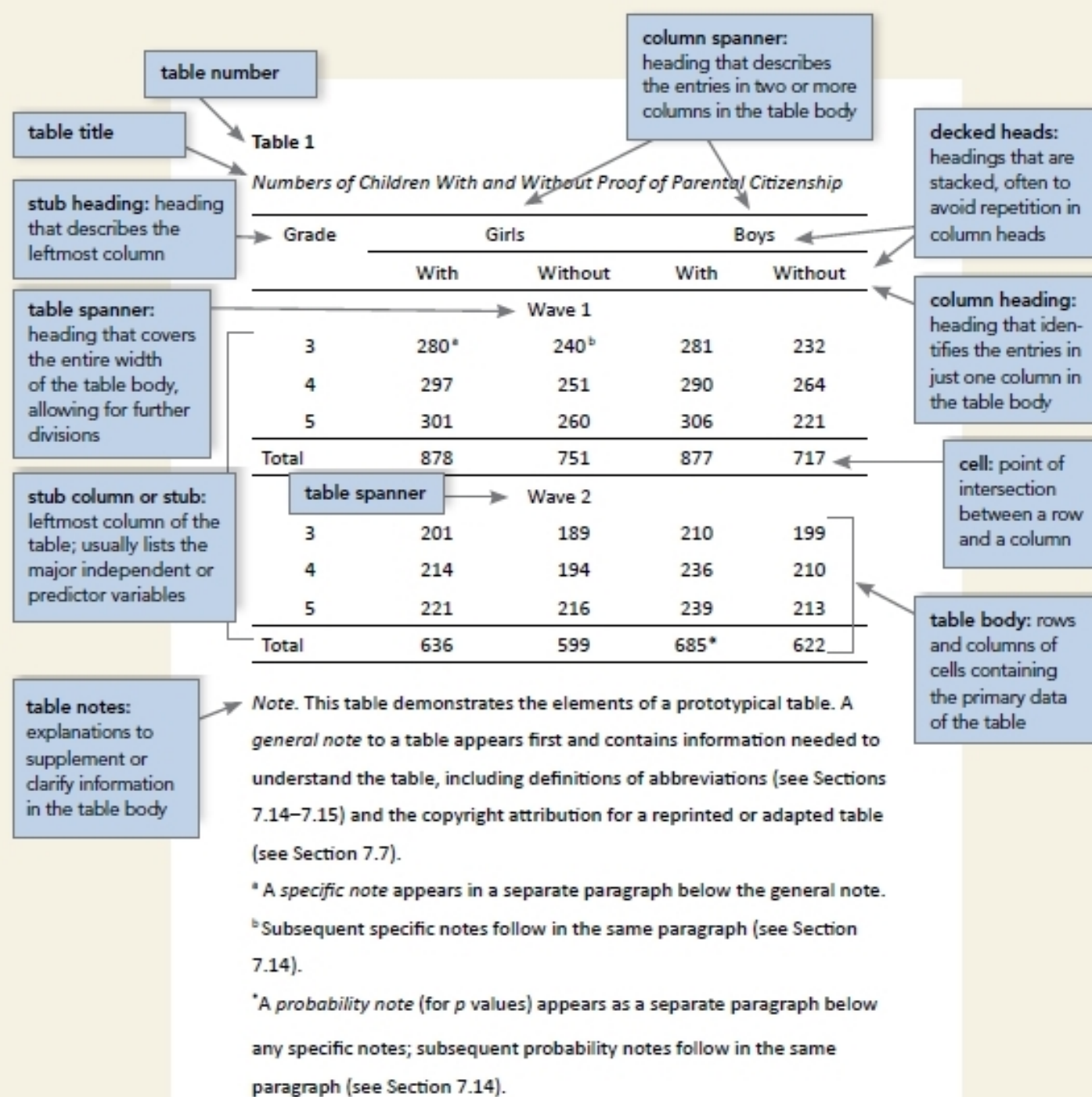
- ▶ “Doc, I have a broken arm.” “Okay, let me schedule you for a surgery.”



