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### RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGEMENT, HANDLING SURVEYS

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### ABSTRACT

Research Design is the lifeblood of the research. The questionnaire is like a red blood cell in research design. Red blood cells in the human body carry fresh oxygen throughout human body. Similarly the survey gives the respondent's responses, based on which research findings are concluded in social sciences. Despite so much importance of questionnaire, there are very few studies which cover questionnaire design and guide research student and scholars to design a questionnaire. Survey design is least discussed topic in several books written on research methodology. In this paper, after thorough review of several books and articles on the subject, the authors provide a guide for research scholar on questionnaire design. To make understanding of questionnaire design and selection easier this research paper has selected and explained three research papers which future researchers can use as a guide to create a questionnaire. The Paper also shares list of several books and an articles literature review which is useful for future researchers and practitioners to understand and study the research methodology.

### **INTRODUCTION**

A questionnaire is a research tool, which consists of questions, designed by a researcher to collect responses from respondents. The term questionnaire was first time used by Francis Galton in late 1800. He was a British anthropologist and statistician. Later in 1838 Statistical Society of London defined the research questionnaire. Since then, the questionnaire is of the famous research instrument being used by many researchers. Compared to other technique of research which is observation and experimentation, the survey is a very cheap and easy method to conduct research. It requires less time, money and effort compared to experimentation. There are different types of questionnaires

based on research objective and study world view. However, the questionnaire is mainly used to measure the concepts and constructs, which cover behavior and opinion of consumers (Gault, 1907; Jacoby, Jacob; S.Matell, 1971).

### PROBLEM STATEMENT AND AIM OF THE STUDY

On research methodology, multiple books are written which mainly discuss the research paradigms or worldviews (Post-positivism, Constructivism, Transformational and Pragmatic world view), research methodology (Inductive and deductive) and research methods (Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Method). In this regard books of Cress Well on research design are most often referred in social sciences. Some books have also covered the data types (Nominal, ordinal, interval, and Ratio) and explained the type of test which can be used in different type of data. For instance, Uma Sekaran's book on research design. Because of wider scope of these books for earlier researchers, it is very difficult to extract the main information; sometimes while understanding the concepts, the initial researchers miss the main points in the book. The research papers address the two key concerns of a research student. First, it has listed all the essential resources (Books and articles which researchers can read to gain the information on methodology aspects), Second it also shares complete guidelines on questionnaire design.

The authors have done the thorough a literature review of the articles and identified that existing articles does not provide clear guidelines for questionnaire design. Therefore, in this research, three have been selected which researchers can use to identify type study they want to conduct and type of questionnaire which they can select to collect the data. The research paper also provides the guidelines on survey design, important points which researchers should consider while designing a questionnaire. This paper also provides a checklist which researchers can use to improve the questionnaire.

### **BRIEF LITERATURE REVIEW**

Designing a questionnaire is a very critical step in research. It is focus area of research since 1800. In 1831 when the Statistical Society of London defined questioner, the questionnaire became of the favorite tools in research design later. Gault (1907) conducted a study in the history of the questionnaire method of research in psychology, he more focused on the introduction of the survey, Initial days of investigation and its definition. The author has provided possible future implications of the study. In earlier days, the psychologists were only limited to the measurement of human behavior which is possible to view with the help of a human eye. For example, the buying behavior of customers, how many products they are buying, from where they are purchasing the products. However, the constructs which were not visible with naked eye were not measurable. The psychologist used to think, that this is a limitation of psychology. However, Resins Likert who introduced Likert scale was an American psychologist, based his name Likert Scale is named. He used this scale in his doctoral thesis and told the psychologists that the construct which is not visible with the naked eye could be measured with the help of questions. Later that metholdogy of asking question became famous with his name as Likert Scale.

