

ELEMENTS OF SYNOPSIS

Dr. Supriya

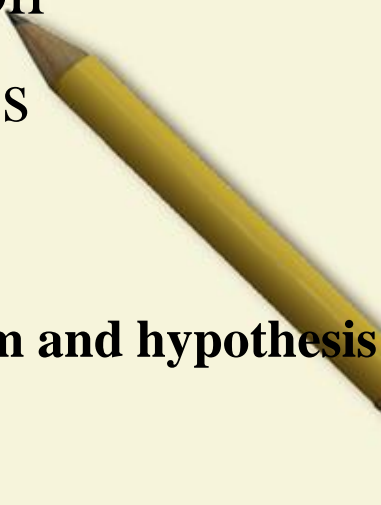
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SYNOPSIS : INTRODUCTION

- **Literally, Synopsis (Greek word, sun - together, opsis - seeing) means brief summary of something. Frequently, both the terms are used as synonyms but the term 'synopsis' is used more often.**
- **Synopsis is the gist of your planned project submitted for approval from competent authorities. It gives a panoramic view of your research for quick analysis by the reviewers.**
- **A synopsis of a research project or dissertation is a document submitted to an authority or an institution for the purpose of :**
- **Formal registration to universities for the award of a degree or doctorate**
- **Peer review**
- **Financial assistance from organizations like ICAR, ICSSR, DST, and MHRD or several research Institution**
- **Thus, a synopsis forms an integral part of a research project, dissertation or a thesis. Several universities have made it mandatory for the postgraduate degree student to prepare a thesis as a part of their postgraduate training.**

TITLE & TITLE PAGE

- ❑ Title page includes selected Title; Degree & Name of Affiliated Institution; Student Name, Class, Designation, Date of Submission; Supervisor Name & Designation
- ❑ Title: The title of the research project should be brief but informative.
- ❑ Sensationalization of the title is best avoided.
- ❑ It should neither be too short nor too long.
- ❑ Any name of the institution, the number of cases to be studied should not be included

A Research Proposal Submitted for Post-Doctoral Fellowship ICSSR, New Delhi

SPATIO-TEMPORAL CHANGES IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN BIHAR : MYTH AND REALITY



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INTRODUCTION

✓ There is no specific format for this but by following this guide you should ensure that the main aspects of a research proposal are covered. In preparing your synopsis, you should restrict the size of your research area in line with the length of dissertation required by the university

✓ Some of the important points are taken in account that Introduction always seek questions: what, why, how, etc...

○ 150-175 words;

○ Background Information

○ What work (if any) already exists in this area?

○ What are its strengths and deficiencies?

○ How would further work advance our knowledge of the wider area of study?

○ Is an entirely new area of study being opened up? - Why is this important?

○ Numbering of References, if any should start from here.

✓ Overall introduction to the selected topic should be – *Brief, Precise but adequate!*

Introduction Explained

Explains themes

Spatio-Temporal Changes in the Socio-Economic Status of Women in Bihar: Myth and Reality

Dr. Sujana

Introduction and Relevance of Proposed Research: 'Gender inequality' holds back the growth of individuals, the development of countries and the evolution of societies, to the disadvantage of both men and women' (State of World Population Report-2001). The females who constitute about half of population play vital role in socio-economic functioning of the society. Since the evolution of human civilization, women have been integral part of nature, society and culture. This is true irrespective of a society being traditional, transitional or a modern one (Singh et al., 1988). But in reality the female section does not get due attention while chalking out development plans and programmes. The contribution of women in such propositions is highly underestimated and their role neglected. They are often underestimated, less cared and discriminated against in one or other form. Consequent upon this situation, various women organizations have emerged in all most all developing countries and all over the world. The equal rights of women and gender equality is adopted as important measure for achieving sustainable development goal by the mid of the millennium by almost every nation throughout the world. Thus the gender based feministic research has been popularized in India for study of various problems related with socio-economic status of women in India. In Geography this type of study is now popularly labeled as 'Geography and Gender' or 'Gender Geography'. Being a woman and student of geography I have often think the diverse nature of problems faced by women in different socio-economic ground not even in my locality but entire region and nation also needs to be analyzed in geographical frame.

