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IGNOU MTTM-16 sample synopsis (dissertation proposal), study reference only

What this is. A worked example of an MTTM-16 dissertation proposal, written by ignouproject.com to show the seven components that the MTTM-16 Dissertation Guide (SOTHSSM, IGNOU, March 2017, section 16.3.3) asks for. It is not a finished proposal and must not be submitted, copied or adapted as your own. The Guide states that material copied from other dissertations or websites is disqualified and the learner has to do the dissertation again.

What you must supply. Everything in [square brackets]: the site, what you have observed there, the empirical studies you have read, your sample, your sampling method, your schedule and your research gap. These come only from your own reading and fieldwork.

Length. The Guide sets the proposal at not more than 1,000 words. The proposal body in this sample (sections 1 to 7, including the bracketed prompts) is 790 words. This page is typeset 12 point and double spaced for easy reading; the Guide does not prescribe line spacing or font for the proposal.

How the packet goes. The Dissertation Proposal Proforma (Annexure A of the Guide), signed by your supervisor, is the first or covering page. Prepare two copies, keep one, and send one by Registered Post to the Programme Coordinator (MTTM), School of Tourism and Hospitality Services Sectoral Management (SOTHSSM), Block No. 15, 2nd Floor, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi 110068, with MTTM - 16 written in bold on top of the envelope. Give your complete postal address with PIN code. Start the dissertation only after the Letter of Approval reaches you.

Supervisor. Any MTTM counsellor at a study centre is a recognised supervisor. A university or college teacher with at least three years of teaching experience, or a tourism industry professional at the rank of Manager or above, can also supervise; for such a supervisor, send a brief bio-data with the proposal for approval.

MTTMP-119 learners. MTMP-119 (Dissertation Work, 8 credits, Semester 4) is the dissertation course of the new MTTM_NEW programme. This sample follows the MTTM-16 Guide. As of October 2026 we did not find a separate published MTMP-119 dissertation guide, so confirm the current instructions with SOTHSSM before you prepare your packet.

Source: MTTM-16 Dissertation Guide, IGNOU (SOTHSSM), March 2017, sections 16.3 to 16.7 and Annexures A to C; MTTM_NEW programme page, ignou.ac.in, read 06 October 2026.

Page 1 of your packet: Annexure A

Place the official Dissertation Proposal Proforma from the MTTM-16 Guide (Annexure A) here, filled in completely and signed by your supervisor. Do not retype a copy from a website. The proforma asks for: date; name; Programme Code MTTM; Course Code MTTM-16; enrolment number; Regional Centre; complete postal address; study centre and its code; mobile number; e-mail; title of the dissertation; and the supervisor's Letter or Certificate of Approval with signature, name, designation and address.

DISSERTATION PROPOSAL

Programme: MTTM Course: MTTM-16 Name: [your name] Enrolment No.: []

Supervisor: [name, designation, institution or organisation]

1. Title of the proposed Dissertation

Visitor Crowding and Carrying Capacity at [Monument], [City]: Perceptions of Visitors and Site Staff.

2. Rationale behind the proposed topic

[Monument] in [City] is a heritage site that I can visit regularly, which the MTTM-16 Dissertation Guide asks for: the area of study should be accessible to the learner, so that the work rests on field experience rather than bookish knowledge. At peak hours the site [describe what you have personally observed, for example queues at the ticket window or congestion at one gallery]. Such crowding affects the visitor experience, the safety of visitors and the condition of the monument.

The Guide lists Carrying Capacity of Sites/Destinations and Host Guest Relationship and Visitor Management among its sample themes of research. A theme is not a topic, so this proposal narrows the theme to one site, two groups of respondents and one question: how crowded the site feels to the people who use and manage it, and what they think would ease it.