Likert scale today is one of the widely used scales. After introduction of Likert scale the author further focused improved on the scale in the regard Jacoby, Jacob: S. Mattel (1971) conducted research on Communications and Research Notes Content. The researchers have explained how the Likert scale can be used for dichotomous variables. The primary practical implication of this study is that investigators would be justified in scoring Likert-type scale items dichotomously (or dichotomously), according to the direction of response after they have been collected with an instrument that provides for the measurement of instruction and several degrees of intensity. Further research should now be conducted to determine whether the present findings can be generalized beyond the Likert-type scale to different types of scales (e.g., Osgood's semantic differential. Thurstone-type. Similarly, in the late 80s, converse & Presser (1986) wrote a book titled "Survey questions: handcrafting the standardized questionnaire (Converse & Presser, 1986), the author has explained the strategies for experience and research. The experimental piece of evidence and tools for analysis. Dr. Floyd J. Fowler (1995) wrote a book on Improving Survey Questions\_ Design and Evaluation The author have explained the questions as a measure, Question as a measure, designing items to gather factorial data, Things to measure subjective states, some ethical rules to develop a good questionnaire.

Bradburn, Sudman, & Wansink (2004) wrote a book titled "Strategies for asking questions. Strategies for asking questions, tactics for asking questions, drafting, and crafting the questionnaire. (Tourangeau, 2005) wrote on paper on Survey Questionnaire Design. The author highlighted the survey questionnaire design is least studied a topic in the last 30 years. As per author, the previous book on questionnaire design was written many years ago. There is a need to update the methodology Survey questionnaire design encompasses a variety of activities ranging from library research to formal experiments that estimate the reliability or validity of different versions of a questionnaire. Although handbooks with advice for survey questionnaire designers first appeared more than 60 years ago, in last 30 years, the researchers have attempted to provide a firm theoretical and empirical foundation for such guidelines, based on a cognitive analysis of the survey response process. The past 30 years or so have also seen an expansion in the methodological and statistical tools used in developing survey questionnaires; these tools include focus groups, expert reviews, cognitive interviews, field tests, behavior coding of respondentinterviewer exchanges, experiments, and several statistical methods.

Miller & Miller (2007) conducted research on addiction research methods (Miller & Miller, 2007) and explained in edification area the Research Fundamentals, Sampling strategies for addiction research, Experimental design issues in addiction research, Qualitative methods and theory in addictions research, Ethical issues in alcohol, other drugs, and addiction-related research. Chea (2007) wrote one paper on Questionnaire Design and Data Analysis: An Alternative Approach in Student Evaluation of Teaching (Set) the author has explained identifies the weaknesses of the traditional approach in Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) questionnaire development and analysis of data collected from the questionnaire. The researcher paper then provided an alternative method to measure SET items and progress of

inquiry which also involved student's collaboration, as previous research always ignored the most critical component of any study of the customer. The way questions asked is an essential component of the questionnaire design. The earlier researchers also studied this aspect. See et al., (2011) wrote one paper on attitude of health care staff toward serving HIV or AIDS patients and drug users and about questionnaire design and evaluations. The author was of opinion because of attitude of staff the questionnaire validity and reliability are getting affected. The researcher has explained the way staff (HCWs) interact with HIV or AIDS patients, and drug users during their duty positively influence the sustainability of the reduction of programs. To evaluate the professional attitudes of staff, the author has designed a questionnaire which can help the HIV or AIDS surveyors to know the useful responsible of the patients. It will also be beneficial for the doctors to know the accurate, indepth response of the patients.

On questionnaire design, Roopa & Rani, (2012) wrote one paper. The paper explained. This paper is focused on questionnaire. It gives the guidelines about writing a valid survey. Surveys are usually used in quantitative research in the field of social study. An inquiry is a series of questions asked individuals to obtain statistically useful information about a given topic. When properly constructed and responsibly administered, surveys can become a critical tool with the help of which the respondent's statements can be recorded regarding a construct — the survey valuable methods od of collecting a wide range of information from many individuals. For a questionnaire, to get is optimal use the authors have given the guidelines which researchers can use to design a questionnaire. Roopa & Rani also explained the type of questionnaire and the initial phrasing which can be used. The authors described the modes of data collection which researchers can use to collect the data.

The most often referred book of Creswell (2009) titled "Research design; qualitative, quantitative and mixed method research design" is also tool for researchers to understand the research methodology. Creswell (2009) has mainly focused on word of abstract, objectives, questions, hypothesis, and results. However, the author has not focused on questionnaire design. Bradburn, Sudman, & Wansink (2004) wrote one book on asking questions. The book mainly focused on strategies, tactics of asking questions. The book has also explained the drafting and crafting of the questionnaire. It primarily focused on the selection of words and formatting of survey.

