

CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDIFICATION, TEZPUR UNIVERSITY
MA (SOCIOLOGY)
PROJECT RELATED RESEARCH (MASOD 105P)
AND
DISSERTATION (MASOD 405P)

INTRODUCTION:

The MA Dissertation is a core component of the Master's programme, designed to foster research aptitude and critical inquiry among learners through a structured and supervised process. In accordance with UGC Guidelines for Distance and Online Education, the course is integrated across four semesters, keeping in mind the needs of distance learners and ensuring progressive, outcome-based learning.

The dissertation work begins with preparatory activities in the first semester through the Project-Related Research (MASOD105P) component and culminates in the fourth semester with the submission of the final dissertation. This structure allows learners to conceptualize, plan, execute, and document a research study in a phased and systematic manner.

OBJECTIVES:

The primary objectives of the Dissertation are to help learners:

- Develop core research skills in sociology.
- Examine research problems using sociological perspectives and appropriate methodologies.
- Enhance writing, communication, and analytical capabilities.
- Apply interdisciplinary tools and techniques in the context of social research.
- Address contemporary issues in society through empirical investigation.

COURSE OUTCOMES (COS):

CO1: Ability to identify a research problem.

CO2: Ability to collect and review existing literature in the subject domain.

CO3: Ability to select appropriate methodological tools and techniques for research.

CO4: Ability to engage with communities and carry out field-based research.

CO5: Ability to analyze collected data and describe research findings.

CO6: Ability to communicate research findings in adherence to research ethics.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

Types of Dissertation Work

The project/dissertation may fall under any of the following categories, with preference for current and emerging social issues:

- Empirical field studies on social groups, institutions, movements, or processes.
- Case studies of specific communities, institutions, or events.
- Policy analysis of government or NGO programmes.
- Content/discourse analysis of media, literature, or cultural products.
- Comparative studies across regions, communities, or demographic groups.
- Survey-based research using quantitative and/or qualitative tools.
- Secondary data analysis (e.g., Census, NFHS, NSSO datasets).
- Ethnographic or participant observation studies.
- Thematic reviews and critical synthesis of existing sociological literature.

Structuring Reports i.e., Research Proposal, Project Related Research and Final Dissertation:

Students must prepare a detailed Research Proposal in consultation with their supervisor. This component is completed as part of the Project-Related Research (MASOD105P).

Structure of the Research Proposal

- Title of the Study
- Rationale and Background
- Research Objectives
- Methodology
 - Sampling
 - Tools and Instruments
 - Data Collection Procedures
 - Data Analysis Techniques
- Expected Outcomes
- Limitations and Ethical Considerations
- References

Format Requirements for the Research Proposal Format	
Length	15 Pages
Language	English
Format	A4 size, typed and bound copy
Font	12pt with 1.5 spacing

Structure of Project-Related Research (MASOD105P):

Chapterization of Project-Related Research:

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Background of the Study
- 1.2. Statement of the Problem
- 1.3. Significance of the Study
- 1.4. Scope of the Study
- 1.5. Research Questions
- 1.6. Objectives of the Study
- 1.7. Operational Definitions (if needed)
2. Review of Literature
 - 2.1. Conceptual Framework
 - 2.2. Thematic Review of Literature
 - 2.3. Research Gap
3. Conclusion
 - 3.1. Link Proposal with the existing literature review
 - 3.2. Provide Plan of Research for the final Dissertation

Format for Project-Related Research (MASOD 105P)	
Length	Min. 20 pages & Max. 30 Pages
Language	English
Format	A4 size, typed and bound copy
Font	12pt with 1.5 spacing

Structure of Final Dissertation:

The chapterization of the final dissertation:

1. Certificate
2. Acknowledgements
3. Table of Contents
4. Preface
5. Introduction
6. Objectives
7. Review of Literature
8. Methodology
9. Data Analysis and Findings
10. Discussion
11. Conclusion and Recommendations
12. References/Bibliography
13. Appendices (if any)

Format for Dissertation (MASOD 405P)	
Length	80 Pages
Language	English
Format	A4 size, typed and bound copy
Font	12pt with 1.5 spacing

Documents to be submitted in both Project Related Research (MASOD 105P) and Dissertation (MASOD 405P):