The Socio-Economic status of women in Bihar is particularly low because of a lethal combination of illiteracy, poverty, patriarchal social system and ignorance of women oriented governmental plan and policies since independence. Bihar, the poorest poor state of India, where half of its population is still deprived and struggles for equal socio-economic rights and opportunities for advancement of their life. There are various programs and schemes that are operational with differential outreach and impact on the lives of women in the state but the situation of women is still discriminated on every front.

According to census reports, the total population of Bihar was 52.3 million in 1981 and 103.8 million in 2011 where female population was 25.9 million and 49.6 million in the same period. Bihar accounts 1.74 percent decrease in share of female population to the

Explains relevance of theme to the Study area

total population from 1981 to 2011. The other demographic aspect of the state is also extremely difficult. The sex-ratio of Bihar was recorded 981 in 1981, which decrease to 916 in 2011. The overall literacy rate of the state was 32.32 percent in 1981 which increases to 63.8 percent in 2011. Gender disparity is seen in growth of female literacy, which is recorded as low than state average with 16.61 percent in 1981 to 53.3 percent in 2011. (See table 1 & figure 1.1 for detail)

The other socio-economic indicators like female work participation, daily wages, crude birth rate, crude death rate, infant mortality rate among females, maternal mortality rate, and representation in administrative and political front were also increased with very low rate with respect to average of other states. Female work participation is an important indicator of women economic empowerment, which increases only by 5.6 percent. Bihar recorded 13.50 percent crude female workers in 1981 increases to 19.12 percent in 2011. Lower rate of female work participation shows economic backwardness of women in Bihar.

There are some initiatives taken by government for empowerment of women status in the state as like, 73rd & 74th Amendment Acts, 1993-1994 (mandate at least 1/3rd reservation for women in three-tier Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) and urban local bodies, Women Empowerment Policy (1992), Mahatma Jyoti Shakti Kanya Mahavidyalaya Kanya Sahakar Yojna (MKSRY), Aardra Sahakar Yojna (AAY), Mahatma Jyoti Shakti Kanya JEEVIKA, Shodhan Andolan (given land to landless women), 50 % reservations for women in PRIs (1993 & 2006), 50 % reservation to women for the post of teachers, 35 % reservation in the police force are other good examples. Despite several initiatives taken by government to empower the women, only some amount of empowerment could be seen in Bihar. With little growth of health status, educational status, economic participation and political participation in local bodies and PRIs are visible. But the goal of overall women empowerment in Bihar is still lagged behind. In such circumstances and above mentioned facts the present research proposal may be very relevant. Hence, the project is taken up.

Statement of Problems: Hence, the study attempts to trace and find out answers to the following questions in an empirical manner based on statistics:

- Are women still struggling for their individuality and identity in family, workplace and society?
- Are women still lacking on educational, economic, health, social-cultural and political ground?
- Are women feeling safe and equal as man in family, workplace or society?

Establishing relevance of theme Through the facts & figures of Study area

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

- ❑ The problem being studied should be mentioned in precise and clear terms.
- ❑ Understanding the problem aids the researcher in constructing the research proposal.
- ❑ It also allows the person to formulate the hypothesis.
- ❑ The problem under study should be relevant to the present.
- ❑ A brief account of its utility at the local or national level has to be discussed.
- ❑ The present status of the problem and the necessity for taking up the study needs to be mentioned.

Statement of Problems: Hence, the study attempts to trace and find out answers to the following questions in an empirical manner based on statistics:

- ✦ Are women still struggling for their individuality and identity in family, workplace and society?
- ✦ Are women still lacking on educational, economic, health, social-cultural and political ground?
- ✦ Are women feeling safe and equal as man in family, workplace or society?
- ✦ Are women having equal rights to taking decision at home, work place and society?
- ✦ Are women feel empowered because of recent government initiatives?

HYPOTHESIS

- Hypothesis is mentioned as a tentative prediction or explanation of the relationship between two or more variables.
- Hypothesis should not be a haphazard guess but should reflect the knowledge, imagination, and experience of the investigator.
- Hypothesis can be formulated by understanding the problem, reviewing the literature on it, and considering other factors.
- A researcher can state the problem and the hypothesis in about 200 words covering all the aspects described above.

