

CHAPTER-3

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

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Adama, Ethiopia

ANALYSIS AND STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Learning objectives

After completing this chapter, the student should be able to

- Describe the importance of a clear statement of a problem
- Enumerate the points that should be included in the statement of a problem

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

what is a problem?

- A problem is a gap or a difference between what is expected or desired to be and the actual condition exists.
- A problem statement is a concise, precise, well documented, and detailed description of the nature ,scope, causes, severity and the effect or impact of a problem to be addressed and the need for the proposed project or research.
- Thus a problem statement is the specific description of a problem which is essential to understand it properly.

STATEMENT OF ...

- A problem statement is the initial step before undertaking into any kind of research.
- A well formulated and effective problem statement ensures the research success.
- A good problem statement is always specific and focused to a particular issue (restrictive and would express one major idea).
- A confused or vague problem statement will raise a question on the importance of the research.

STATEMENT OF ...

- The first major section in a research proposal is the 'statement of the problem'.

Why is it important to state and define the problem well?

- Because you will find that a clear statement of the problem:
 - Is ***the foundation*** for the further development of the research proposal (research objectives, methodology, work plan, budget, etc.).

STATEMENT OF ...

Information in the statement of the problem

- ✓ A brief description of socio-economic and cultural characteristics and an overview of health status and the health-care system in the country/district as far as these are relevant to the problem.
- ✓ Include a few illustrative statistics, if available, to help describe the **context** in which the problem occurs.

STATEMENT OF ...

- ✓ Analysis of the **major factors that may influence the problem** and a discussion of why certain factors need more investigation if the problem is to be fully understood.
- ✓ A brief description of any solutions to the problem that have been tried in the past, how well they have worked, and why further research is needed (**justification** for your study).

STATEMENT OF ...

- ✓ A description of the type of information expected to result from the project and how this information will be used to help solve the problem.
- ✓ If necessary, a short list of **definitions** of crucial concepts used in the statement of the problem.

Sources of Research Problem

- The sources of a research problem could be
 - Observations
 - Experts/from experience
 - Literature reviews
 - Professional conferences
 - Discussion with Experts

When does a research problem exist?

□ A potential research situation arises when three conditions exist:

1. A **perceived discrepancy** exists between what is and what should be
2. The **reason(s) for this difference** should be **unclear**
3. At **least two possible** and **plausible answers** exist to the question

When does a research problem exist---

□NB. If there is **only one possible** and **plausible answer** to the question about the discrepancy, then **a research situation does not exist**

Summary

- **A statement of the problem** is a concise, clear, and specific description of the issue that you are trying to solve. It should be written in a way that is easy for both you and your readers to understand.

Example

- "The purpose of this study is to examine the effects of social media use on adolescent mental health. Specifically, we will investigate the relationship between social media use and depression, anxiety, and self-esteem. We will also explore the factors that mediate this

statement of the problem -----

- **Ideal:** Vitamin D supplementation has been shown to improve bone health.
- **Reality:** However, there is a lack of research on the effect of vitamin D supplementation on the immune system.
- **Consequences:** This lack of knowledge may be preventing individuals from receiving the full benefits of vitamin D supplementation.

Importance of statement of the problem:

- Focus your research and writing efforts
- Identify the relevant literature
- Develop a clear research question
- Write an effective research proposal
- Communicate your research findings to others

Information included in the statement of the problem

- The research question
- The research objectives
- The research methods
- The significance of the research
- The limitations of the research

Exercises

1. Why do we need to analyze the research problem?
2. What are the points required to justify the selected research problem?
3. What information should be included in the statement of a problem?

***THANK YOU,
ALL!***