

Dissertation

Oxford Dictionary defines dissertation as ‘a long essay on a particular subject or topic especially written for a university degree or diploma’. The Cambridge dictionary defines dissertation as “a long piece of writing on a particular subject, especially one that is done to receive a degree at college or university”.

A dissertation is a long piece of academic writing based on original research, submitted as part of a doctoral or master's degree. A dissertation is a formal academic document following the rules that govern the way in which it is presented. A master's dissertation is a substantial document presenting independent research that makes a contribution to the current body of knowledge in a scholarly field. A dissertation may involve in carrying out empirical work that has not been done before, using already known material but with a new interpretation, trying out something that previously only been done in other countries or bringing new evidence to bear on an old issue.

A dissertation adheres to a standard format, generally with several basic chapters that may include an introduction and statement of the problem, a review of the literature pertinent to the problem, an explanation of the materials and methods used to solve the problem, a results section, a discussion of the results, and a conclusion. A formal list of references cited in the dissertation also is required. The dissertation must be formatted to conform to the FOM specifications as stated in Master’s Degree Dissertation Guidelines- 2019.

Purposes of Dissertation

Following are the purposes of dissertation:

- Expose you to the business or social reality.
- Promote student-directed learning.
- Provide opportunity to you to work in area of your interest.
- Provide you an opportunity to integrate your course work knowledge with application.
- Develop inter-personal and communication skills.
- Provide opportunity to work closely with a faculty member.
- Develop data-processing and report writing skills (preliminary research training).
- Provide opportunity to learn how organizations work.
- Provide opportunity to make useful contacts.

Dissertation Proposal Writing

The dissertation proposal describes what the researcher intends to do and how it will be done. It should outline in clear terms the nature and intent of the research. The proposal works as a road map in the journey of research. Students must submit a dissertation proposal to the Management Research Committee of the concerned campus. Once

approved, the student will have to prepare the report as outlined in the proposal. In the process of writing a proposal, the first step is to identify the possible area of the study. In the second step, students should do the preliminary review of literature in the chosen area of the study and raise some issues for investigation. In the next step, it is important to examine whether data will be available on the chosen topic or not. Finally, it is wise to evaluate possible obstacles (e. g. the study will take too long time to complete, or requires long-distance travel, or involves health hazard, etc.) in carrying out research on the chosen area. If everything goes fine to this point, the researcher can finalize the title for the research work. The title of the dissertation should reflect the main idea of the research work. The title should be concise but should incorporate significant variables in the study and their relationship. Always avoid using abbreviations and verbose terms (e. g. "A Study of ..., An Investigation into ..., An Understanding of ...") in the title. It is generally suggested to limit the length of the title within 12 words.

Components of Proposal

A. Title page: Title font Times New Roman **14 bold** ; other 12

B. Body: Body should include the following:

1. Background of the study: The purpose of this section is to create the context to the study. This section should describe about the core aspect of the topic and clearly establish the focus of study. It should be written based on factual information on the topic and the institutions under study.

2. Problem statement: The purpose of this section is to establish research issues. Remember, problem statement is not the listing of "difficulties" or "problems". It is the statement of why the situation (e. g. the relationship – improved or worsened - between variables exists). Therefore, it is important that problem statement must be supported by evidence coming from the review of literature. Evidences from the literature justify why the research problem is worth investigating. Problem statement section normally ends by raising research questions. The researcher should demonstrate with adequate review of both theory and empirical researches that the problems that have been chosen for the study are valuable to the readers.

3. Objectives of the study: Objectives of the study specifies what the researcher intends to do. It is customary to state general objective of the research in one or two sentences, then list the specific objectives. In fact, specific objectives are conversion of research questions into a to-do list, and general objective is the reflection of all the specific objectives. There are a few guidelines on the use of action verb in setting objectives. Use action verbs (like to examine, analyze, assess, compare, etc.) that can really be performed in the study. Words like to know, see, understand etc. are generally avoided to frame objectives as they are difficult to realize.

4. Hypothesis (if any): Research questions posed in Problem Statement section requires answers. Hypotheses testing are one concrete way of answering those questions. If the researcher has chosen this approach to answering the questions, the hypotheses have to be stated in this section.

5. Rationale of the study: In this section, the researcher should state why this study is worthwhile and useful to the readers. The study could add to existing knowledge, improve current practices or add to policy making. Be specific and honest. Unjustified claims reduce the value of the research.

6. Limitations of the study: Limitations inhibit the generalizability and applicability of the research findings. They signal warnings to the readers on the applicability of the study. The researcher should differentiate between the scope of the study and the limitations of the study. Scope specifies the area of the study; limitations arise within the scope. Issues not covered in the scope are not the limitations.

7. Brief review of the literature: The purpose of this section is to review related literature in order to develop fuller understanding on the topic. It may include theoretical review and empirical review. **Theoretical review** is meant to review literature related to conceptual aspects of the topic. **Empirical review** is meant to review of recent research articles and reports related to the topic of the research.

