

# How to Conceive and State an Acceptable Research Problem: A Guide for Higher Degree Students and Early Career Researchers

David Onen

Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

[donenotoo@cees.mak.ac.ug](mailto:donenotoo@cees.mak.ac.ug)

**Abstract:** This paper looks at how a research problem is conceived and stated in the social sciences and humanities. Specifically, it explains in simple terms what a research problem is, how it can be conceived, and succinctly stated. The paper arose as a result of the obstinate challenges faced by higher degree students and early career researchers in formulating and stating suitable research problems. In the paper, the author defines what a research problem is, distinguishes it from other kinds of problem, and demonstrates - step by step - how a research problem can be identified and undoubtedly stated. In addition, the paper also analyses the different formats of writing the statement of the research problem and proposes an easier and more suitable method of how to do so. Therefore, it is hoped that the paper will assist higher degree students and early career researchers in conceiving and stating acceptable research problems.

**Keywords:** Research problem, higher degree students, early career researchers, challenges

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