

# Action Research Dissertation

What to think about



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# What is Action Research?



## Differences between Action Research and Traditional Research

Characteristics	Action Research	Traditional Research
<i>Type of problem</i>	<i>Practical problem (directly or indirectly experienced by research practitioner)</i>	<i>Literature-based problem (based on the gap identified in the literature)</i>
<i>Ultimate goal</i>	<b>Address a practical problem</b> and improve professional practice	<b>Fill a gap</b> in the literature and contribute to the knowledge in a field
<i>Level of involvement</i>	Participants could be actively involved from the start to the end of the study	Participants are normally involved during the data collection stage

# Focus of the Presentation

Discussing the main sections in chapters 1-5

<b>Chapter</b>
Chapter One: Introduction
Chapter Two: Literature Review
Chapter Three: Methodology
Chapter Four: Findings
Chapter Five: Discussion

# Writing Action Research Dissertation with the Readers in Mind

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Main Goal</b> <i>Readers will...</i>
<b>Chapter One:</b> Introduction <i>(Here is my study about)</i>	Know <i>what</i> the problem was, <i>who</i> were affected by the problem, <i>why</i> it was important to address the problem, and <i>how</i> you planned to address it
<b>Chapter Two:</b> Literature Review <i>(Here is how my study is connected to the existing literature)</i>	Understand <i>studies, theories and best practices</i> that inform the problem, solution to the problem and/or actions you plan to take in the study.
<b>Chapter Three:</b> Methodology <i>(Here is how I conducted my study)</i>	Know <i>what</i> research method you used, <i>how</i> you collected and analyzed data, <i>who</i> were your participants, and <i>where</i> the data collection took place
<b>Chapter Four:</b> Findings <i>(Here are the outcomes of the study)</i>	Understand <i>participants' characteristics</i> , <i>how</i> data was analyzed, <i>what</i> the findings were, and <i>how</i> they addressed the research questions
<b>Chapter Five:</b> Discussion <i>(Here are my interpretations and implications of the findings)</i>	Know <i>what</i> the findings mean and imply, <i>how</i> you would use the findings, and <i>who</i> should learn or act based on the findings



# Chapter One: Introduction

- Background of the Problem
- Research Problem
- Purpose of the Study
- Research Questions
- Definition of Key Terms
- Scope/Delimitations of the Study
- Significance of the Study
- Conceptual/Theoretical Framework
- Limitations of the Study

# Chapter One

Focus



Context



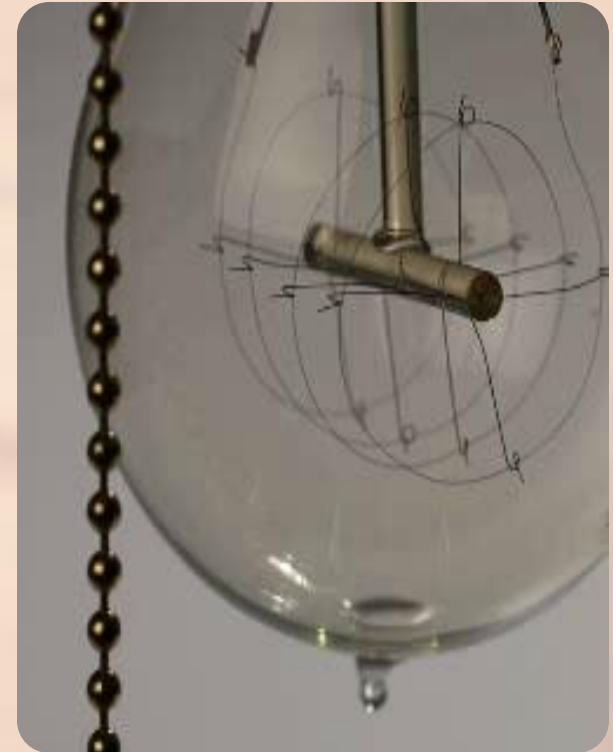
## □ Background of the Problem *(Telling your story about the problem)*

- What is the practical problem?
- In what context does the problem occur?
- Who are directly and indirectly affected by the problem?
- What is currently been done to address the problem?
- What is the rationale behind the focus of the study?
  - ***Examining the problem:*** Why is there a need to examine the problem?
  - ***Generate solution to the problem:*** Why do you want to came up with potential solution?
  - ***Implement potential solution:*** Why do you want to implement a solution?

