

Guidelines for Methods Section

Dr. Muhammad Anwar Khan

Objectives

This session will prepare the students to submit the assignment 2 (Methods Section)

Methodology

Should describe in detail the 'Where', 'Who', 'How' the research will be conducted.

11.1 Study Area/Setting:

Three to four sentences to describe the specific study setting relevant to your study topic. Do not mention only King Abdulaziz Medical City (KAMC) but also mention the ward where the study will be conducted

Methodology

1.2 Study Subjects:

Brief background of the subjects as relevant to the study topic e.g. total number – relevant demographics

Inclusion criteria (+ exclusion criteria if required)

–make sure that the exclusion criteria are a subset from the inclusion criteria and not opposite to the inclusion criteria

Methodology – contd.

11.3 Study Design:

Make sure that the study design is appropriate for the stated objectives of the study

Remember '**Chart Review**' is NOT a study design

Methodology – contd.

11.4 Sample Size:

Mention the specific criteria – be reasonable in selecting the sample size – do not try for a very large number (>400)

Mention the expected number of patients per year/month if you are doing a chart review

If the whole population will be included, be sure to mention the time period and do the calculation for this particular study but mention that the calculated sample size is small so we are including all the population

Methodology – contd.

11.5 Sampling Technique:

Mention the specific sampling technique from probability or non-probability sampling or mention that all the study population will be selected while mentioning the time period

Methodology – contd.

11.6 Data Collection Methods, Instruments Used, Measurements:

Mention if 'Questionnaire' or 'Data Collection Sheet' will be used

State the main variables to be studied + identify the grouping and outcome variables

State whether questionnaire is already validated or will be validated

Should describe the data collection process in detail – related to the How – Where – Who of data collection

Make sure to attach the final 'Data collection form / Questionnaire' in the appendix of the proposal

Methodology – contd.

11.7 Data Management and Analysis Plan:

- State the software package to be used
- Mention how the data will be grouped and converted into a database
- Mention how the Descriptive statistics will be presented
- Identify the statistical tests to be used for the inferential statistics + any specific epidemiological measures of association as relevant
- Specify the significance level (p-value) and the relevant confidence interval (if applicable)

References

12. Bibliographic References:

Make sure that:

- Include local references (KSA or Middle East)
- Most of the references should be recent (last five years)
- Avoid too many references from textbooks
- Always give the URL / website for electronic references
- Make sure that the references are edited according to the required Vancouver style of referencing

References / Ethics

13. Ethical Considerations:

- Mention the relevant ethical considerations including where the data will be stored and who will be able accessed the data
- Mention how are you going to maintain confidentiality
- Attach the 'Informed consent form' in the appendix

Thank you