

Research Frameworks & Best Practices

A Complete Guide for PhD Scholars, Researchers & Academic Writers

Introduction

Conducting high-quality research requires more than just data collection. This guide covers the end-to-end research process — from formulating a research problem to publishing in reputed journals. Prepared by Dr. Richa Paliwal based on her experience guiding PhD scholars across disciplines.

The Research Process — Step by Step

Stage	Activity	Outcome
1. Identify Problem	Literature gap analysis	Clear research question
2. Literature Review	Systematic review of sources	Theoretical framework
3. Research Design	Choose methodology	Quantitative/Qualitative plan
4. Data Collection	Primary / Secondary sources	Raw dataset
5. Analysis	Statistical / Thematic	Findings & patterns
6. Write-Up	Structured thesis drafting	Complete manuscript
7. Publication	Journal submission	Peer-reviewed paper

Methodology Selection Guide

- Quantitative Research: Use when you need numerical data, statistical proof, or large sample sizes.
- Qualitative Research: Use for exploring perceptions, behaviours, and lived experiences.
- Mixed Methods: Combine both for comprehensive, triangulated findings.
- Action Research: Best for practitioners solving real-world problems in their field.

Literature Review Best Practices

A strong literature review is the backbone of any research. Use Google Scholar, ResearchGate, and Scopus-indexed journals. Organize sources thematically, not chronologically. Always identify the research gap — this is what justifies your study.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Choosing a too-broad or too-narrow research topic.
- Skipping pilot testing before full data collection.
- Plagiarism — always cite sources correctly (APA/MLA/IEEE).
- Submitting to predatory journals — always check journal rankings.

Dr. Richa Paliwal | Educator · Researcher · Author · Healer · Guide
drrichapaliwal.com | richa@drrichapaliwal.com | Haridwar, Uttarakhand, India