# Chapter One

## □ Research Problem

- What specific problem do you want to directly address in your study?
- The research problem could be:
  - Lack of understanding of the existing problem
  - No effective solution to the problem
  - Lack of assessment of the an existing intervention





# Chapter One

## □ Purpose of the Study

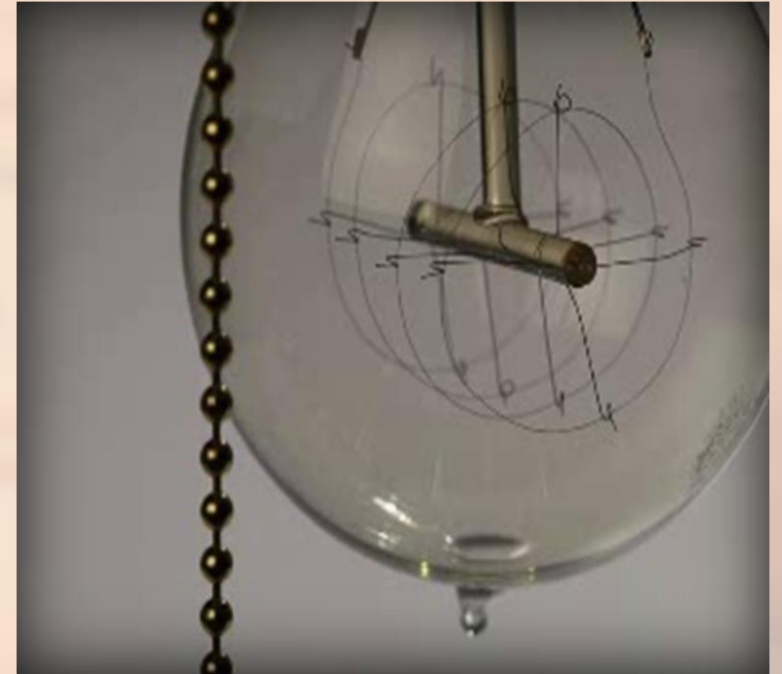
- What do you plan to do or find out in the study?
- *Features*
  1. Operative or action words
  2. Specific focus
  3. Specific participants
  4. Research approach and/or data collection strategies
  5. Specific use of the findings



# Chapter One

## □ Research Questions

- Based on the purpose of the study, what questions do you want address?
- Exploratory research question (*open-end in nature*) → Qualitative research questions
- Confirmatory research question (*closed-end questions*) → Quantitative research questions



# Chapter One

## □ Definition of Key Terms

- In simple terms, what do the main concepts mean?