- Approved Research proposal
- Typed Proposal on A4 paper, double-spaced
- Certificate of originality signed by student and supervisor
- Project Proposal Form and Guidelines:
(Available: http://www.tezu.ernet.in/tu_codl/download/New_Forms_CDOE/Project%20Proposal%20Form.pdf)
- Project Cover Page:
(Available: http://www.tezu.ernet.in/tu_codl/download/New_Forms_CDOE/Project%20Cover%20Page.pdf)
- Declaration for Project Submission:
(Available: http://www.tezu.ernet.in/tu_codl/download/New_Forms_CDOE/Project%20DECLARATION.pdf)
- Plagiarism Statement:
(Available: http://www.tezu.ernet.in/tu_codl/download/New_Forms_CDOE/Plagiarism%20Statement.pdf)
- Supervisor's brief CV/Bio-data

Eligibility Criteria for Supervisor:

The programme allows the students to choose their supervisor, but the selection is subject to the following criteria:

- a) PhD holder in Sociology or a related discipline permanently affiliated with a recognized institution, with substantial work in the proposed research area.

OR

- b) Master's degree holder in Sociology, qualified with NET, and having a minimum of two years of full-time teaching or research experience in a recognized institution.

OR

- c) A qualified professional with interdisciplinary expertise (e.g., Social Work, Development Studies, Gender Studies), permanently employed in a recognized academic or research institution.

A supervisor may guide a maximum of five students. A token remuneration as per the Tezpur University norm will be paid per student upon submission of the final dissertation.

Departmental Advisory Committee (DAC):

A DAC will be constituted to ensure academic rigour and oversight. Responsibilities include:

- Verifying supervisor eligibility and matching with student topics.
- Constituting an Assessment Committee to monitor progress.

Academic Support in ODL/Online Mode:

To ensure structured engagement, the following modalities will be adopted:

- Scheduled online or in-person meetings with supervisors (monthly across semesters).
- Participation in webinars or workshops on proposal writing, research ethics, data analysis, and citation.
- Access to digital libraries and academic databases.
- Fieldwork or community engagement where feasible, to promote experiential learning.

Submission and Approval Process

- Submit the research proposal along with all required documents to the office of the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), Tezpur University.
- Incomplete proposals will be rejected. Students must retain a personal copy.
- Approval or feedback will be communicated in writing. In case of rejection, a revised proposal must be submitted with original feedback remarks attached.

Referencing Style (APA 7-style version Recommended)

- **Book:** Desai, A.R. (2000). *Social Background of Indian Nationalism*. Mumbai: Popular Prakashan.
- **Journal Article:** Patel, T. (2012). Gender and Population Policy in India. *Sociological Bulletin*, 61(1), 28–50.

- **Edited Book Chapter:** Nanda, M. (2011). Science and Hindutva. In U. Mehta (Ed.), *Modern India: A Theoretical Retrospective* (pp. 145–168). Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- **Internet Resource:** UNDP India. (2024). *Human Development Report: India Factsheet*. Retrieved from. https://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/library/human_development/india-factsheet.html (Provide the URL).
- **Thesis:** Broze, Stefne Lenzmeier (2003). The role of information in cancer patients ' involvement in their cancer care. PhD Dissertation. Ohio: Ohio State University.

Final Submission:

Submit one hard copy of the final report to:

The Director
Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE),
Tezpur University
Napaam-784028,
Assam, INDIA

Mark the envelope clearly: "**PROJECT REPORT – MA SOCIOLOGY**"

Submission periods will be notified via the CDOE, TU academic calendar.

Evaluation of Dissertation:

1. Two Levels of Assessment: Internal Assessment (40%) and External Assessment (60%)

❖ Internal Assessment

- Conducted by the Supervisor
- Evaluates based on Proposal development, Progress Report and Research execution.

Note: Proposal must be approved before beginning research.

Violation of the project guidelines will lead to the rejection of the project at any stage

❖ External Assessment

- Conducted by an external evaluator appointed by CDOE, TU.
- The external assessment includes Viva Voce (20 marks) and 40 Marks on the overall Project content.
- Viva voice will be conducted at the designated CDOE TU, exam centre. The members to be participated are:

1. External Evaluator
2. Supervisor/Guide

3. Exam Centre Co-ordinator
2. Minimum 50% required to pass the Dissertation

Resubmission Policy:

If a student fails, they may revise and resubmit the dissertation within the stipulated timeframe by paying a re-evaluation fee.

Exemption Clause:

The project/dissertation is a mandatory component of the MA Sociology programme. No exemptions are permitted.