STRATEGIES TO IDENTIFY RESEARCH TOPIC
&
GOOD PROBLEM STATEMENTS

Prof Dr Nor Hayati Ahmad

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What are the strategies to identify RESEARCH TOPIC?

1) CHOOSE TOPIC FROM AREA OF YOUR OWN INTEREST (S1)

2) AREA OF SUPERVISOR'S INTEREST or SUPERVISOR'S AREA OF EXPERTISE (S2)

3) SUB-TOPIC OF A MAIN RESEARCH GRANT(S3)

4) GAPS IDENTIFIED FROM LITERATURE (S4)

S1: Own interest

PASSIONATE, DRIVEN BY PERSONAL MOTIVATION TO RESERCH ON THE TOPIC

CHALLENGES

choosing a topic is a challenging task under the following scenarios:

1) When you do not have any idea what to do
2) You cannot decide on one topic from too many options
3) Pressured by time to come out with a research topic

S2: AREA OF SUPERVISOR'S INTEREST or SUPERVISOR'S AREA OF EXPERTISE

This is the case when you have chosen the "person" to be your main supervisor

Sharing Personal Experience

- Driven by strong desire to study and learn under a certain scholar to obtain his/her wisdom and knowledge
- You have followed his or her work/ publications / success stories and wanting to be apart of those achievements
- Willing and committed to manage own weaknesses to be accepted as his/her student

S3: SUB-TOPIC OF A MAIN RESEARCH GRANT(S3)

You become a GRA and at the same time a PhD output from this Research

Your PhD topic is generated /related from this research.

- A Quick Win.
- Fulfilling two objectives concurrently – Income from being a GRA ; A PhD within or shortly after the end of the research grant
- **Most Challenging and stressful. Self-discipline and endurance are very important under this arrangement**
- **But it is feasible.**

S4: TOPIC from GAPS IDENTIFIED FROM LITERATURE
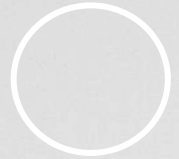
Read, Read and Read in the area of interest

- **Use Google scholar, key in key words**
- **Read the abstracts**
- **Refer to the citations or references from the articles**
- **Refer to completed thesis in similar area to get a bigger picture**

Challenges

- Very time consuming which may drag your PhD time but very essential efforts Thus, need to have a good Literature Review template, set time limit and
- guidance from Supervisors
- Remember to determine the scope of your study and search within the scope

AREAS OF CONCERN IN CHOOSING A TOPIC

1) IS THE TOPIC OUTDATED? CURRENT ? FUTURISTIC?

2) ARE THERE ANY FOUNDING ISSUES WITH POSSIBILITY OF SOLUTIONS?

3) CAN THE DATA BE EASILY OBTAINED?

4) WILL THE TOPIC HAVE NEW CONTRIBUTION /SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS FACED?

5) CAN I FINISH DOING THIS TOPIC IN TIME?

WHAT IS A GOOD PROBLEM STATEMENT?

1) A STATEMENT WHICH YOU CAN SEE A PROBLEM IN IT. **Example….**

2) WHAT IS A RESEARCH PROBLEM which can lead to TO PROBLEM STATEMENT?

   SOCIAL PROBLEM – financial exclusion, poverty, behavior

   PRODUCTION PROBLEM–Efficiency, Performance, Risk, System

   REGULATORY PROBLEM –Impact of regulation/policies, compliance
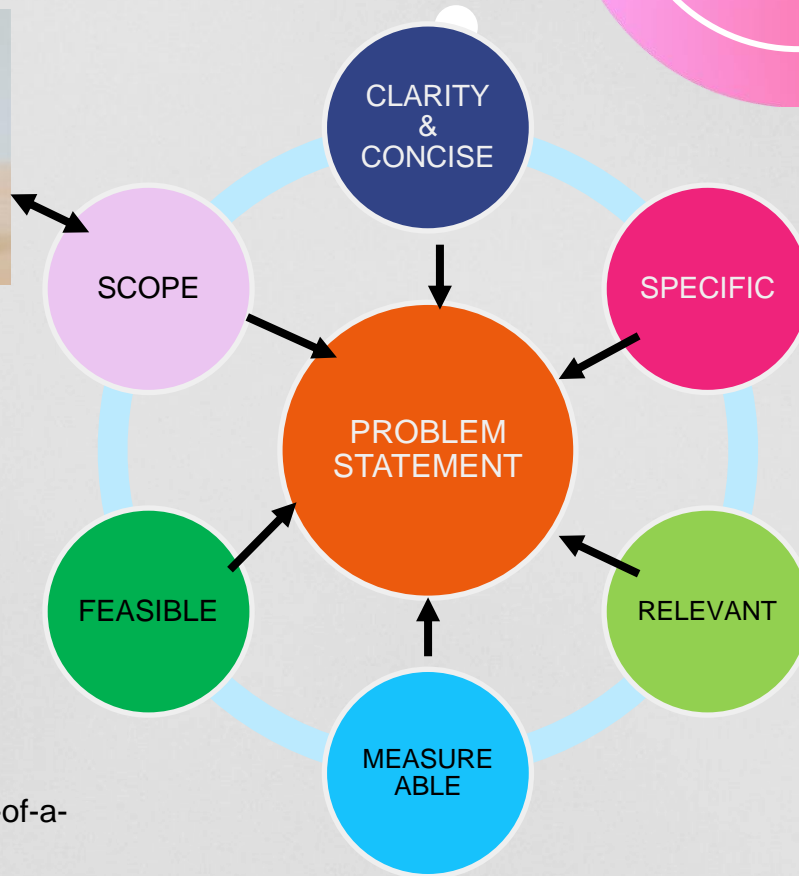
   ETHICAL PROBLEM – values, shariah, corruption

   ADDRESSING THE GAPS

3) A GOOD PROBLEM STATEMENT CAN GENERATE CLEAR RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND RESEARCH OBECTIVES

Defining the scope and context of the problem to study is important for you to manage your thesis.

CLARITY & CONCISE

SCOPE

SPECIFIC

PROBLEM STATEMENT

FEASIBLE

RELEVANT

MEASURE ABLE

My Interest : Mental Health

My Scope :

- Depression

-Medical Interns

- government hospitals

What are my Problem statements: ??

My RQs? My ROs?

→ **Research GAPS in Depression cases and studies.**
(what have not been done, what have been overlooked.. ?
Why? When? Which? How?

conclusion

RESEARCH TOPIC IS RELATED TO PROBLEM STATEMENT, RESEARCH OBJECTIVES, METHODOLOGY, HYPOTHESES, NEW DISCOVERIES……..

THEREFORE, IT IS APPROPRIATE TO SPEND CONSIDERABLE TIME TO SEARCH FOR THE TOPIC which is SUITABLE TO YOUR INTEREST, YOUR MOTVATION AND YOUR OWN CAPABILITIES.

GOOD PROBLEM STATEMENTS

RESEARCH TITLE WILL REFLECT YOUR RESEARCH TOPIC AND ITS CONTENT

لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِٱللَّهِ ٱلْعَلِيِّ ٱلْعَظِيمِ

Thank You!

Do you have any questions?