



HANDOUT #6

EM200 Methods of Research
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1. RATIONALE IN THE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH STUDY

Rationale of the research study should be clearly stated in the background section of the thesis/report. It is the introduction to the problem/issue or gap that the research opt to be investigated. It discusses the present state of knowledge regarding the problem/issue or gap under study. Always remember the following questions to guide researchers in writing-up the Background of the Study.

NOTE: The rationale of the study is different from the significance of the study. The significance of the study tells the readers the benefits derived from the conduct of the study – who will benefit from the results of the study?

<i>What is the current situation (facet/feature) or status regarding the problem/issue or gap? This will be supported by statistics or evidence to show that the problem/issue or gap existed</i>	Explain by describing the current situation – from general to specific. Clearly describe the problem/issue or gap. Stating the problem/issue or gap will guide in identifying the specific contribution of the study. Who will be directly or indirectly affected by the problem?
<i>What facet/feature of the current situation, condition or status of the identified problem/issue or gap are already existed or known? What are the research methodologies and approaches to address the problem/issue or gap?</i>	This will be presented by stating previous studies (literature review). The synthesis of Chapter 2: Review of Literature could be incorporated in answering these questions.
<i>Is there limitation or inadequacy that need to be clarified or filled-in by the research? What is the rationale behind investigating this problem/issue or gap?</i>	Focus attention on the need (what to be done) to address, solve or reduce/minimize the problem.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Review of the literature is very important in deciding what research design (data requirement, data analysis, techniques) is going to be used in the conduct of the study. The journal articles that were downloaded and reviewed relevant to the proposed research study are very useful to determine the research methodology. The matrix below will guide in describing and comparing the research designs of each journal article.

Title of the Article	Author(s)	Research Design/Sampling Technique	Sample Size	Remark/Comment
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