Hypotheses: Every advance research needs some research question or hypothetical framework. Hypotheses in general are a statement of facts about the universe. The statement is based upon observation and flying survey approach. Empirical observation and flying survey report help the investigator in framing hypothesis. Following hypotheses may be framed for this investigation:

- 1. There has not been adequate development and empowerment of women inspite of legislative and administrative support to the empowerment program.*
- 2. There has been apparent disorder and disparity in the spatio-temporal pattern of socio-economic status of women.*
- 3. Inherent social system play decisive role in the prevailing gender disparity and slower rate of empowerment and development of women.*
- 4. Large scale economic dependence of women on family has also been factor causing slow process of socio-economic development.*

The entire project is supposed to revolve around these four hypotheses. They need to be tested with the help of scientific method and tools of research in social sciences.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

❖ All research projects should have objectives and aims and every effort should be made to achieve them.

❖ The objectives and aims should be only a few (2-4).

❖ They must pertain to the study problem.

❖ Usages of terms like "first study", "the only study", etc. should be avoided

Objectives of the Study: The proposed study "Spatio-Temporal Changes in the Status of Women in Bihar: Myth and Reality" attempts to find pattern of spatio-temporal changes in women in term of their social, economic, education, health, demographic and decision making status within the given time frame. Present study is proposed to proceed with the following aims and objectives:

- To understand the need of identification of spatio-temporal changing pattern in women status in the context of the physical, economic, social and cultural condition of the study region;
- To examine the spatio-temporal changes in demographic status of women in Bihar;
- To identify the gap in health status of women in the state;
- To examine the nature of spatio-temporal changes in the educational status of women in Bihar;
- To examine the nature of spatio-temporal changes in the economic condition of women in Bihar;
- To identify the transforming characteristics of women social and political front and decision making attitude;
- To identify the root causes of gender disparity and suffering of women;
- To examine the real benefits of the programs of the empowerment of women.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Points to Remember

Review of literature is a very important part of a research project or dissertation. It achieves the following:

- i. Familiarizes the reader to the problem under study.
- ii. It describes the work done by others either at local or international level on it or similar subject.
- iii. It helps the researcher to understand the difficulties faced by others and the corrective steps taken or modifications made by them. The researcher can anticipate similar or additional problems during the study and review of literature helps him in anticipating them.
- iv. Research methodology of the researcher can be structured and modified after reviewing the literature.
- v. The review assists in identifying various variables in the research project and conceptualizes their relationship.
- vi. Review of literature in a synopsis helps the reviewer in assessing the knowledge of the researcher. The reviewer can assess the work put in by the researcher and also assists in assessing the feasibility of the study

- The review of literature in a synopsis need not be exhaustive. The relevant information should be covered in about 300 words quoting 8-10 authentic, easily retrievable references.
- Literature can be reviewed by using various scientific-information-gathering methods. These are journals, national or international; bulletins of organizations; books; computer-assisted searches; and personal communications with other researchers.
- Internet provides a vast avenue for information gathering. Care must be taken to retrieve only relevant information. In this era of information technology review of literature is literally "just a click away".

Review of Literature

Review of Literature: Studies related with women issues have assumed great importance during 1970^s throughout the world. In geography, studies and research on specific issues concerned with women have a recent phenomenon. However thoughts and contributory works in this field as initiated by the sociologist, economist and demographers have been quiet significant. A systematic "Problem oriented" study and research have begun only from 1975, when the United Nations declared the period 1975 - 1985 as the '*International Decade of Woman*'. Since then the study and research related with various issues of women known as 'Feministic research'. At present all the social sciences put focus on women oriented study as focal theme of their subject. In geography feministic research is in very infantile stage and it's first initiated in Human Geography and Social Geography in United Kingdom. '*Gender and Geography*' (1982) and '*An Introduction to Feminist Geography*' (1984) had published as textbook which attempts to establish the theoretical aspects of 'Gender Geography' or 'Geography and Gender'. Another pioneering work done by '*Monck and Townsend*' was "Geography of Gender in Third World" which consist elaborating topics related with geography of gender and 19 research papers dealing with different aspects of women of third world. Some of the other important work done by '*Monck and Hanson*, (1982), '*Andersen*, A.C. (1982), '*Lee and Schultz*, (1982) etc. were important in analyzing status of women in different part of the world. These are some of the essential work done in the field of women oriented study in the field of social and gender geography.

