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What this file is. A sample project proposal (synopsis) for the IGNOU M.Sc.

(Environmental Science) project, course MEVP-011 (also written MEVP-11 or MEVP 11).

It shows how the five parts that the MEVP-011 Handbook on Project Work asks for (section 3.5) can be developed into a proposal of about 1,500 words.

What this file is not. It is not an IGNOU document, it is not an approved proposal and it must not be submitted, copied or adapted as your own. The MEVP-011 Handbook says completely identical proposals and reports will be rejected (section 4.2, point 8) and that plagiarism cases go to the IGNOU unfair means committee (section 5.2). Your topic, place, sites, readings and literature must be your own.

How to use it. Read it to see the level of detail a proposal needs: a measurable objective, a named instrument and procedure, a stated analysis for each objective, and honest limitations. Everything in [square brackets] is a fact only you can supply. Facts outside brackets were checked against the sources listed at the end in October 2026.

What the MEVP-011 Handbook asks for	Where it appears in this sample
Title of the project (3.5)	Part 1
Introduction and objectives of the project (3.5)	Part 2
Methodology and tools to be used (3.5)	Part 3
Utility or scope of the work (3.5)	Part 4
Future directions for investigation (3.5)	Part 5
Proposal of approximately 1,500 words (3.5)	Parts 1 to 5 run to about 1,500 words
Proforma for Approval of Project Proposal, signed by you and your supervisor, plus the supervisor's complete signed bio-data (3.6, Annexure I)	Not included: use the official proforma on page 13 of the Handbook

The proposal goes to the Coordinator of your Programme Study Centre or Study Centre, not to the Regional Centre or the School, and you keep a photocopy of the complete package (Handbook 3.6).

Project Proposal (Sample)

M.Sc. (Environmental Science) (MSCENV), Course MEVP-011 Dissertation/Project

Student: [Name] Enrolment No.: [] Study Centre Code: [] Regional Centre Code: []

Proposed supervisor: [Name, designation, institution]

1. Title of the Project

Daytime Ambient Noise Levels in Declared Silence Zones around Schools and Hospitals in [Town], [District]: A Comparison with the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000

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2. Introduction and Objectives

2.1 Background

Noise is regulated in India through the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (S.O. 123(E), 14 February 2000) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Schedule to the Rules sets ambient noise standards, in dB(A) Leq, for four categories of area. For a silence zone the limit is 50 dB(A) during the day and 40 dB(A) at night, with day time reckoned from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Rule 3(5) allows an area of not less than 100 metres around hospitals, educational institutions and courts to be declared a silence area or zone.

Schools and hospitals are protected because their users are sensitive to noise: teaching depends on speech being understood, and patients need rest. The World Health Organization's Guidelines for Community Noise (Berglund, Lindvall and Schwela, 1999) discuss these effects for schools and hospitals. In many Indian towns, however, schools and hospitals stand on busy roads, and the silence-zone limit exists on paper without local measurements to show whether it is met.

2.2 Statement of the problem

Daytime noise levels in the declared silence zones of [Town] have not been measured systematically [confirm this through your literature search and with the State Pollution Control Board's published monitoring locations]. Without measurements, school heads, hospital administrators and the local authority cannot judge whether the 50 dB(A) daytime limit is met, at which hours it is exceeded, or how far traffic explains the exceedance.

2.3 Rationale

The study applies the legal standards studied in MEV-017 Environmental Legislations and the measurement principles of MEVE-018 Instrumentation Techniques for Environmental Monitoring [delete if this elective was not taken] to a problem the investigator can observe directly. It needs one calibrated instrument, permission to stand at site boundaries and careful recording, so it can be completed within one project slot.

2.4 Objectives

- To measure hourly daytime A-weighted equivalent continuous sound levels (Leq) at [n] declared silence-zone sites around schools and hospitals in [Town].
- To compare the measured daytime levels with the silence-zone limit of 50 dB(A) Leq in the Schedule to the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.
- To examine how the measured levels vary across the hours of the day and between working days and [holidays or Sundays].
- To examine the association between road traffic volume and horn events counted during each measurement hour and the hourly Leq.

The objectives are worded neutrally: none of them assumes that the limit is or is not exceeded.

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3. Methodology and Tools

3.1 Study area and sites

The study area is [Town], [District], [State] [add one line on population and road network from a cited source]. Sites will be [n] schools and [n] hospitals whose surroundings have been declared silence zones by [competent authority, order or notification number and date]. If no declaration can be traced for a site, that site will be reported separately, because rule 3(5) applies to declared zones. Sites will be selected purposively using three criteria: a declared silence zone, a public road within [] metres of the main gate, and written permission from the head of the institution to place the instrument at the boundary.

3.2 Research design

A descriptive, cross-sectional field monitoring design will be used. Each site will be monitored on [n] working days and [n] holidays between [month] and [month] [year].

