

**404 RP/ RESEARCH PROJECT (MARKS 150) / CREDITS 06**

<b>Semester IV</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>Research Project</b>
<b>6 Credits</b>	<b>LTP: 0:2:10</b>	<b>Subject Core Course – Specialization Specific</b>
<b>Course Outcomes:CO</b>	<b>COGNITIVE ABILITIES</b>	<b>COURSE OUTCOMES</b>
CO 404.1	REMEMBERING	Carry out a substantial research-based project
CO 404.2	UNDERSTANDING	Demonstrate capacity to improve student achievement, engagement and retention
CO 404.3	UNDERSTANDING	An understanding of the ethical issues associated with practitioner research
CO 404.4	APPLYING	Applying domain knowledge and foundational research skills to address a research problem.
CO 404.5	ANALYSING	Analyze data and synthesize research findings.
CO 404.6	CREATING	Report research findings in written and verbal forms and use research findings to advance education theory and practice.

**A] Preamble:**

A research project is a systematic and organized endeavor undertaken to investigate a specific topic, question, or problem in order to gain new insights, knowledge, or understanding. The objective of the research project is to further develop the student's ability to carry out and contribute to business research. The student should demonstrate, through his/her thesis and orally, an ability to plan, conduct, and present a scientific investigation of relevance to the subject of Business Administration and the student's chosen Master's program. A further aim is to develop skills for the critical examination of investigations and research reports and to provide the student with the opportunity for a deeper level of theoretical study within a chosen area. These projects involve a structured process of inquiry, data collection, analysis, and interpretation to arrive at meaningful conclusions.

**Learning Objectives -**

1. Understand the purpose and significance of research in business management.
2. Develop skills in research methodology, data analysis, and interpretation.
3. Learn to conduct a thorough literature review and critically evaluate existing research.
4. Learn to formulate a clear research question and develop a compelling research proposal.
5. Master the art of writing a well-structured and coherent dissertation.
6. Gain confidence in presenting research findings to an academic audience.

## **B - 1] Conducting research projects can offer benefit and advantages to the students:**

1. **Intellectual Growth:** Engaging in research projects allows students to explore and develop their intellectual curiosity. It encourages critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and the ability to analyse complex issues.
2. **Skill Development:** Research projects help students develop a variety of skills such as information gathering, data analysis, literature review, writing, presentation, and time management. These skills are valuable both academically and in future careers.
3. **Deepened Understanding:** Research enables students to delve deeply into a specific topic, gaining a more comprehensive understanding of it beyond what's covered in regular coursework.
4. **Independent Learning:** Research projects encourage self-directed learning. Students learn how to set their own goals, manage their time, and work independently, fostering a sense of responsibility and initiative.
5. **Problem Solving:** Through research, students confront real-world problems and work towards finding innovative solutions. This experience prepares them to tackle challenges in various aspects of their lives.
6. **Personal Growth:** Research projects can boost students' confidence as they overcome obstacles, contribute to knowledge, and present their findings to peers and professors. This can positively impact their self-esteem and personal growth.
7. **Networking:** Engaging in research projects often involves collaboration with professors, peers, and sometimes professionals in the field. This can lead to valuable networking opportunities and connections that might be beneficial for future academic or career pursuits.
8. **Enhanced Resume/CV:** Having research experience on a resume can make students stand out to potential employers or graduate programs. It demonstrates their commitment to learning and their ability to handle complex tasks.
9. **Contribution to Knowledge:** Even in the early stages of their academic careers, students can contribute to the existing body of knowledge. Their research findings might lead to new insights or perspectives in their chosen field.
10. **Preparation for undertaking Research:** For students considering post graduate, engaging in research during their postgraduate years can provide a taste of the kind of work they might encounter at the next academic level PhD.
11. **Career Exploration:** Research projects can help students explore potential career paths within their field of study. They might discover specific areas they are particularly passionate about.
12. **Personal Interest Pursuit:** Research projects often allow students to delve into topics that deeply interest them, providing a fulfilling and enjoyable learning experience.
13. **Exposure to Research Methods:** Students gain exposure to various research methodologies, which can be beneficial not only in academia but also in fields where data analysis and evidence-based decision-making are crucial.
14. **Critical Evaluation:** Research requires students to evaluate existing literature, sources, and information critically. This skill helps them become more discerning consumers of information. **Long-Term Impact:** Some research projects can have lasting impacts beyond the academic realm, contributing to policy changes, technological advancements, or improvements in various industries.

