**Worksheet 3- Research Design and Methodology**

This worksheet will help you to work through the key choices you need to make in order to design a methodology that will be capable of achieving your research objectives and answering your RQ.

***This will assist you with writing up Chapter 3- Research Design and Methodology of your Dissertation***

**3.1 Research Paradigm** You need to consider the view of ‘reality’ which best suits your research topic, i.e. decide on whether you are taking a ‘objective’ or ‘subjective’ ontological assumption. From there you can determine whether you would be following either a Positivistic or Interpretivist epistemology.

**Select ONE from Below that best fits YOU for doing your Research**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Worldview- Subjective** | **Worldview-Objective** |
| 3.3.1 Research Philosophy |  |  |
| * *Ontology* | Phenomena and their meanings are continually being accomplished by social actors.  🗌 | Phenomena and their meanings have an existence that is independent of social actors  🗌 |
| * *Epistemology* | Believes that knowledge is based on the perception of the individuals. **Interpretivism**  🗌 | Phenomena which are observable and measurable can be regarded as valid knowledge. **Positivism**  🗌 |
| 3.3.2 Research Approach | Inductive  🗌 | Deductive  🗌 |
| 3.3.3 Research Strategy | Qualitative  🗌 | Quantitative  🗌 |

**3.2 Research Design**

Your choice will be largely determined by the research situation/context, area of investigation and the research paradigm chosen earlier. You have an extensive list to choose from: case study, action research, survey, grounded theory, ethnography.

**Select ONE from Below that best fits your Research**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Methodology** | **Description** | **Choice** | **Idea for Action (only for selected methodology)** |
| Case Study | Commonly used to illustrate or understand a problem or indicate good practice. It is an extensive examination of a single instance of a phenomenon of interest. It focuses on understanding the dynamics present within a single setting | 🗌 |  |
| Action Research | An approach which assumes the social world is constantly changing and the researcher and the research itself are part of this change. The research will make a change and measure the results | 🗌 |  |
| Survey | Provides a quantitative or numeric description of trends, attitudes or opinions. leads to general inferences about a population from a sample of the population | 🗌 |  |
| Grounded Theory | To move beyond description of a phenomenon, to generate or discover a theory, The development of the theory might help explain practice. | 🗌 |  |

* 1. **Data Collection**

You need to give details of the techniques that will be used for actually collecting the data. Choices include: questionnaire, observation, interview, focus group etc. What is important is that for the methods chosen, you must specify exactly **how it will be applied**.

**Fill out table below with details of YOUR data collection**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Objectives** | **Source**  **(Who)** | **Data Required (What)** | **Method to Be used (HOW)** |
| 1. |  |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |  |