The United Nation working for women empowerment and gender related issues since 1990^s. The United Nation includes measurement of '*Gender Disparity Index*' (GDI) and '*Gender Empowerment Index*' (GEI) as important Indicators of '*Human Development Report*' in 1995. GDI and GEI shows ratio of gender inequality and extent to gender equality in terms of human development respectively. The United Nation had been established eight international development goals for the year 2015 in the '*Millennium Summit*' of the United Nations in 2000. This was known as 'The Millennium Development Goals' (MDGs). All 189 United Nations member countries and at least 22 international organizations committed to help in achieving the 'Millennium Development Goals by 2018. Gender equality and empowerment of women and improvement of maternal health among world is two important goal of MDGs which promote women oriented research and studies all over the world. UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Agenda ('Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' or The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 25th September 2015 and adopted by 194 countries of the world for achieving the goal of sustainable development around the world. SDGs is a set of seventeen aspirational "Global Goals" with 169 targets between them where Gender Equality is one of the Key Goals' which intensified gender studies once again.

As compared to western geographers, a very few work done by the Indian scholars in the field of women issues in geographical space. In India, women oriented research work had started in late 70^s and early 80^s. In fact, feministic or gender related research had been initiated by sociologist, economist, anthropologist and psychologist of the country. Among them, studies made by Khan and Aysha (1992), Usha Rao (1985), Banerjee, B. (1985), Dube, L. et al. (1986), Dassi, N. and Krishnaraj, M. (1987), Mahila Vikash Sangh (1988), Singh, J.P. et al. (1988), Kadal, M. and Pandey, D. (1989), Roy Woman (1988), and Mahadevan, K. (1988), Dutta, A and Bostagi, P. (2012), may be considered as worth mentioning.

In early seventies there was few work done in Human geography related with gender issues like occupational structure or literacy status etc. Mehta, S. 1967 and Gosal, G.S. 1973 were early geographers who contributing towards women problems in different aspect of their life. The other scholarly contributors in gender or women oriented research work are as follow: Alexander and Jayaraman. (1977), Rajit, S. and Kumar, M.S. (1989), Nupa, S.C. (1990), Ahmad, I. (1993), Bhagat, R.B. (1993) Rajit and Kumar, (1993) Kumar, N. (1994), Nayak, D.K. (1991), Naugia, S. (1997) etc. are some of the geographers who contributed in field of women or gender related study in India. Thus, the forgoing review of literature reflects that the very few work had done by the feminism or gender or women empowerment related issues in Indian geographical studies. Hence, the Status of women is a complex and very relevant topic which covers wide spectrum of socio-economic and cultural life of women. Therefore, status of women is selected for the proposed study which examines the socio-economic dimension in spatio-temporal context of women in Bihar.

RESEARCH METHDLOGY

An explanation of your research methodology

a. RESEARCH DESIGN: Mention the name of the appropriate research design and Methods. It also includes **SETTING** (Name and place where the research work is to be conducted) & **DURATION OF STUDY:** How long will the study take with dates.

b. SAMPLE SIZE: Selection representative units from the total universe/ Units. If there are groups how many per group are to be fit for the study

➤ **SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:** Type of sampling technique employed.

➤ **SAMPLE SELECTION:** Inclusion criteria: on what bases will patients be inducted in the study. Exclusion criteria: On what bases will patients be excluded from the study.

c. DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE: Entric process of collection of the variable. It includes: Identification of the study variables; Methods for collection of data; Data collection tools (Schedule/questionnaire)

d. DATA ANALYSIS PROCEDURE: Relevant details of software to be used in which descriptive statistics and test of significance done, specifying variables, and other information, where it will be applied.

A Research Proposal Submitted for Post Doctoral fellowship ICSSR, New Delhi

a Proposed Methodology: Empirical-cum-statistical method of research will be applied in the proposed research work. Modern research techniques as like computer based techniques consisting of multivariate analysis and GIS mapping will prominently be the methodological tools to derive logical conclusion. The process of sample data selection, classification of data and their analysis, their cartographic representation and documentation will be based on standard statistical principles. The whole study will be carried on eight phases -conceptual building phase with help of personal observation and literary work, library work, data collection and field work, data classification and tabulation, data representation, data analysis, documentation and testing of hypotheses