## **B-2] About Research Project**

**In Semester IV the student shall work under the supervision of the faculty and carry out a Research Project and submit a structured report in TWO hard bound copies (Blackbook) & one soft copy (PDF).** In the interest of environmental considerations, students are encouraged to print their Research Project reports on both faces of the paper. The student is required to conduct advanced research on a topic related to one (or more) of contemporary issues in management. The topic is chosen in consultation with the student's supervisor. The student will prepare and present a detailed research proposal prior to starting the work.

**It is mandatory for the student to seek advanced written approval for Research Report Proposal from the faculty Supervisor and the Director of the Institute about the topic before commencing the Research Project work.** A Research Project outlining the entire problem, including a survey of literature and the various results obtained along with their solutions, is expected to be produced. The student must submit the completed Research Project and make an oral presentation of the same. Through the Research Project, the student is expected to furnish

Zero Level - Chapter Headings

First Level - Main sections in each chapter : to be numbered as 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1 etc.

Second level - Sub- sections in each section : to be numbered as 1.1.1, 1.2.2, 2.1.3, 3.2.1 etc.

Third level - Minor sub-sections i.e., sections in sub-sections. : to be numbered as 1.1.1.1, 1.2.2.1, 2.1.3.2, 3.2.1.4 etc. - to be avoided to the extent possible. evidence of competence in understanding varied aspects of the theme/topic selected and a deep understanding of the specialty area. **The completion of the Research Project / project shall be certified by the Faculty Supervisor, HOD & approved by the Director of the Institute.**

- 1) All sheets are to be A4 size.
- 2) The Text in all the chapters shall be in Times New Roman 12 Font, Regular, justified with line spacing of 1.15.
- 3) The margins shall be as follows: Top & Bottom: 0.8 inches; Left: 1 inch, Right: 0.5 inches
- 4) One extra line spacing should be left in between paragraphs.
- 5) All Chapter headings are to be centred in the Font Times New Roman 14 size Bold.
- 6) All headings of section shall be in Times New Roman 12 Bold
- 7) All sub-section headings shall be in Times New Roman , size, 12, Bold, Italic.
- 8) All minor sub-section headings shall be in Times New Roman , size, 12, Regular.
- 9) It is advised that the sections and sub- sections are to be limited to 3rd level
- 10) All the references / Bibliography are to be listed at the end, arranged in the chronological order and are to be numbered 1, 2, 3.....etc.
- 11) The reference No. should be given as superscript in the report where ever they appear.
- 12) All the figures are to be numbered as Fig. 1.1, Fig. 2.3 etc indicating the chapter No and the sl. No. of the figure in that chapter. The title of the figure should at the bottom of the figure and should be numbered as shown below. Fig. 1.1 Study Area Fig. 2.1 Definition Sketch Fig. 3.2 Experimental Setup etc...
- 13) All the figures are to be preferably placed at the end of each chapter. Alternatively, they can be placed after the page where they are first referred. Uniformity should be maintained and under no circumstances these two alternatives indicated should be mixed.

### **Research projects may include:**

Developing a research question or statement

Finding and evaluating sources

Conducting research

Writing a report etc

### **Students can do-**

Survey based research.

Secondary data analysis such as decision analysis, cost effectiveness analysis or Meta-analysis.

Observation based/Interview based research.

