

Institute of Distance Education

University of Madras,
Chepauk, Chennai – 600 005

General Instructions to the Students of M.A. Sociology Programme (Batch – C23) For Research Dissertation & Viva-Voce.

The research dissertation is a mandatory component of M.A. Sociology Degree Programme offered by the Institute of Distance Education, University of Madras. The Students of M.A Sociology Programme are suggested to conduct independent research in the specialization fields of Sociology and contribute to the discipline. Please read the guidelines given below for each section for formatting the research dissertation.

Chapter 1: Introduction

- **Objective:** The introduction should provide a clear understanding of the research topic and its significance.
- **Key Elements:**
 - **Background of the Research Topic:** This section introduces the topic and its relevance to the field of sociology. It should explain the significance of the topic and why it warrants research attention.
 - **Historical Perspective:** Provides a historical overview of the subject matter, highlighting how it has evolved over time and what key events or developments have shaped its current form.
 - **Contemporary Global Perspective:** Discusses the current global trends and issues related to the topic. This section contextualizes the research in the broader global scenario and highlights its relevance in today's world.
 - **National Perspective:** Examines the topic within the context of the researcher's country, analysing how national policies, socio-political conditions, and other factors influence it.
 - **Regional Perspective:** Focuses on the specific region or locality where the research is being conducted. It considers the socio-economic, political, and cultural dimensions relevant to the study.
 - **Theoretical Perspective:** Introduces the sociological theories and perspectives that underpin the study. This section should explain the theoretical framework used to analyse the research problem.
 - **Chaptalization:** Write Summary of each subtopic i.e. Introduction, Review of Literature, Research Methodology, Data analysis and Interpretation, Results, Conclusion and Recommendations respectively.

Chapter 2: Review of Literature

- Conduct a critical review of at least 30 relevant studies.
- **Key Elements:**
 - **Thematic Review:** Organize literature thematically, highlighting major debates and findings.
 - **Critical Analysis:** Identify strengths, weaknesses, and research gaps in previous studies.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

- **Key Elements:**
 - **Statement of the Problem:** Clearly define the research problem and its significance.
 - **Research Design:** Specify whether the study is qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods.
 - **Significance of the Study:** Explain why the study is important and its potential contributions.
 - **Objectives of the Study:** List the main objectives guiding the research.
 - **Profile of the Study:** Provide background information about the study area or population.
 - **Universe and Sample:** Define the population from which the sample is drawn.
 - **Selection of the Sample:** Describe the sampling method, sample size, and criteria.
 - **Period of the Study:** Indicate the time frame during which the research was conducted.
 - **Sources of Data:** Identify primary and secondary data sources.
 - **Tools of Data Collection:** Explain methods such as surveys, interviews, and observations.
 - **Data Analysis:** Detail analysis techniques (SPSS, STATA, MS Excel, graphical representation etc.).
 - **Hypothesis:** Present the hypotheses that the study aims to test.
 - **Limitations of the Study:** Acknowledge potential constraints and limitations.
 - **Concepts Used in the Study:** Define key concepts and variables.
 - **Ethical Considerations:** Address consent, confidentiality, and participant impact.

Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Interpretation

- **Key Elements:**
 - **Presentation of Data:** Use tables, graphs, and charts with source information.
 - **Analysis:** Explain patterns, trends, and correlations.
 - **Interpretation:** Contextualize findings with research questions, objectives, and literature review.

Chapter 5: Results, Conclusion and Recommendations

- **Summary of Findings:** Recap key findings and their relevance to research questions.
- **Conclusions:** Provide a comprehensive conclusion based on findings.
- **Suggestions / Recommendations:** Offer practical recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, or future researchers.

Bibliography

- Follow APA 7 citation style.
- Ensure all cited sources are included and correctly formatted and arranged in Alphabetical order.

Appendix

- Include additional materials such as:
 - Questionnaire
 - Interview Schedule

- Consent Form
- Field Photos
- Supplementary Information

Final Formatting Guidelines:

- **Font Style:** Times New Roman
- **Font Size:**
 - 16 for Chapter Headings (Bold)
 - 14 for Subheadings (Bold)
 - 12 for Main Content
- **Line Spacing:** 1.5
- **Proofreading:** Ensure grammatical accuracy and consistency.
- **Originality:** Proper citation and plagiarism-free work.
- **Guidance:** Seek supervisor feedback regularly for timely completion.

Broad Research Areas for Dissertation:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • Rural Sociology | • Sociology of Religion |
| • Sociology of Development | • Social Inequality and Stratification |
| • Urbanization and Urban Sociology | • Sociology of Family and Marriage |
| • Sociology of Health | • Youth and Adolescence Studies |
| • Sociology of Disaster Management | • Migration and Diaspora Studies |
| • Criminology and Deviance | • Sociology of Work and Employment |
| • Environmental Sociology | • Sociology of Media and Communication |
| • Sociology of Mass Media | • Globalization and Social Change |
| • Political Sociology | • Sociology of Science and Technology |
| • Sociology of Aging | • Human Rights and Social Justice |
| • Gender Studies | • Sociology of Marginalised Communities |
| • Sociology of Tourism | |

Please Note: The Last date to submit the completed and hard bonded Research Dissertation to the Institute of Distance Education, UNOM on or before **30th June 2025 (Monday), 04:00 P.M. by Post / Courier or in Person.**

Steps to be followed for completion of the M.A. Sociology Programme

IV Semester - Research Dissertation and Viva Voce.

1. Consult with the concern Research Supervisor for the Selection and approval of the Research Topic.
2. Have a periodical reporting with the Research Supervisor on the progress of the Research Dissertation.
3. Before submission of the Report, get the certification from the concern Research Supervisor and Course Coordinator.
4. Submit the Research Dissertation on time.
5. Attend the Research Dissertation Viva–Voce in Offline Mode.