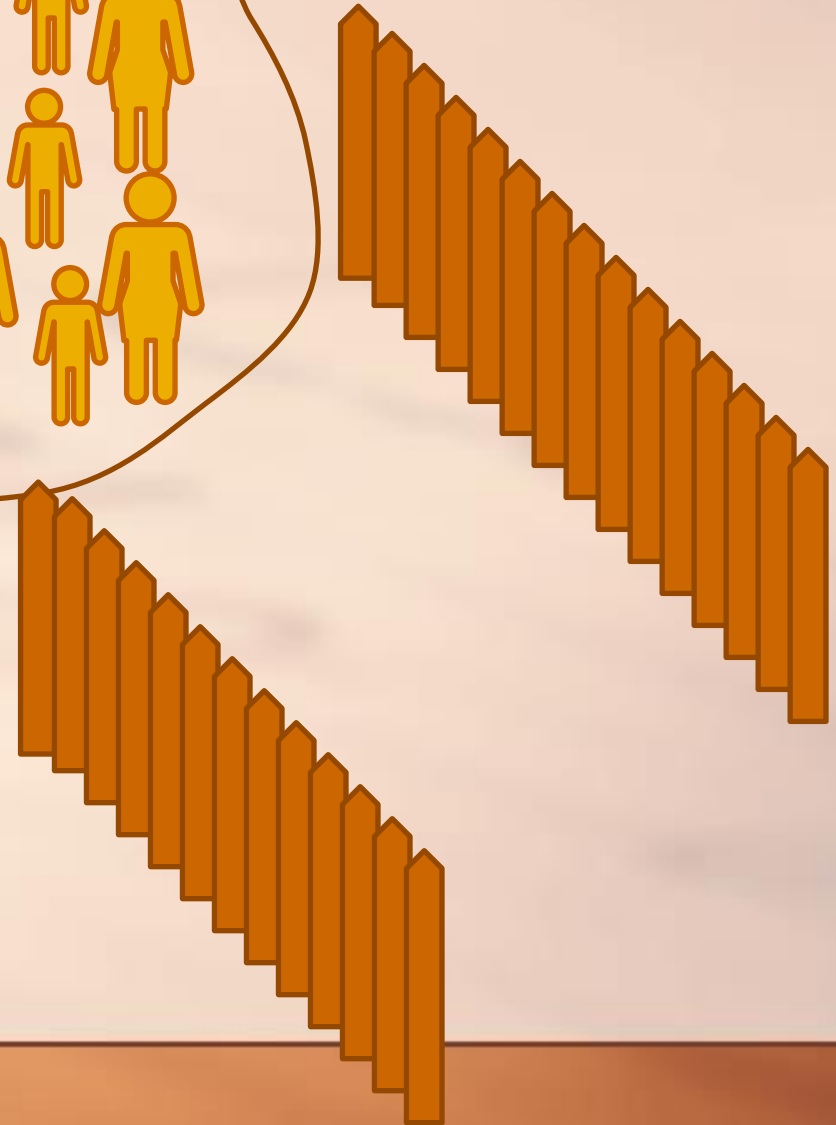
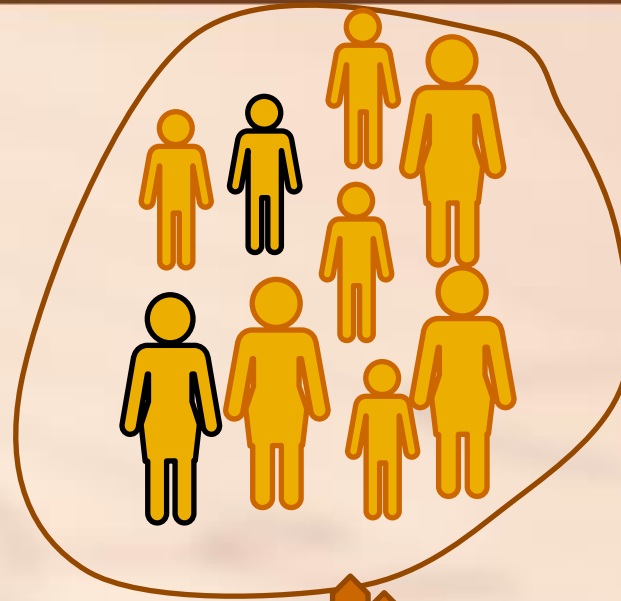
It is about:

- Moving from ***abstract concepts*** to ***practical ideas***
- Assigning ***specific attributes*** to ***abstract terms***

# Chapter One

## □ Scope/Delimitations of the Study

- What are the features of the study?
  - Population/participants
  - Method
  - Location
  - Phenomenon
    - Problem, purpose and research questions
- What are their distinct parameters?



# Chapter One

## □ Significance of the Study

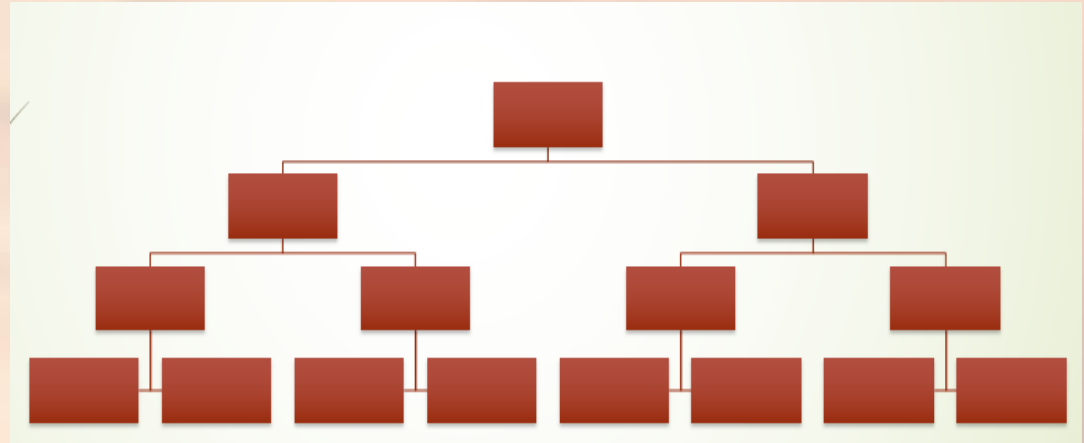
- Who will directly or indirectly benefit from the study?
- What are immediate benefits of the study?
- What are long-term benefits of the study?
- What contribution would the study to the professional practice?