3. Objectives of the study

- (i) To study the profile and visiting pattern of visitors to [Monument].
- (ii) To examine visitors' perceptions of crowding at different times and places within the site.
- (iii) To explore how site staff view visitor numbers and peak-time management at the site.
- (iv) To compare the views of visitors and site staff on crowding.
- (v) To identify visitor management measures suggested by both groups.

4. Review of relevant literature

Carrying capacity in recreation and tourism has been discussed as the level of use beyond which impacts on the resource or on the experience become unacceptable (Shelby and Heberlein, 1986; Manning, 2007). Mathieson and Wall (1982) placed physical and social impacts of tourism within one framework, and Butler (1980) linked rising visitor numbers to the stages through which a destination passes. Doxey (1975) described how host attitudes may change as visitor pressure grows, which is relevant to staff who meet visitors every day. UNWTO (2004) proposed indicators that destinations can use to monitor such pressure.

[Review two to four empirical studies on crowding or visitor management at Indian heritage sites. Give author, year and source for each, state what each found in your own words, and note its method.] The research gap is [state it after your review, for example that no study has compared visitor and staff views at this particular site].

5. Outline of the research plan and methods

Design. Descriptive survey with a small qualitative component.

Primary data. (a) A structured questionnaire for visitors, administered at the exit on [number] weekdays and [number] weekend days, with a planned sample of [n] visitors selected by [sampling method and the reason for it]. (b) Semi-structured interviews with [n] site staff, subject to permission from [the authority that manages the site], which will be sought at this proposal stage as the Guide advises. (c) Observation of visitor flow at [fixed points] at set times, recorded by me.

Secondary data. Visitor records of the site if released by the authority, and [the latest edition of India Tourism Statistics, Ministry of Tourism] for context.

Analysis. Frequencies, percentages and cross-tabulation of crowding perception by time and day of visit; comparison of visitor and staff responses; themes drawn from interview notes. Facts and opinions will be kept separate, and other people's judgements will be attributed to them.

Ethics. Respondents will be told the purpose, asked for consent and not named.

Time frame. [Write your own schedule, starting after the Letter of Approval reaches you.]

6. Chapter outline

Chapter 1, Introduction: background, rationale, objectives, scope. Chapter 2, Review of literature. Chapter 3, Research methodology. Chapter 4, Profile of [Monument] and its visitor flow. Chapter 5, Analysis and interpretation of visitor and staff data. Chapter 6, Findings, suggestions and conclusion. Bibliography. Appendices: questionnaire, interview schedule, permission letter, photographs.

7. Preliminary bibliography

Butler, R. W. (1980). The concept of a tourist area cycle of evolution: implications for management of resources. *Canadian Geographer*, 24(1), 5-12.

Doxey, G. V. (1975). A causation theory of visitor-resident irritants: methodology and research inferences. In *Travel and Tourism Research Association Sixth Annual Conference Proceedings*. San Diego.

IGNOU (2017). *MTTM-16 Dissertation Guide*. New Delhi: School of Tourism and Hospitality Services Sectoral Management.

Manning, R. E. (2007). *Parks and Carrying Capacity: Commons Without Tragedy*. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Mathieson, A. and Wall, G. (1982). *Tourism: Economic, Physical and Social Impacts*. Harlow: Longman.

Shelby, B. and Heberlein, T. A. (1986). *Carrying Capacity in Recreation Settings*. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press.

UNWTO (2004). *Indicators of Sustainable Development for Tourism Destinations: A Guidebook*. Madrid: World Tourism Organization.

[Add the empirical studies you reviewed in section 4, and any site or Ministry documents you used.]

Before you post it, check: all seven components present; not more than 1,000 words; objectives describe what you will study, not what you expect to find; the site is one you can visit; organisation permission sought if you study an organisation; Annexure A signed by the supervisor is the first page; bio-data enclosed if your supervisor is not an MTTM counsellor; two copies, one kept; Registered Post; envelope marked MTTM - 16.

SAMPLE FOR STUDY REFERENCE, NOT FOR SUB