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FINAL DEFENSE

96%

APPENDIX J

Checklist for Dissertation Quality

Following is a list of questions to consider when evaluating the quality and content of each chapter and section within each chapter of your dissertation. Not all questions are appropriate for all studies, and not all institutions, departments, and committees will be expecting the same content in each chapter. However, we have structured this checklist in accordance with the recommended content of a five-chapter dissertation.

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

- Have you described how your study fits into the larger context of theory and practice? ✓
- Is adequate background presented for all the variables or concepts in the study? ✓
- Is the background of the problem presented clearly (e.g., educational trends related to the problem, unresolved issues, social concerns)? ✓
- Have the majority of the references cited been published within the past five years? ✓

Statement of the Problem

- Is adequate information presented for an understanding of the problem? ✓
- Is the problem clearly stated? ✓
- Is there a description of what has already been done related to the problem? ✓
- Is the relationship of the problem to previous research made clear? ✓
- Is there a logical transition that leads directly to the purpose of the study? ✓
- Have the majority of the references cited been published within the past five years? ✓

Purpose of the Study

- Is the purpose of the study related to the statement of the problem? ✓
- Is the purpose of the study stated clearly and succinctly? X
- Have the majority of the references cited been published within the past five years? ✓

Needs to be worded consistently throughout the document

Significance of the Study

- Is it clear how this study will add to the body of knowledge (theory or practice)? ✓
- Does the study have the potential of being presented at a national conference? ✓

Does the study have the potential of being published in an academic journal?

✓

Have the majority of the references cited been published within the past five years?

✓

### Definition of Terms

Are the terms used in the study adequately defined so that their usage is clearly understood?

✓

### Theoretical Framework

Have you provided a brief description of the relevant theory(ies) to be utilized in approaching the problem?

✓

Have you reviewed the major variables or concepts and their interrelationships derived from the existing theoretical work?

✓

Have you described a connection between these theoretical constructions and your research questions or hypotheses?

✓

Have you utilized theory as a heuristic device to examine and interpret qualitative data?

✓

### Research Questions

Are the research questions related to the problem and the purpose?

X

Are the research questions well stated; e.g., (a) all variables clarified, (b) avoidance of "how" or "why" questions, (c) theoretical constructs clarified (achievement, success, intelligence)?

X

Word consistently throughout the document

Is the kind of measurement obvious (e.g., description, relationship, differences)?

✓

Is each research question testable?

✓

### Limitations

Are limitations well defined (methodology, data, analysis)?

✓

### Delimitations

Are the delimitations well defined (e.g., timeframe, location, sample, criterion)?

✓

### Assumptions

Are your assumptions clearly stated?

✓

### Organization of the Study

Is there a transition to Chapter Two and the chapters following? (Typically Chapter One ends with an overview of the entire dissertation.)

✓

## CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

### Introduction

Does Chapter Two begin with an introduction using an *advance organizer* to prepare the reader for the content of the chapter? ✓

### Body

Is the review of the literature comprehensive? ✓

Does the review of the literature cover all variables or concepts in the study? ✓

Does the review of the literature contain at least 50 references? ✓

Are all references cited relevant to the problem? ✓

Have the majority of the references cited been published within the past five years? ✓

Are references cited completely and accurately? X

Are authors who make the same point combined in a single citation? NO

Is there an overabundance of direct quotations? NO

Is each major section of the review of the literature summarized without a summary heading (e.g., in sum, in summary, in short)? ✓

Have you searched all available sources in your review of literature? ✓

Several references are formatted improperly

### Summary

Does the Review of the Literature Chapter conclude with a summary of the literature review and a transition introducing the next chapter? ✓

## CHAPTER III: METHODOLOGY

### Introduction

Does the chapter begin with an introduction, using an *advance organizer* to prepare the reader for the content of the chapter? ✓

### Selection of Participants

Are the size and major characteristics of the population studied described? ✓

Are the procedures and criteria for selecting the sample clearly described? ✓

Is the sample size large enough for the method of research used? ✓

Are the size and major characteristics of the sample described? ✓

### Instrumentation

Is a rationale given for the selection of the instruments used? ✓

Are the purpose and content of each instrument described? ✓

Is the validity of each instrument described? ✓

Is the reliability of each instrument described? ✓

- Are the instruments appropriate for measuring the variables studied? ✓
- If an instrument was developed specifically for the study, are the procedures involved in its development and validation described? ✓
- If an instrument was developed specifically for the study, are administration, scoring, and interpretation procedures fully described? ✓
- If an instrument was developed, was a pilot test conducted with a different sample than was used in the study? ✓
- If interviews were used, were procedures described for determining interviewer bias? ✓
- When necessary, were interobserver or interrater reliability assessed? ✓(N/A)

**Data Collection**

- Are the procedures for collecting data described in sufficient detail to permit replication by another researcher? ✓
- If a pilot study was conducted, are its execution, results, and effect on the current study described? ✓
- If the study was qualitative, were internal validity strategies described (e.g., triangulation, member checks, peer examination)? ✓

**Data Analysis**

- Were the statistics used appropriate for the study? ✓
- Are the appropriate statistics reported for each test? ✓
- For statistical tests, are sufficient statistics presented (e.g., mean, standard deviation) ✓
- In a qualitative study, are the themes and patterns appropriately labeled? ✓(N/A)

**Summary**

- Does the chapter conclude with a summary and a transition to Chapter Four? ✓

**CHAPTER IV: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA**

**Introduction**

- Does the chapter begin with an introduction, using an *advance organizer* to prepare the reader for the contents of the chapter? ✓

**Demographic Descriptive Statistics**

- Are demographic descriptive statistics of the sample presented in table form? ✓

Are appropriate headings used to help the flow and organization of the chapter (e.g. research questions (hypotheses), themes, or variables?) ✓  
 Research Question (or Hypothesis) One

Research Question (or Hypothesis) Two

Etc.

Are the tables and figures (if any) well organized and easy to understand? X

Are the data in each table and figure described in the text? ✓

Are tests of significance properly cited using appropriate degrees of freedom; e.g., [ $F(2,71) = 14.87, p < .001$  or  $F(2,71) = 0.14, p > .05$ ]? ✓

Were post hoc tests calculated when appropriate? ✓

Were effect sizes reported when appropriate? ✓

Is this chapter free of interpretation? (In qualitative studies, factual and interpretive information is sometimes intermingled to sustain reader interest.) ✓

In a qualitative study, is there a balance of direct quotations and description to enhance the meaning of themes and patterns? ✓ (N/A)

Is there a summary of key findings in table form when appropriate? ✓

TABLES AND FIGURES NEED MINOR CORRECTIONS

### Summary

Does the chapter end with a summary of the entire chapter and a transition to Chapter Five? ✓

## CHAPTER V: SUMMARY, DISCUSSION, AND CONCLUSIONS

### Introduction

Does the chapter begin with an introduction, using an *advance organizer* to prepare the reader for the contents of the chapter? ✓

### Summary of the Study

Is there a brief summary of the entire study? ✓

### Discussion of the Findings

Are the findings discussed within the framework of previous studies, the theoretical rationale, and the review of the literature? ✓

### Implications for Practice

Are the implications derived from the findings? ✓

Are implications made for theory and practice? ✓

### Recommendations for Further Research

Are recommendations for further research clearly implied from the study?

### Conclusions

Do the conclusions highlight the important aspects of the study?   
Are the conclusions derived from the findings?