

### **3. Writing study background and problem statement**

# The study back ground

- Background – shows the understanding and genesis of the problem.
- Describes the history of the problem.
- Discussion will be made from global perspective to local scenario.
- Describes the social, economic, political and cultural background from which the project is initiated.
- The target group in the study, etc. will also be discussed.

# Statement of the problem

- Statement of the problem answers WHAT is it about and WHY should it be studied?
- Clear and concise description of the main (priority) focus of the research problem or theme identified for the investigation or research.
- Helps to justify the importance of a research question

## PROBLEM STATEMENT ...

- Helps to critically analyze the problem
- Facilitates decisions on the focus and scope of the research agenda
- Enables the concerned parties to pool knowledge around the problem.
- Clarifies the problem and the possible factors.

# Why is it important to state and define the problem well?

- ⌘ Is the **foundation** for further development of the research proposal (research objectives, methods, work plan, etc.)
- ⌘ Makes it easier to find **information and reports of similar studies** from which your own study design can benefit

- Enables the researcher to **systematically point out** why the proposed research on the problem should be undertaken and what you hope to achieve with the study results
- ✎ This is important to **highlight** when you present your project to community members, health staff, relevant ministries and donor agencies **who need to support your study or give their consent.**

# Contents of problem statement

1. A brief description of geographic, social, economic and cultural characteristics and an overview of health status and the health system of the study area.
2. A concise description of the nature of the problem
3. An analysis of the major factors that may influence the problem
4. A brief description of the any solutions that have been tried in the past

# Contents ...

5. A description of the type of information expected to result from the project and how this information should be used to help solve the problem.
6. If necessary, a short list of **definitions of crucial concepts used in the** statement of the problem.



# How to write a Problem Statement

- The section should be precise and concise, while not forgetting to mention essential points.
- Information concerning the problem should be summarized, so the reader is not “drowned” in detail.
- An outline listing the major points to be covered could be prepared before any writing is done, so the section will be logical and well organized.

# Justification/Significance

- The justification of the study illustrates **why** the research is conducted and **whom** it shall benefit.
- Justification of the study answers the question, “**Why your study is needed?**”
- Significance answers the question, “**What is the importance/contribution of your study findings?**”

# **Points that need to be considered for justifying the selected research problem**

- A current and existing problem which needs solution
- A widely spread problem affecting a target population
- Effects on the health service programmes
- A problem which concerns the planners, policy makers and the communities at large

**Thank you!**