d The process started with review of available literature on socio economic status of women in general as it obtains from the international, national and regional experiences. A flying survey approach will be used to understand the reality of study area for conceptual base-It revealed that there may be substantial variation found in socio economic condition of women in different part of the region. In view of this reality, a micro-level study at the village and urban centre level will be done to have further insight into the problem. It is based on sampling technique, questionnaire survey and field observation in different parts of the region following stratified random sampling method as outlined in sample design head. Collected data will be tabulated and classified with standard statistical software and tools. Several statistical techniques like measurement of central tendency, dispersion, Z score of composite index, correlation, multivariate analysis and multi correspondent analysis (MCA) will be used for determining socio economic level of the study region. MCA technique will be used to measure of gender inequality index in general and multivariate analysis (MVA) will be used to determine Gender disparity and gender empowerment level in particular. All results will be represented by appropriate chart, diagrams and maps. Base map of district and villages will be compiled from 'Administrative Atlas of Bihar' Census of India, 2001 in Arc GIS 9.3 Software. Different spatial results will also be represented with the help of GIS techniques. All findings and results of socio economic characteristic of women will be properly documented in nine chapters outlined below in research design. The final research report is followed by bibliographic references, appendices of different indices etc.

c Sources of Data & Maps: Primary and secondary data will be used for testing of hypothesis, analysis and representation of result of proposed research work. Primary data will be collected through sample survey. Secondary data will be collected from different government functionaries, different Census reports Socio-economic Census, National family and health Survey (NFHS), Annual Health Survey (AHS), report of different governmental, semi-governmental organizations, Non Governmental Organization (NGOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), JEEVIKA, PRIs, and different E-resources, websites and several published or unpublished research work. A detail sample survey will be prepared for collecting the micro level information of the study area

b Sample Design: Primary data have been collected from sample survey. Sample units are selected through Stratified Random Sampling. Census 2011 was used as sampling frame for selecting primary sampling units in both rural and urban areas in the state. The stratification of broad sample group is selected on the basis of female literacy level. The districts are stratified broadly in five regions very high, high, moderate, low and very low disparity zones. Thereafter, a minimum of three towns of each level (Municipality, Nagar panchayat, Nagar panchayat level) and six villages (Block headquarter, Panchayat and Village level) are selected randomly for second stratum of sampling. The minimum ten women respondents from ten households of different socio- economic status will be selected randomly at the third stratum of sampling. The process of sample design will be understood by the given chart (Figure 1.4)

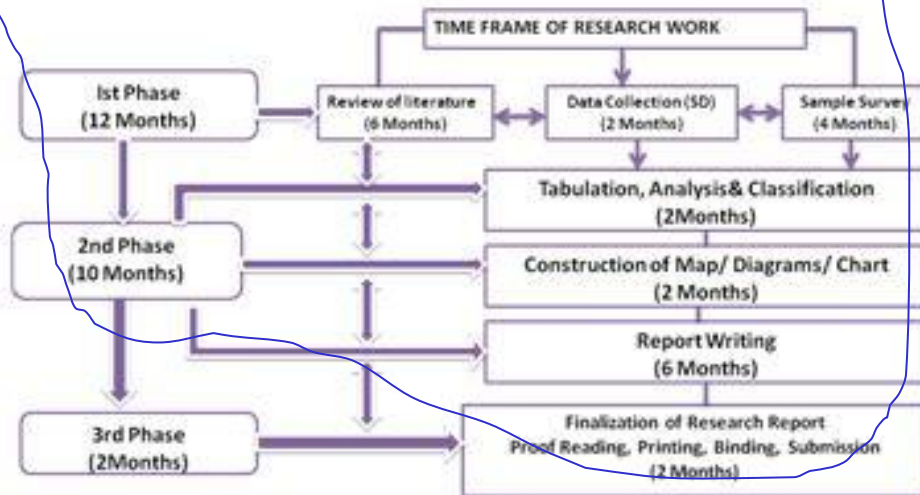
Research Design/ Chapeterisation

a. It includes entire performa of the research carries within chapters or major sections of your dissertation

b. Some times its needed mentioned clear timeframe and budget of the entire research work ; especially synopsis or proposal of research projects or fellowships

Example of timeframe of a research proposal

Research Time Frame: Proposed research work conducted in different phases in the given time frame, the time frame is better understood through the given chart (see figure 1.5):