Each student must work under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Depending on the area of research interest or the research topic,

### **B-3] Research Project Process**

#### **I. SELECTION OF THE RESEARCH TOPIC:**

#### **The first major challenge in conducting research**

1. The easiest way is working with a faculty mentor who is active in research and may have defined one or more researchable questions.
2. Consulting with leading faculty in your area of interest and asking for advice on researchable topics is another avenue for research ideas.
3. Developing research ideas from loose ends discovered during:  
a) desk research/FP/SIP/OJT, b) literature review c) reviewing journal article(s), and d) discussions, critique of research articles in journal club, could be an interesting, and a rewarding experience.

#### **II. DEVELOPING THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

A research proposal helps to develop research idea into a valid, scientific research project. A general outline of the elements of a Research Proposal is presented. Although the Research Project Outline provides a description of all the elements of a research project, students are required to complete the writing up of the Methodology section before beginning the project implementation. Writing of the research proposal has a twofold purpose:

- it provides the researcher, with the blueprint for implementing the project, and
- it has to be submitted to the research supervisor, HOD and Director of the Institute) for securing approval. Study Title

### **III. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

In order to conduct a valid, scientific study, it is important that student rigorously follow the study design outlined in your research proposal and approved by the research supervisor. To ensure timely completion of the project, it is important to stay within the framework discussed in the Timeline.

### **IV. WRITE-UP OF PROJECT RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This should follow directly from your research proposal. The research project outline provides a 'how to' write-up of the results and discussion sections.

### **V. RESEARCH PRESENTATION**

Once the rese

arch project is complete, student have to make a public oral presentation to present the work.

### **B-4] OUTLINE OF A RESEARCH PROJECT**

**I. TITLE PAGE** (Page 1, DO NOT NUMBER)

## **A Project Report On**

**"Title of the project"**

at / for

**"Name of the organization"**

By

**"Name of the Student"**

(Only name, do not mention qualifications)

Under the guidance of

**"Name of the Faculty"**

Submitted to

**"Savitribai Phule University of Pune"**

In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Master of

Business Administration (MBA)

Through

Dr Vithalrao Vikhe Patil Foundation's

**Institute of Business Management & Rural Development,**

**Ahilyanagar-414111.**

(Year \_\_\_\_\_)

## **II. SUMMARY (Page2, 1-2 pages; DO NOT NUMBER)**

The summary should be brief and include: 1) a few sentences introducing the topic of current study (could include a couple of references); 2) statement of the problem; 3) a brief description of the methodology to be used including duration of study, subject selection criteria, tests to be performed, and/or data to be collected; 4) significance and implications of the study (why is it important to do the study, and what are the benefits: fill in gap in knowledge; develop further understanding of a clinical situation; modify current approach to treatment; cost-benefit analysis etc., etc.).

## **III. INTRODUCTION (Page 3; up to 2 – 3 pages)**

This section consists of an overview of the research question and some indication of the study's worth and the contribution it is apt to make to the field of study. It should include the rationale for the research project.

## **IV. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE (Page 4; up to 4 –6 pages; a minimum of 10 references required).**

Use references to establish the link between the proposed study and previous work done on the topic, lay the groundwork for the proposed study, and demonstrate why it is important and timely. The literature review is not just a compilation of facts, but a coherent argument that leads to the description of the proposed study.

## **V. PROBLEM STATEMENT & RESEARCH HYPOTHESES (up to 1/2-1 page)**

The problem statement describes the problem posed by the proposed study and specifies it in the form of Research Hypotheses. The research hypotheses should flow logically from the discussion presented in the Review of Literature and the Statement of the Problem. The hypotheses should be very specific in presenting what aspects of the research topic will be studied, and how. The hypotheses (If any) should be optimally clear, concise, meaningful, and typically written in the present tense. One recommended statement of the criteria for a good hypothesis is that is: a) be free of ambiguity, b) express the relationship between two variables or concepts, and c) imply an empirical test. AVOID having more than one hypothesis embedded in a single, complex statement. A conceptual model represents a visual depiction of the relationship between all the variables in your study. It is a good place to start when planning your research project, and also helps in developing your hypotheses.

