

RESEARCH MANUAL
PhD Programme
Department of Anthropology
University of Allahabad, Prayagraj

Acknowledgement

This Research Manual has been prepared to guide doctoral scholars of the Department of Anthropology, University of Allahabad, in developing rigorous, ethically grounded, and theoretically informed research. Anthropology, as a discipline that integrates biological, socio-cultural, linguistic, archaeological and applied perspectives, demands reflexive scholarship, methodological diversity, and deep engagement with communities.

The manual reflects contemporary developments in anthropological theory, fieldwork ethics, interdisciplinary approaches, and evolving research standards. It aims to support scholars in producing research that is locally grounded, globally relevant, and socially meaningful.

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1. Research Philosophy and Mandate in Anthropology
2. Anthropological Research Design
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Chapter 1: Research Philosophy and Mandate in Anthropology

1.1 Objectives of Doctoral Research in Anthropology

Doctoral research in the Department of Anthropology shall aim to:

- Advance theoretical understanding of human diversity.
- Engage with contemporary issues such as health, environment, development, gender, technology, and indigenous knowledge.
- Integrate ethnographic depth with analytical rigor.
- Contribute to public policy, community wellbeing, and interdisciplinary scholarship.

Students are encouraged to locate their research within established as well as emerging domains of anthropology such as:

- Medical and Psychological Anthropology
- Tribal and Indigenous Studies
- Biological Anthropology
- Forensic Anthropology
- Ecology and Multispecies Relations
- Anthropology of Religion and Knowledge Systems
- Applied and Development Anthropology

1.2 Anthropological Research Orientation

Anthropological research should ideally be:

- Empirically grounded through fieldwork.
- Theoretically informed through engagement with classical and contemporary scholarship.
- Reflexive regarding researcher positionality.
- Sensitive to cultural diversity and ethical obligations.

1.3 Multidisciplinarity and Anthropological Integration

Anthropology naturally integrates insights from sociology, psychology, ecology, history, Biology, and public health. However, interdisciplinarity must not dilute anthropological depth. Students should demonstrate:

- Conceptual clarity
- Methodological coherence
- Ethnographic sensitivity

1.4 History, Context and Analysis

Historical context is important, but excessive narrative must be avoided. Background sections should:

- Support analytical arguments.
- Demonstrate interpretive engagement rather than descriptive accumulation.

1.5 Language, Fieldwork and Cultural Competence

Doctoral scholars should strive to develop:

- Field emersion for a maximum of one year depending upon the topic.
- Working familiarity with local languages of field sites.
- Cultural competence and ethical sensitivity.
- Long-term engagement with communities wherever possible.

Chapter 2: Anthropological Research Design

2.1 Methods, Techniques and Sources

- **Methods:** Ethnography, participant observation, interviews, archival analysis, comparative analysis.
- **Techniques:** Surveys, life histories, visual documentation, mapping, quantitative analysis, narrative analysis.
- **Sources:** Field sites, archives, oral traditions, digital data, policy documents.

2.2 Variables and Concepts in Anthropological Research

Unlike purely quantitative sciences, anthropology treats many concepts as interpretive variables — e.g., identity, ritual, wellbeing, kinship.

Researchers should clearly define:

- Independent factors (e.g., migration, livelihood change)
- Dependent processes (e.g., mental health outcomes)
- Mediating cultural variables.

2.3 Description vs Explanation in Ethnography

Anthropological writing requires:

- **Thick description** (Geertzian ethnography)
- Analytical explanation connecting local experience with broader theoretical debates.

Narrative alone is insufficient; interpretation is essential.

2.4 Inductive and Deductive Reasoning

Anthropological inquiry often combines:

- Induction from field observations.
- Deduction from theoretical frameworks.

2.5 Characteristics of a Strong PhD Project

A strong doctoral project should:

- Address understudied communities or emerging issues.
- Offer conceptual or methodological innovation.
- Engage with contemporary debates.

Chapter 3: PhD Synopsis Guidelines

Length: Approximately 10–15 pages (excluding references).

Section 1: Background (2 pages)

Contextualise the research problem within anthropological debates.

Section 2: Literature Review (5–6 pages)

Organise literature thematically, not author-by-author.

Section 3: Research Rationale and Scope (1–2 pages)

Explain significance for anthropology and society.

Section 4: Research Questions and Objectives (1 page)

Clear, focused, theoretically grounded.

Section 5: Methodology and Fieldwork Plan (1–2 pages)

Include:

- Field site description
- Sampling strategy
- Ethical considerations
- Data collection methods

Section 6: Tentative Chapterisation (½ page)

References

Follow APA Reference style.

Chapter 4: Thesis Style and Structure

4.1 Format

- A4 size paper

- Times New Roman, 12 pt
 - 1.5 line spacing
 - British spelling conventions
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4.2 Structure of Thesis

1. Title Page
 2. Declaration
 3. Acknowledgements
 4. Contents
 5. List of Tables/Figures
 6. Chapters
 7. References
-

4.3 Citation Style

APA format recommended:

Example:

Single author:

(Das, 2023)

Two authors:

(Das & Singh, 2020)

Three or more authors:

(Sharma et al., 2022)

Direct quotation:

(Mishra, 2019, p. 45)

Multiple sources:

(Karve, 1961; Uberoi, 1993)

4.4 Reference style

Book

Author, A. A. (Year). *Title of the book*. Publisher.

Karve, I. (1961). *Hindu society: An interpretation*. Deccan College.

Edited Book Chapter

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of chapter. In E. E. Editor (Ed.), *Book title* (pp. xx–xx). Publisher.
Giri, A. (2021). Ethics and selfhood. In R. Ray (Ed.), *Contemporary social theory* (pp. 55–72). Routledge.

Journal Article

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of article. *Journal Name*, *Volume*(*Issue*), pages.
<https://doi.org/xxxxx>

Das, V. (2015). Affliction and everyday life. *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 52(3), 321–335.

Government/Institutional Report

Organisation Name. (Year). *Title of report*. Publisher/URL.

Government of India. (2022). *National health report*. Ministry of Health.

Thesis/Dissertation

Author, A. A. (Year). *Title of thesis* (Doctoral dissertation). University Name.

Web Source

Author/Organisation. (Year). Title of page. Site Name. URL

World Health Organization. (2023). Mental health overview. <https://www.who.int>

Include only cited works. Arrange alphabetically.

Chapter 5: Ethics, Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Anthropological research involves deep engagement with human participants; therefore:

- Regularity as a research scholar in the Department throughout the period of research.
- Leave as per the UGC/University guidelines
- During fieldwork Informed consent from the respondents is mandatory.
- Sensitive cultural knowledge must be handled responsibly.
- Paraphrasing without citation constitutes plagiarism.

Ethical reflexivity should be integral to fieldwork and writing.

Appendix 1: Title Page

TITLE OF THE THESIS

Thesis submitted to the

UNIVERSITY OF ALLAHABAD

for the award of the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.)

IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Department of Anthropology

University of Allahabad

Prayagraj

Year

Appendix 2: Declaration and Certificate

I declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted elsewhere.

(Signature of Candidate)

Recommended for evaluation:

Head of Department
Supervisor