Hastert & Griffiths (2012) conducted wrote a book titled Handbook of Survey Methodology for the Social Sciences. In the book, the author has explained the introduction of survey. Issues which survey methodologies had and described the way how future researchers could design a questionnaire. The author has demonstrated how future researchers can resolve the response and nonresponse errors, survey design modes and applications and sensitive, difficult survey topics were also designed in the survey.

Sopher (2012) wrote a book "Collecting, managing, and assessing data using sample surveys and discussed the Basic issues in studies, Ethics of studies of human populations, designing a study, Methods for conducting investigations

of rational people, Focus groups, Design of survey instruments. Janzen (2015) conducted research on constructing A Theory of Planned Behavior Questionnaire. Janzen core focus was on guiding the researchers how to design a questionnaire to measure the attitude. (Krasnik, 2017) wrote a book with the title "The Palgrave Handbook of Survey Research." Research Design Guidelines" and explained the Positivist Application, Pragmatistic Applications, and Constructivist Applications. Strang (2015) wrote a book titled The Palgrave Handbook of Research Design and described the traditional Conventional Survey Research, Opportunities to Expand Data Collection and Linking Survey Data with External Sources.

Evans, Grub, & Zobel, 2014 published an excellent book on How to Write a Better Thesis. The Alia Ahmed (2015) Using Split-Questionnaire Design: An Empirical Analysis. This article focuses on making the questionnaire less lengthy from the respondents. The author believes respondents hesitate to provide the right response against lengthy questionnaires. Splitting a long survey into parts reduces the burden on the respondents as also increases the chances of getting fast and reliable responses from respondents. In the paper, the authors have attempted to compare a new survey technique, i.e., the Split-Questionnaire Design (SQD) and have compared it with the existing classical Full Questionnaire Design (FQD). Though developed recently, SQD has not yet been widely used in surveys.

Based on the literature below is the final guidelines which cover all aspects of the questionnaire.