Literature related to the government policy, regulations and any other relevant aspects of the study should also be covered in this section. The review of literature should clearly establish with evidence that there exists research gap. In review, researchers use others' resources (texts, data, idea, etc.) for their own purpose. Therefore, it is essential to give credit to the original authors. There are specific ways of crediting them in the text and listing the materials in the list of references. Faculty of Management follows the APA style of citation and referencing.

8. Research methodology: What sets apart the research writing with other forms of writing is that research writing clearly spells out in the report the set of research methods followed while carrying out the research. It makes the research writing "scientific" and allows other researchers to verify the findings, if they wish, by following the same set of methods. This chapter opens up with an introduction and includes (i) research design, (ii) population and sample, and sampling design, (iii) nature and sources of data, and the instrument of data collection, (iv) research framework and definition of variables and (v) methods of analysis,.

State the research design (exploratory, descriptive, comparative, interventional, and qualitative) followed in the study. Clearly identify the population of the study and draw samples representative to the population. Be careful while selecting the sampling technique (random, stratified, purposive, conveyance, etc.); only appropriate sampling technique ensures representativeness of the sample. Specify whether primary or secondary or both types of data will be used. Also specify the sources, methods and

instruments of data collection. Mostly, a set of tools (e. g. financial, statistical) are used to analyze the data. In some cases, models are used in the analyses. They must be spelt out. Finally, the research framework should be developed to streamline the research process. The review of theory and evidences from the empirical studies reviewed should guide the development of the research framework of the study. The researcher should clearly identify the variables, define them and establish their interrelationship at this point.

C. References [Use APA style]

Considerations:

- i. Using present and future tense is recommended.
- ii. Encouraged in specialization area.
- iii. Encouraged primary data based.
- iii. About 8-12 pages.
- iv. Proposal must be based on at least 1 related international research article.
- v. Page no. “1” begins from “Background of the Study” and continues for “References” also.
- vi. International research article must be attached to the proposal.

Guidelines for Students

After submission of Proposal, you have to do the following research activities to prepare final dissertation:

- 1. Try to make your topic more specific and self-explanatory.
- 2. Do extensive literatures review (at least 10 recent international articles).

S. N.	Date of Publication	Article	Writers	Objectives	Methodology	Findings
1	2023					
2	2022					
3	2021					

- 3. Find research gap.
- 4. Select appropriate research design, population, sample size, data collection method, sources of data, questionnaire design.
- 5. Construct Research Frame work and define variables with appropriate review.
- 6. Analyze your data by the help of statistical and financial tools.
- 7. If you use secondary data only, collect the data from authentic sources and take at least 10 years of data for analysis. Include all data in your appendices.
- 8. Write down summary, conclusion and discussion in an attractive form.
- 9. Do not make copy from other thesis, books, and journals.

Note: SPSS and excel is compulsory for analyzing data



Appendix-I
Cover Page

Title of the Dissertation

A Dissertation Proposal

Submitted to:

The Office of the Dean
Faculty of Management
Tribhuvan University

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree in Business Studies

Submitted by:

Full Name of the Student:

Campus Roll No:

Exam Roll No.:

Registration No:

Campus Name

Place

Submission date (Month and Year)

Appendix-II
Some Dissertation topics

1. Impact of Strategic Planning on Financial Performance of
 2. Relationship between Strategic Management and Financial Performance of
 3. Practice of Corporate Social Responsibility in
 4. Relationship between Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Performance
 5. Porter's 5 Forces Model in
 6. Balanced Scorecard Analysis of
 7. Practice of Total Quality Management in
 8. Foreign Direct Investment in the Nepalese Context
 9. Performance Evaluation System in Nepalese Organizations
 10. The Nature and Causes of Nepal's Poor FDI Performance
 11. Critical Success Factors inIndustry in Nepal
 12. The Efficiency of Commercial Banking Sector in Nepal
 13. Corporate Social Responsibility in Commercial Banks of Nepal
 14. Corporate Social Performance and its Disclosure in Nepalese Financial Institutions
 15. Customers' Attitudes Towards E-Banking in Nepal
 16. Organizational Culture and Firm Performance in Nepalese Banking Sector
 17. Employee Satisfaction and Organizational Performance: Evidence from Selected Commercial Banks of Nepal
 18. Consumer Buying Behavior of Pirated Products in Nepal
 19. Factors Determining the Marketing Strategies of Insurance Companies in Nepal
 20. Customer Relationship Management in Nepalese Telecom Industry: A Study of consumers' Perspective
 21. Green Marketing: A Study of Nepalese Consumers' Awareness towards Environment Friendly Products
 22. Corporate Structure and Financial Information : An Assessment of Nepalese Commercial Banks Using CAMEL Analysis
 23. Total Quality Management Practices in Commercial Banks
 24. Practices of FDI in Nepal
 25. Problems and Prospects of Women Business Leaders/Entrepreneurs
 26. Teaching Style of Professors and its Impact on Learning of Students
 27. Sales and Production Planning in
 28. Customer Profitability Analysis
 29. Brand Loyalty and its Impact on Profitability.....
 30. Bonus Shares Practices in Nepalese Commercial Banks
 31. Consumers' Attitude towards Online Shopping.
 32. Problems and Prospects of Microfinance in Nepal
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