

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA**  
**THE DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS**

**SOFT SKILLS ENHANCEMENT TRAININGS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS**

**TOPIC: CRITICAL LITERATURE REVIEW IN ACADEMIC WRITINGS**

**LAKE ZONE (MWANZA, KAGERA, MARA, SIMIYU, GEITA, SHINYANGA AND KIGOMA)**

**VENUE: MWANZA REGIONAL CENTRE**

**DATES: 5<sup>TH</sup> to 6<sup>TH</sup> May 2018**

**TIME: 9.00 AM to 4.00 PM**

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

The focus of this training is to enable participants acquire skills needed to write high quality research reports such as dissertations and theses. These training aims at enhancing academic writing skills of Masters and PhD students and those who work in research institutions.

**COURSE RATIONALE**

When conducting research, a literature review is an essential part of the project because it covers all previous research done on the topic and sets the platform on which the current research is based. No new research can be taken seriously without first reviewing the previous research done on the topic. However, the importance of the literature search and review is that your research proposal will be so easy to write once you have done this. Everything in your research proposal flows from your literature review - indeed, you may find from the literature that the questions you wish to deal with in your own research have already been answered, and so there is no need for you to undertake your research. In that case, you may decide that either there is no

need to do any research, or your review of the literature may have pointed you in the direction of another piece of research related to your interests/practice, etc., because you have identified gaps in the literature (even though your own topic has been well covered) and you want to examine those.

The objectives of this module are:

- To acquire knowledge on the role of literature review in the research process;
- To define major concepts and the purpose of literature review;
- To make a distinction between theoretical and empirical literature review;
- To acquire skills for organizing your literature review chapter/section;
- To differentiate the roles of conceptual and theoretical framework in the research process;
- To identify the relevant sources of literature;
- To acquire knowledge and skills related to effective literature search;
- To acquire skills for evaluating and organizing your literature; and
- To acquire skills for effective reading

## **CONTENT OF THE TRAINING COURSE**

The following themes will be taught in the lectures.

- i) Role of literature review in the research process
- ii) Conceptual definitions,
- iii) Theoretical vs. empirical literature review,
- iv) organising/writing your literature review
- v) Theoretical Framework and Conceptual Framework
- vi) Knowledge/Research Gap
- vii) Overview and features of peer reviewed articles
- viii) Identifying relevant sources of literature
- ix) Effective literature search (keywords, backward and forward searches)
- x) Evaluating and organizing your literature
- xi) Effective reading

N.B: After the training lectures will be in touch with the participants to attend their concerns for a period of one month

## **PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

Oral presentation and in-class activities. Participants are required to come with their draft reports of proposals, dissertations/theses for the purpose of use during training.

## **FEE STRUCTURE**

50,000/= TSH for two days weekends (OUT students)

70,000/= TSH for two days weekends (interested candidates from the general public)

To be paid at:

The National Bank of Commerce

Research and Consultancy Account

Account no: 011101015604

### **COORDINATOR**

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