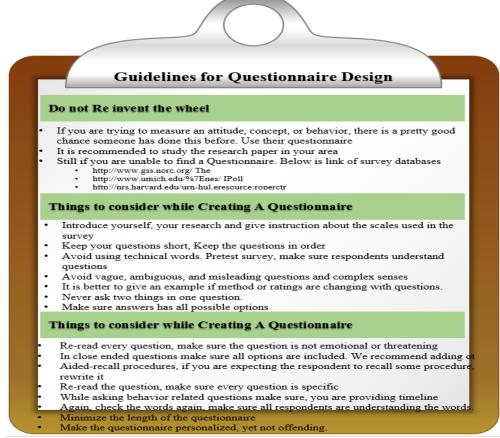


Figure 1 Guidelines for Questionnaire Design

#	Book/Article	References	Focus Areas
1	Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches	(Creswell, 2009)	Helping Researchers in writing research Proposal Explanation of research paper or thesis components
2	Asking Questions	(Bradburn, Sudman, & Wansink, 2004)	Strategies for asking questions, Tactics for Asking Questions, Drafting as Crafting the Questionnaire
3	Survey Questions: Handcrafting the Standardized Questionnaire	(Converse & Presser, 1986)	Strategies for experience and research, The Experimental pieces of evidence Tools for research
4	Handbook of Survey Methodology for the Social Sciences	(Hostert & Griffiths, 2012)	Introduction to Issues of Survey Methodology, Designing the Survey, Respon and Non-Response Errors, Survey Designs, Modes, and Applications, Sensiti and Difficult Survey Topics
5	Improving Survey Questions_Design and Evaluation	(Dr. Floyd J. Fowler, 1995)	The question as a measure, designing items to gather factorial data, Things measure subjective states, some ethical rules to develop a good questionnaire
6	Addiction Research Methods	(Miller & Miller, 2007)	Research Fundamentals, Sampling strategies for addiction researc Experimental design issues in addiction research, Qualitative methods and thec in addictions research, Ethical issues in alcohol, other drugs, and addiction related research
7	The Palgrave Handbook of Survey Research	(Krosnick, 2017)	Research Design Guidelines, Positivist Application, Pragmatistic Applications Constructivist Applications
8	The Palgrave Handbook of Research Design	(D.Strang, 2015)	Conventional Survey Research, Opportunities to Expand Data Collection Linking Survey Data with External Sources
9	Collecting, managing, and assessing data using sample surveys	(Stopher, 2012)	Basic issues in studies, Ethics of studies of human populations, designing study, Methods for conducting investigations of rational people, Focus group Design of survey instruments
10	How to Write a Better Thesis	(Evans, Gruba, & Zobel, 2014)	What Is a Thesis, Thesis Structure, Mechanics of Writing, making a Strong Sta The Introductory Chapter, Background Chapters, Establishing Yo Contribution, Outcomes, and Results, The Discussion or Interpretation, T Conclusion, Before You Submit
11	A History of the Questionnaire Method of Research in Psychology	(Gault, 1907)	More focused on introduction of the survey. Initial days of investigation and it definition. The author has provided possible future implications of the survey
12	Questionnaire Design and Data Analysis	(Chea, 2007)	This paper identifies the weaknesses of the traditional approach in Stude Evaluation of Teaching (SET) questionnaire development and data analysis.
			It then describes an alternative approach to SET items development whi involved students- collaboration.
#	Book/Article	References	involved students- collaboration.
	Book/Article Professional attitude of health care workers toward serving HIV/AIDS patients and drug work or serving thruid actions and activations	References (See et al., 2011)	involved students- collaboration.  Focus Areas The authors have designed a survey which can help the HIV/AIDS surveyors know the useful responsible of the patients. It will also be beneficial for
	Professional attitude of health care workers	(See et al., 2011) (Roopa & Rani,	involved students- collaboration. Focus Areas The authors have designed a survey which can help the HIV/AIDS surveyors know the useful responsible of the patients. It will also be beneficial for doctors to know the accurate, in-depth response of the patients This paper is mainly focused on questionnaire. It gives the guidelines ab
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13         14         15         16         17         18         19         20         21         23	Professional attitude of health care workers toward serving HIV/AIDS patients and drug users: questionnaire design and evaluation Questionnaire Designing for a Survey SQB Methods Fact Sheet 1: Likert Items and Scales Communications and Research Notes Contents Constructing A Theory of Planned Behavior Questionnaire Rutgers Cooperative Extension Program Evaluation Youth Audience Using Split-Questionnaire Design: An Empirical Analysis Electronic Questionnaires Design and Implementation The Science of Asking Questions Questionnaire design improvement and missing item scores estimation for rapid and efficient decision making Teaching applied value of marketing	(See et al., 2011) (Roopa & Rani, 2012) (Johns, 2010) (Jacoby, Jacob; S.Matell, 1971) (Ajzen, 2015) (Routgers, 2011) (Alia Ahmed, 2015) (Minto, Beltrame Vriz, Martinato, & Gregori, 2017) (Schaeffer & Presser, 2003) (Ergu & Kou, 2012) (Makienko &	Focus Areas           The authors have designed a survey which can help the HIV/AIDS surveyors know the useful responsible of the patients. It will also be beneficial for doctors to know the accurate, in-depth response of the patients. This article has explained the Likert scale he processor of the patients and the takent scale has provide the point of the processor of the patients. This article has explained the Likert scale history from psychology articles as within the help of responses.           This article has explained the Likert scale can be used for dichotome variables           Ajzen core focus was on guiding the researchers how to design a questionnaire measure the attitude.           This article has explained in the Rutgers Cooperative Extension program. Tarticle has a beautiful way of describing the question to get the answers from students (Children).           This article focuses on making the questionnaire less lengthy from respondents. The author is of the opinion that respondents hesitate to provide right response against length questionnaire.           This article focuses the difficulties in bipolar versus unipolar scales, number of groups, category labels, do not know filters, and acquiescence. Tapper also addresses procedures for question testing and evaluation.           The paper explained how marketing concepts could be implemented using
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#### Table 1 Summary of Literature Review