3.3 Instrument and procedure

Measurements will use a Type 1 (Class 1) integrating sound level meter conforming to IEC 61672-1, with a windscreen, tripod and an acoustic calibrator [make and model, borrowed from (institution), calibration certificate dated (date)]. The procedure follows the Central Pollution Control Board's Protocol for Ambient Level Noise Monitoring:

- microphone 1.2 to 1.5 metres above ground on a tripod, away from walls and other reflecting surfaces; hand-held readings will not be used;
- A-weighting, 1-second sampling, with Leq, L10, L50, L90, Lmax and Lmin recorded for each hour;
- calibration check at 94 dB before and after each session, with the session accepted only if the two checks agree within 1.0 dB;
- measurement only in dry weather with wind below 5 m/s, never in rain or fog, with weather noted on the field sheet.

Hourly Leq will be recorded from [08:00] to [20:00] on each monitoring day, which covers [12] of the 16 daytime hours. The CPCB Protocol requires coverage of at least 75 per cent

of the prescribed period for legal compliance. This study is a screening study, so its coverage will be stated plainly and its results will not be presented as a compliance determination.

3.4 Supporting observations

During each hour an assistant will count vehicles by class (two-wheeler, car, bus or truck, other) and horn events in four 15-minute blocks on a tally sheet. Site sketches will record the distance from the measurement point to the carriageway edge.

3.5 Data analysis (objective by objective)

Objective	Analysis	Output
1	Hourly Leq per site; daytime Leq combined on the logarithmic scale, not as an arithmetic mean	Tables and site-wise hourly profiles
2	Number and percentage of hourly values above 50 dB(A) at each site	Exceedance table
3	Comparison of hourly profiles across times of day, and of working days with holidays (Mann-Whitney U test if the data are not normally distributed)	Line charts; test statistic and p-value
4	Spearman rank correlation between hourly traffic count or horn count and hourly Leq	Correlation table

Tools: [MS Excel or LibreOffice Calc] for calculations and charts; [QGIS, optional] for a site map using GPS points.

3.6 Permissions and ethics

An authorisation letter from the supervisor or the study centre will be obtained before fieldwork, as the Handbook allows (section 3.4). Written permission will be taken from each institution. The instrument records sound levels only; no speech will be recorded and no person will be identified.

3.7 Limitations

Daytime only; a limited number of days per site; results depend on one instrument and on the measurement point chosen at each boundary.

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4. Utility and Scope of the Work

The study will give [Town] its first site-wise record of daytime noise in declared silence zones [confirm]. School heads and hospital administrators can use it when asking the local authority for signage, horn restrictions or traffic changes. The method is low-cost and can be repeated by the [State] Pollution Control Board, a municipal body or later students to see whether conditions change. Within the M.Sc. programme it applies the legal standards and monitoring practice taught in the second year.

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5. Future Directions for Investigation

- night-time monitoring around hospitals, where the limit falls to 40 dB(A);
- indoor levels in classrooms and wards, compared with outdoor levels at the boundary;
- seasonal repetition to separate festival or examination periods from ordinary weeks;
- a perception survey of teachers, patients or staff, which would need its own ethics approval and questionnaire.

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References

Berglund, B., Lindvall, T. and Schwela, D.H. (eds) (1999). *Guidelines for Community Noise*. Geneva: World Health Organization.

Central Pollution Control Board. *Protocol for Ambient Level Noise Monitoring*. Delhi:

CPCB. (Copy hosted by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, file dated 9 November 2015.)

Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests (2000). *Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000*. Notification S.O. 123(E), 14 February 2000.

Indira Gandhi National Open University, School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies. *MEVP-011 Handbook on Project Work*. New Delhi: IGNOU.

Indira Gandhi National Open University, School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies. *MEV-019 Research Methodology for Environmental Science* (course material). New Delhi: IGNOU.

International Electrotechnical Commission (2013). *IEC 61672-1:2013 Electroacoustics: Sound level meters, Part 1: Specifications*. Geneva: IEC.

[Add 8 to 12 empirical studies on urban or silence-zone noise in India from your own search: author, year, title, journal, volume, pages. Read each one before citing it.]

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Before you post or hand in your own proposal

- Proforma for Approval of Project Proposal (MEVP-011) filled in every box, signed and dated by you and your supervisor. An incomplete proforma is not accepted (Handbook 3.6).
- Supervisor's complete, signed bio-data enclosed, even if the supervisor is an MSCENV academic counsellor (Annexure I note).
- If the supervisor is a counsellor: the courses counselled, since when, and the study centre name and code are stated (Handbook 3.3).

- Proposal of about 1,500 words with all five parts.
- Photocopy of the complete package kept with you (Handbook 3.6).

Need your own draft checked against the MEVP-011 Handbook? See ignouproject.com/ignou-project-synopsis-correction/. You remain the author; the Programme Study Centre Coordinator decides approval.

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