Marshfield Medical Center, Beaver Dam, WI



TABLES



FIGURES

figure number

Figure 1

figure title

Changes in Work Attitude as a Function of Day and Time

image: graph, chart,
drawing, map, plot,
or photograph itself

y-axis

y-axis title

y-axis labels

Work Attitude

tick marks

data points

legend or key:
explanation of
symbols used
in the image

x-axis

x-axis labels

x-axis title

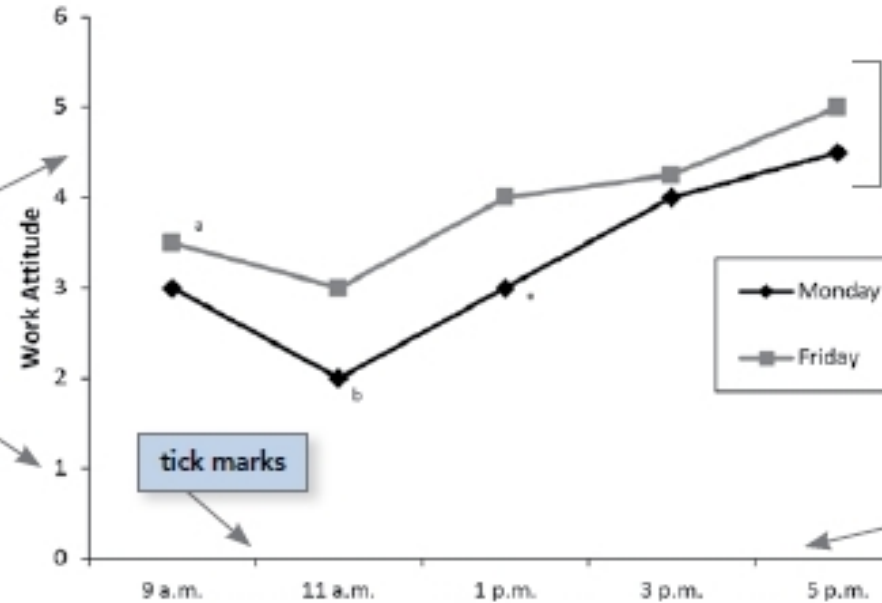
Time of Day

figure notes:
explanations to
supplement or
clarify information
in the image

Note. This figure demonstrates the elements of a prototypical figure. A *general note* to a figure appears first and contains information needed to understand the figure, including definitions of abbreviations (see Sections 7.15 and 7.28) and the copyright attribution for a reprinted or adapted figure (see Section 7.7).

^aA *specific note* explains a particular element of the figure and appears in a separate paragraph below any general notes. ^bSubsequent specific notes follow in the same paragraph (see Section 7.28).

^{*}A *probability note* (for *p* values) appears as a separate paragraph below any specific notes; subsequent probability notes follow in the same paragraph (see Section 7.28).



1.2 Problem Statement

- ▶ $PS = RWP + RP$
- ▶ Limit 1.5 - 2 pages long

Determining
your DV

What is a real-world problem?

- ▶ A practical problem worthy of investigation

Identify



E.g., Retirement
“brain drain” in
the Malaysian
civil service

What is a research problem?

Think of
& Solve

- ▶ A relevant problem the researcher intends to solve



*E.g., Lack of
knowledge-sharing
among civil
servants in Malaysia*

RWP-DV Examples

- ▶ Organizational performance; Stock market performance
- ▶ Organizational performance; (Organizational) growth
- ▶ Organizational performance; (Organizational) profitability
- ▶ Organizational performance; (Organizational) liquidity
- ▶ Organizational performance; Organizational performance

RWP-DV Examples, cont'd

- ▶ Organizational performance; Economic (performance)
- ▶ Organizational performance; (Organizational) efficiency
- ▶ Organizational performance; (Organizational) effectiveness
- ▶ Organizational performance; (Social) equity
- ▶ Organizational performance; Organizational performance