Making a questionnaire is a very critical step in social sciences, particularly in the quantitative researcher. Most of the students adopt the survey from previous studies. Many papers are also available where researchers have developed a scale for any construct measurement. However, there are fewer studies on questionnaire design and survey items selection from literature, and this study addresses that gap.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In research, there are Methodologies, Quantitative, Qualitative and Mix Method. The quantitative approach follows the positivist point of view, while the qualitative follows the constructivism point of view and mix methodology follows both. Cress well divided the mixed methodology into further three types which are Convergent Mixed Method, Explanatory following mix method and exploratory Sequential mix method. The technique of mix method is comparatively new, compared to a quantitative and qualitative approach. In all mixed mode and quantitative researchers, the research is bound to make a questionnaire. Based on the questionnaire the respondent responses are collected and measured. The questionaries' feedback can be collected in multiple formats which are Ordinal, nominal and interval and ration scale. Based on the way further, a different test is applied to the collected data. Most of the students face challenges in applying the proper test on the data because they do not think about the questionnaire design and the importance of the items prior to selection of the questionnaire and its sale. This research paper is primarily focused to help the new researcher on making a questionnaire, selecting the variables for the questionnaire.

### ANALYZE

In this study we have analyzed three research paper, which researchers can view to understand the type of questionnaire they want to write and how it implements to them.



Figure 2 Three Methods to Create a Questionnaire for studies in Social Sciences

### Research Paper 1: Adopting a questionnaire form previous studies.

# Customer-based brand equity and firms' performance in the telecom industry

The methodology used in the paper (Buzdar, Janjua, & Khurshid, 2016) This is the easiest approach and recommend for master's students. Students can directly use any previous research paper used questionnaire. In this research paper, the author has adopted the questionnaire from Aaker model of

Customer-based brand equity. The author has used the same constructs independent variables; Brand awareness, brand image, Perceived quality and brand loyalty and measured the brand equity if telecom companies in context of Pakistan. This research questionnaire selection can be used even in the doctorate level thesis, where the researcher is providing a methodical contribution. Over here on point is important to note this study paper was not to design a scale. Therefore it used an earlier scale. The next two methods core objective is making a scale.

# Research Paper 2: Designing a questionnaire based on the previously collected data

# Scale development and validation for measuring corporate brand associations

In this paper (Mann & Ghuman, 2014) the researchers, core objective was making a scale on a very popular construct. The Author has studied completed Literature and discussed the scale given by previous authors. After content and face validity of the questionnaire, a questionnaire was selected. Based on that questionnaire data were collected from different fields. The author has finalized a questionnaire after making sure the validity, reliability is at the required threshold against every item. For research items where the reliability and validity were not at the required threshold were removed. For the convenience of understanding of researchers, the figure-1 shows the list of earlier constructs and criticism of the author. The figure two shows the new items for the measure of brand association provided by the author.

Note: The author has listed whole concepts and multiple variables, just for an understanding of the readers, we have given snapshot of top rows in the paper.

Table 2: Corporate	brand associations considered in the pre-test
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Dimension	S. No.	Statement	Source
Dynamism	I.	This company has prospects for future growth.	Heerden and Puth (1995); Sung and Yang (2008)
	2.	This company is always improving.	Heerden and Puth (1995)
	3.	This company has a clear vision about its future.	Schwaiger and Zhang (2009)
Corporate ability/ Performance	4.	This is a successful company.	Souiden et al (2006); Anisimova (2007)
	5.	This company is the industry leader.	Souiden et al (2006)
	6.	This company is financially sound.	Souiden et al (2006)
	7.	This is an economically stable company.	Schwaiger and Zhang (2009)
	8.	This company is innovative rather than imitator.	Souiden et al (2006); Schwaiger and Zhang (2009)
	9.	This company recognises and takes advantages of market opportunities.	Caruana et al (2006)
	10.	This company has strong management.	Caruana et al (2006)
	11.	This company is at the forefront of the technology.	Anisimova (2007)
	12.	This company strongly supports research into technology.	Anisimova (2007)
	13.	The company is pioneering in its industry.	Souiden et al (2006)
	14.	This company does not have much experience.	Newell and Goldsmith (2001
	15.	This company is skilled in what it does.	Newell and Goldsmith (2001

Figure 3 Method 2: The way Author Criticized the previous Scales

#### Table 3: CFA fit indices in the three sectors

	Insurance	Automobiles	FMCG
Chi-square (df = 329)	2179.09	1515.56	1454.87
Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA)	0.13	0.11	0.11
Comparative Fit Index (CFI)	0.92	0.89	0.86
Incremental Fit Index (IFI)	0.92	0.89	0.87
Normed Fit Index (NFI)	0.90	0.87	0.85
Non-Normed Fit Index (NNFI)	0.90	0.87	0.86

