



Proceedings of the Informing Science + Information Technology Education Conference

An Official Publication
of the Informing Science Institute
InformingScience.org

InformingScience.org/Publications

July 6-7, 2021

STARTING DOCTORAL DISSERTATION JOURNEY WITH A SOLID RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT – A FOUR STAGE FRAMEWORK [ABSTRACT]

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[Note: The full version of this paper will be published in the *International Journal of Doctoral Studies*]

ABSTRACT

Aim/Purpose	Provide methodology suggesting steps to doctoral mentors to work with students in constructing their research problem statement in their dissertation.
Background	Doctoral students face difficulties writing their dissertation and they begin by writing the research problem statement.
Methodology	This paper uses a framework widely used to describe student adjustment to graduate studies in general and to doctoral program in particular.
Contribution	This study provides a framework to mentors/advisors that is helpful in guiding the students to writing their research problem statement.
Findings	Writing a research problem statement is difficult by itself. Following a methodological approach suggested in this study could help with writing it.
Recommendations for Practitioners	A methodological approach in writing the dissertation is helpful to mitigate the difficulties of writing the dissertation. Our study tackles difficulties with writing the research problem statement.
Recommendations for Researchers	More research needs to be done on methodological approach to writing the other sections in the dissertation.
Impact on Society	Our findings in this research will help doctoral mentors/advisors as they guide students in completing the writing of their research problem statement

Accepted by Editor Michael Jones | Received: January 21, 2021 | Revised: April 20, 2021 |
Accepted: April 25, 2021.

Cite as: Ali, A., & Pandya, S. (2021). Starting doctoral dissertation journey with a solid research problem statement – A four stage framework [Abstract]. In M. Jones (Ed.), *Proceedings of InSITE 2021: Informing Science and Information Technology Education Conference*, Article 13. Informing Science Institute.
<https://doi.org/10.28945/4770>

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Future Research	Intention for future research is to follow similar methodological approach in guiding students in writing the other sections of the dissertation
Keywords	research problem statement, research dissertation, problem statement

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