Research Design: The proposed research divided in nine chapters:

Chapter I: Introduction and relevance to the Topic

Chapter II: The Study Region

Chapter III: Demographic Status of Women

Chapter IV: Educational Status of Women

Chapter V: Health Status of women

Chapter VI: Economic Status of Women

Chapter VII: Social Status of Women

Chapter VIII: Political and Decision Making Status of Women

Chapter IX: Findings and Conclusions

Appendices

**Example of proposed
Chapeters in a synopsis**

Bibliography

Glossary

RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY OR PROPOSED OUTPUTS

- ✓ Its necessary to mention relevance of the proposed title of your research work in your synopsis
- ✓ Its also includes proposed outputs of your study which clearly mentioned the importance and significance of your proposed research in contemporary scenario.
- ✓ Its mentioned after Research design and before references.
- ✓ Its not more than 100 to 150 words

Significance & relevance of proposal or synopsis

Relevance and Proposed Outputs of the Study. This proposal will be helpful to evaluate the status of women and its socio-economic condition in the light of several important gender related development indicators. The indicators covers wide spectrum of the area of women's demographic, educational, health, economic, social and political status in Bihar during the 1981 to 2011. Analysis of each indicator separately will help to identify the progress and backwardness of the state in respect to each particular indicator. This type of research work will be helpful to analysis changes within frame of different policies and programs and trace the particular area of lagness of gender disparity in the state.

proposed outputs

In proposed output of the present study reveals that there will be wider gap in different gender based socio-economic indicators in Bihar. The declining sex-ratio, discrimination in wages, increase crime rates and spousal violence are some of the major findings among every region of the state. Female literacy, health indicators, economic, administrative and political participations are praiseworthy though it is still lagging behind in comparison to other states of the country. So in conclusion it will be proposed that inspite of making policies and programs there is also need to enforce it through proper use of machinery and promote female child birth, education and equal economic, social and political rights, provide women oriented health facilities especially in rural areas. So that that extreme forms of gender discrimination should be reduced.

REFERENCES

➤ All references quoted in review of literature and anywhere else in the synopsis should be listed here.

➤ There are two styles for writing references, Vancouver style and Harvard style.

➤ Vancouver style is easy to follow as it depends on the numbers as quoted in text:

a. Ex. **Text Book:** Author/s of the Chapter, Name of the chapter, eds: editor's names, in the Name of the Text Book, by Publisher's Names, at Place of Publication, No. of the edition, year of publication, Page no.

1. Kothari CR. Research methodology. New Delhi: Vishwa Prakashan; 1985.

2. Negi. B.S. Statistical Geography. New Delhi: Kedar Nath Ram Nath, 2004, 259-277

b. References from Journal: Author/s of the article, Title of the article, Name of the Journal, Year of Publication, Volume, Issue/Number, Page Number

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Conclusion

- ✓ Before starting to work on dissertation/research, we have to present a Synopsis for getting approval to institution or authority.
- ✓ The synopsis is a brief out line (about four A-4 size pages or 1000 words is the maximum limit) of your future research project/ thesis/ dissertation.
- ✓ A synopsis can be structured in the following manner:
 - i. Title.
 - ii. Statement of the problem and hypothesis.
 - iii. Aims and objectives.
 - iv. Review of literature.
 - v. Research methodology.
 - vi. References.

- ❑ Synopsis writing is an important step in a dissertation or research project. A good synopsis will give maximum information in minimum words.
- ❑ A well-conceived synopsis will go a long way in convincing the reviewer about the ability of the researcher to conduct the research or project.
- ❑ In cases of need for financial assistance, the request will be considered favorably.
- ❑ Thus, all research fellows and students should make efforts to prepare a well-structured, brief, informative & purposive synopsis of their dissertation, or research projects

Note: Other requirements: official requirements; Front Page/ acknowledgement/ clearance etc...

MODEL QUESTIONS

Q1. What is synopsis? Write major characteristics of synopsis for the proposed research.

Q2. Prepare a Synopsis for your dissertation or doctoral Research proposal. (Submit on my mail for review)

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- 1. Kothari CR. Research methodology. New Delhi: Vishwa Prakashan; 1985.**
- 2. Negi. B.S. Statistical Geography. New Delhi: Kedar Nath Ram Nath, 2004, 259-277**