## **VI. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (up to 2-3 pages)**

1. Study Duration: Describe the time frame during for which data will be collected (retrospective study; chart reviews), or intervention administered (prospective study; etc). If any
2. Subject Selection: Of particular importance in this section are:
  - a) the sampling procedure to be used – random, stratified, convenience, b) the source of the subjects, c) the criteria for selection – clearly state inclusion/exclusion d) the rationale for determining sample size – use power test to determine sample size for significance; realistic estimates of crossovers, dropouts must be used in calculating sample size
3. Instrumentation or Measures: This section lists all the variables (intervention as well as outcome variables) you would be examining in your study, and describes what particular measures, or forms, or data collection sheets you will be using to measure the variables.

4. Procedures: This section provides a detailed description of the exact steps to be taken to conduct your research. This includes the procedure used to contact subjects, obtaining Informed Consent, and collecting the data.

5. Data Analysis: In this section describe the statistical tests that will be used to address the research hypotheses. Although intimidating, this section forces you to think how you will analyze (or have it analyzed) at the time the proposal is generated rather than after the data are collected. This way, you can avoid wasting time collecting data that are not analysable because they are not in the collected in the correct format.

6. Study Limitations: Describe the shortcomings and weakness of your study most likely to impact the internal validity of your study.

## **VII. RESULTS**

In this section, you present your findings as clearly as possible. The Results section contains JUST THE FACTS: tables, figures, transcript summaries, and your description of what is noteworthy and important about these. Begin with a description of the sample. Simple demographics can be presented in tabular form. Follow with presenting your findings in terms of the research questions/hypotheses tested.

## **VIII. DISCUSSION**

This section typically contains:

- An overview of significant findings
- A consideration of the finding in light of previous research
- A careful examination of findings that fail to support your hypotheses
- Limitations of the study that may affect the generalizability of the results
- Recommendations for further research
- Implications of study for professional practice

## **IX. REFERENCES**

Students must cite all studies referred to in the proposal, using the APA citation method

### **B-5] Evaluation Pattern:**

**Total Marks: 150**

**Formative Assessment: 100 Marks**

**Summative Assessment: 50 Marks**

### **1] Formative Assessment Weightage 100 marks**

1. Project Proposal
2. Three Progress Reports
3. Final Research Project Report

#### **Pre- submission Presentation Research Project Objectives, Research Question and Hypotheses**

- Introduction and literature Review
- Methodology
- Quality of Analysis and Research, discussion and findings
- Documentation and Reporting
- References

## 2] Summative Assessment Weightage 50 marks

1. There shall be a panel of 2 examiners for the Final Viva-Voce
2. University shall nominate External Examiners
3. Director shall nominate Internal Examiners
4. Presentation by each student along with a spiral bound report is mandatory
5. Students will deliver a presentation of 15 minutes about their OJT project.

Weightages for summative assessment shall be as follows Presentation 05 marks

Viva-Voce – 20 marks

Report – 15 marks

Ability to connect with the theoretical & conceptual frame work – 10 marks

### **The Internal & the External viva-voce shall evaluate the candidate based on:**

1. Adequacy of work undertaken by the student
2. Application of concepts learned in Sem I, II and III
3. Analytical capabilities
4. Technical Writing & Documentation Skills
5. Outcome of the project – sense of purpose
6. Utility of the project to the organization
7. Variety and relevance of learning experience

**Presentation could be through any of the enlisted formats** (this is an indicative list and innovative formats if any beyond this list may be adopted) -

4. Traditional Slide Deck Presentation
5. Infographics
6. Video presentation
7. Paper presentation
8. Poster presentation
9. Webinar or online presentation
10. TED-style presentation
11. Storytelling Presentation etc.