RWP-DV Examples, cont'd

- ▶ Turnover; Intention to turnover
- ▶ Turnover; Quality supervision
- ▶ Turnover; Job training
- ▶ Turnover; Employee retention

- ▶ Brain drain; Knowledge sharing
- ▶ Brain drain; Repatriation
- ▶ Brain drain; Brain gain

Area, Discipline, and Field

Area	Discipline	Field
Social Sciences	Management	HRM; Accounting; Marketing; Operations; Finance
	Economics	Money/Finance
	Psychology	I/O Psychology

1.3 Research Questions

- ▶ What are the questions I need to answer?
- ▶ Example:
 - ▶ Is there a relationship between individual factors (list) and knowledge sharing?
 - ▶ Does employee commitment moderate the relationship between individual factors (list) and knowledge sharing?

So What?

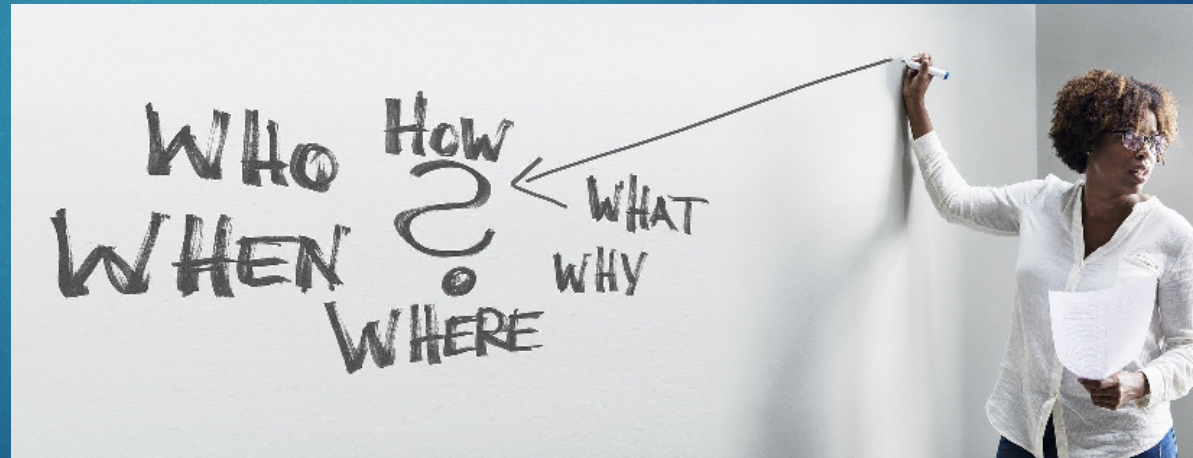


1.4 Research Objectives

- ▶ What do I need to do to solve this problem?
- ▶ Example:
 - ▶ To investigate whether there is a relationship between individual factors (list) and knowledge sharing
 - ▶ To examine whether employee commitment moderates the relationship between individual factors (list) and knowledge sharing

1.5 Scope of the Study

- ▶ Who? / What?
- ▶ When?
 - ▶ Cross-sectional/longitudinal study
- ▶ Where?
- ▶ Why?



1.6 Significance of the Study

1.6.1 Theoretical Significance

1.6.2 Practical Significance

Significance $\neq$ Contribution

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

- ▶ All definitions employed in the study
- ▶ Make sure these refer to all measures employed in the study

1.8 Organization of the Chapters

- ▶ Organization of the Chapters – Chapter 1-5
- ▶ Organization of Remaining Chapters – Chapter 2-5

Don't Forget

- ▶ To use the knowledge you gained from this workshop
- ▶ To make the necessary amendments to your proposal
- ▶ To attend coming workshops conducted by me on Chapter 2 and 3, in shaa Allah
- ▶ All the best to all of you! Thank you for your attention, questions, and active participation!

Regards, Dr. Azura