Table 4: Confirmatory factor analysis for corporate brand associations' scale

Factors and key variables	nd key variables CFA factor load		ngs	
	Insurance	Automobiles	FMCG	
F1: Corporate ability and growth (CA&G)				
<ol> <li>This company has potential for future growth.</li> </ol>	0.87	0.84	0.81	
2. This company is always improving.	0.91	0.92	0.79	
<ol><li>This company has a clear vision about its future.</li></ol>	0.92	0.86	0.75	
4. This is a successful company.	0.84	0.71	0.76	
5. This company recognises and takes advantage of market opportunities.	0.79	0.73	0.51	
F2: Symbolic benefits (SB)				
<ol> <li>Products of this company express youthful spirit.</li> </ol>	0.77	0.72	0.57	
2. If I purchase a product of this company, I would feel that I made a smart choice.	0.77	0.70	0.72	
3. If I purchase a product of this company, I would feel that I stand out in a crowd.	0.84	0.70	0.65	
<ol><li>Products of this company help to get admiration in society.</li></ol>	0.92	0.82	0.78	
5. If I purchase a product of this company, I would be able to express my personality.	0.94	0.82	0.87	
6. This company helps to display status symbol.	0.88	0.89	0.78	

#### Figure 4 Method 2: Designed new Scale

#### Research paper 3: Designing a questionnaire from scratch.

# SERVQUAL: A multiple- Item Scale for measuring consumer perceptions of service quality

In the third research paper (Parasuraman, A., Zeithaml, V., Berry, 1988), has provided a scale from scratch. For this paper, we have selected many papers carefully, but finally, we picked this paper because this paper is Windley used in the social sciences. More than 20,000 researchers have used the given model of Parasuraman in their researchers. The author provided the questionnaire regarding the service quality; it was basically given in context of retailing. The author has described that whenever any customers go to a service center or any retail shop, he experiences falls under five main categories which are his satisfaction with the tangibles. By tangibles, the author meant the building and staff dressing. The other aspect which author has given is empathy; it says the extent at which the employees understand the customers. It is all about putting the shoes of customers from the company side. The third aspects the author give the responsiveness it means how early and in which way the employees respond to the customers. The fourth aspect is the assurance. It means the ability in which the employees let the customers realize that they will solve the problems. Below picture copied from Parasuraman paper shows the summary of steps which were used to make a new construct.

The new researchers willing to make a new questionnaire can follow the below process. There were in total 11 steps involved in making of the questionnaire. It will not be an exaggeration if we say that this the most cited research paper in history of social sciences. The steps which Parasuraman used are below.

The step one for making a scale which Parasuraman follow was the definition of service quality. He also explained the discrepancy between the consumer's perception of services offered by a firm and their expectation about the firm. In second step he identified the 10 dimensions in context of service quality construct. In third steps, he created 97 items representation the 10 aspects. In fourth stage, the author further collected the expectations and perception of 200 respondents. In step 5 the author has purified the scale with the help of computation of coefficient alpha and total correlation for each dimension, selection of items whose item in total correlations were low and whose removal increased coefficient scale, factors analysis to verify the dimensionality of overall scale, the reassignment of items and restructuring of the dimension where necessary. In step 6 the author identified the 34 elements representing the second round 7 dimensions. In step 7 the author again collected the data again 34 items from the 200 respondents in the field of retailing. In step 8 the author performed the evaluation and further purification of 34 item scale by using the same iterative sequence in step 5of each for data sets. In step 9 the author presented the identification of more parsimonious, 22 item scales representing the five dimensions. In step 10 the author performed the evaluation of SERVQUAL reliability and factor structure. The author again reanalyzed the 22-item scale. In step 11 the author showed the assessment of the validity of the scale.

### CONCLUSION

A good questionnaire both correctly reflects the surveyor's aims and needs to convey the respondent's thoughts accurately and is the information link between the surveyor and the respondent. The questionnaire plays a central role in the research process. After a comprehensive review of several books and articles on the subject, the authors have provided a guide for research scholars on questionnaire design. To make questionnaire design and selection more accessible to scholars.

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