# Chapter One

## □ Conceptual/Theoretical Framework

- What concepts, models or theories inform or explain the:
  - Existence of the problem
  - Nature of the problem
  - Severity and effects of the problem
  - Efficacy of the existing solution
  - Nature and/or efficacy of the potential solution
- Synthesize how the selected concepts, models or theories inform or explain one or more of the above areas



# Chapter One

## ❑ Limitations of the Study

- Think about the actions to be taken and decisions to be made
- What are the negative implications or consequences (or weaknesses) of the decisions and actions?



A close-up photograph of several interlocking metal gears, likely from a watch movement, showing intricate details of the teeth and circular cutouts. The gears are set against a blurred background of more gears.

## Chapter Two: Literature Review

### □ Outline

- The essence of this chapter
- What to include in this chapter



# Chapter Two

## □ Essence of reviewing literature for your action research dissertation

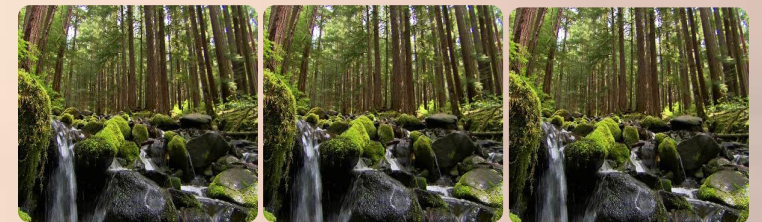
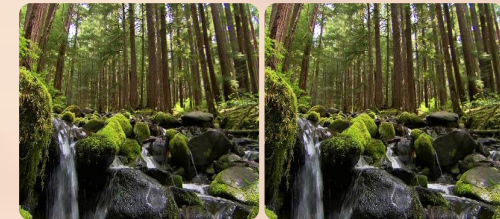
- Learn more about the problem
- Learn about potential solution and best practices
- Justify your decisions in the study (especially why you plan to focus on a particular problem)
- Connect your study to existing literature
- Educate readers about studies done on the problem




# Chapter Two

## □ What to include in this chapter

- ***Literature sources:*** Where you found the literature
  - Review best practices (*i.e. Action research studies*)
  - Review traditional research, position papers and books
  - ***Literature selection strategy:*** How you selected appropriate literature
- ***Synthesis of the relevant information:*** Comparing and contrasting relevant information in relation to the phenomenon of study





## Chapter Three: Methodology

- Chapter Overview
- Research Questions and their Rationales
- **Research Design and Paradigm**
- **Researcher's Roles, Background and Biases**
- Population and Sample
- Procedure
- Quality Assurance
- Instrumentation
- Data Processing
- Assumptions
- Limitations
- Ethical Assurances

### Sources

<https://www.slideshare.net/kontorphilip/writing-the-methodology-chapter-of-your-dissertation>  
<https://www.slideshare.net/kontorphilip/writing-the-methodology-chapter-of-a-qualitative-study>

# Chapter Three

## Research Design and Paradigm

### ***Research Design***

- Stating and describing your research design and its strengths
- Providing the reason why is it appropriate for your study



# Chapter Three

## Research Design and Paradigm

### ***Research Paradigm***

- Stating and describing your research paradigm and its assumptions
- Stating how it informs your research design



# Chapter Three

## Researcher's Roles, Background and Biases

***Sharing about your***

*Role as a researcher,  
facilitator and/or practitioner*



***Acknowledging your***

*Background,  
Beliefs & Biases*



***Providing steps on how  
you plan to attain***

*Bias-free state*





## Chapter Four: Results

- Overview
- Setting/context
- Demographics
- Data Analysis Process/Procedure
- Presentation of the Main Findings
- Presentation of other Findings (if any)

A close-up photograph of several interlocking metal gears of various sizes, showing their teeth and circular faces. The gears are set against a dark background, and the lighting highlights their metallic texture and the precision of their design. The image is partially obscured by a white curved shape on the right side of the slide.

# Chapter Five: Discussion

## □ Outline

- Overview
- Summary of the findings
- Interpretation of the findings (including connecting them to the literature reviewed in chapter two)
- **Implications of the study (Including an *action plan*)**
- Limitations
- Recommendations



# Chapter Five

## Implications of the study (Including an action plan)

1. *Based on the findings and interpretations, what lessons can we draw from the data?*
  - Lessons for:*
    - *Practitioners*
    - *Researchers*
    - *Policy makers (if any)*
    - *School administrators (if any)*
  
2. *Based on the findings and interpretations, what is your action plan?*
  - How do you plan to use the findings?*
  - Considering the problem and the findings, what actions do you plan to take?*

# References

Craig, D. V. (2009). *Action research essentials*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.



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