

Chapter 24

Thesis Writing

Based on the nature and purpose of the content, there are numerous classes of scientific communications. Theses represent the class of research communications that are of great importance to the students. Thesis is part and parcel of the master's and doctoral programme in almost every academic institution. In some institutions, even the bachelor students are expected to submit their brief report on project.

Thesis is the detailed written communication of the problem statement, abstract of the research process and results, the literature which helped the researcher in designing and supporting his study, the research methods which researcher used as a means of manipulation, control, observation, measurement and data analysis and the results of the research work along with its discussion and the bibliography of the reference material used for designing of the study and for supporting of the results of study.

Format of the thesis varies from university to university. But review of the thesis format used by various universities shows existence of certain common components in every thesis. These common components of the thesis are:

1. Title Page
2. Acknowledgement
3. Certificates -of authentication and examination
4. Table of contents
5. Abstract - of the research process and results
6. Introduction - to the study and the problem statement
7. Review of Literature
8. Research Methodology/ Methods and Materials

- 9. Results and Discussion
- 10. Summary and Conclusion
- 11. Bibliography
- 12. Vitae.

Actual thesis may show deviations from the above listed components. The deviations will be minor. Sometimes even though the wording (naming) pattern of the component differs but the name of the component gives same meaning. Below given is the description chart about the each of the component.

Component	Description
Title	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It should be clear, concise and specific• It should denote the central ideas of your thesis• It must imply what your argument will reveal about your topic• Abbreviations should be avoided in titles unless a scientific community is better aware by its acronym
Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideally, length should not exceed twenty (20) words• Genuine technical, financial and educational contribution of the academic institutions, technical experts, funding agencies, facility providers and research aide should be acknowledged.• Acknowledgement should not be confused with the ‘dedication’
Certificates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certificate of originality of the work (from author)• Certificate of research guide• Certification by advisory committee
Abstract	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certificate of competent authority/head of the institution• Length should be limited to 250-500 words• It should summarise the research process and the findings of the research• It should cover entire range of important findings and should be conclusive• More emphasis should be on findings and conclusion rather than on research process• The abstract should also be written in the third person• Generally, the first sentence of an abstract describes the entire study; subsequent sentences expand on that description.
Table of contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enlist the entire list of headings and subheadings along with the with their respective page numbers <p>The table of contents may be followed by List of tables, List of figures, List of illustrations, List of symbols and list of abbreviations wherever necessary</p>
Introduction	<p>It should include brief details about</p>

(Contd.)

Component	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research problem • Problem statement • Statement of purpose • Rationale and significance • Overview of methodology • Expected outcomes • Assumptions of the study • Limitations of study
Review of literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks should state the content and organization of the literature reviewed as well as the strategy used in the literature search • It should analyse and synthesise the relevant studies across discipline and compare & contrast different research approaches, outcomes, interpretations and conclusions • Review the primary and secondary source that are recently published empirical studies in scholarly journals and publications • Use archival records if the nature of research demands for it; for example case studies • Content should be logically organized by theme or subtopic, from broad to narrow • Provides section summaries • Describe the Conceptual framework at the end of review of literature
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the research problem • Rationale of research approach • Context of the research • Operationalization of variables • Define population and entail the sampling procedure • Data collection methods • Data analysis methods • Limitations and delimitations
Results and discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings should be presented in clear narrative form using plentiful verbatim quotes, and detailed description • Findings should be supported by the previous studies • Deviants findings should be justified with alternative explanations • Findings should be logically arranged in the form the research proceeded • Discussion part should provide an in-depth analysis of the findings
Summary and conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This chapter reflects upon the findings of the study, interrelates the findings if necessary and provides meaning to the entire set of findings. • Draw conclusions on research problem based on the findings of the study.

(Contd.)

Component	Description
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set the stage for the further study by describing what was outcome of study and what further needs to be done for the advancement of science • Enlists the citation for the reviewed literature, which appears all along the entire content of the thesis. • Citation should be written in the format prescribed by the university/institution. • Citation should appear in alphabetical order.
Vitae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefs the authors information, educational background, area of expertise, contact information etc.

Exercise

- Select a recently published thesis from library and evaluate the thesis content against the checklist table provided in this chapter.
- Discuss in detail how thesis writing differs from technical report writing.

[illegible]

Reference

Bloomberg, L. and Volpe, M. (2012). *Completing your qualitative dissertation: A road map from beginning to end* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, Calif.: SAGE Publications.

NIPA Publications on Extension Education and Rural Development

S.No.	Title	Author	ISBN	Year
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Research Methodology in Social Sciences

The book clearly illustrates the fundamental concepts related to the aspect of social research in the context of Extension Education. In order to ease the understanding of basic concepts, widely used simplest research methods and tools and techniques of data collection. The book is divided into 4 parts

Foundations of social research deals with universal and basic units of social research like scientific approach, meaning, process and development of scientific research problem. It also deals with defining and measurement of variables and testing of reliability and validity of measuring instruments.

Research Methods section deals with the three major research methods used in extension education/ Agricultural extension, namely Survey research, Action research and case study. This section discusses in detail the process, relative advantages and limitations of each of these three methods. There are numerous research methods used in social research.

Tools and techniques of data collection deals with situation suitability, relative advantages and limitation of various data collections techniques like face to face interview, mailed questionnaire, observation method, content analysis, sociometry and projective methods.

Data processing and report writing section deals with making the collected data amenable for statistical analysis i.e. coding. This section discusses in detail the various types of codes and their utility. It also deals with formulation and testing of hypothesis and writing of the research report.

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