

May 6, 2015

To the IRB Committee:

In response to your comments and suggestions, this letter provides information of the changes that were made for the resubmission of my research topic, *Holistic Education: Redefining India's Teacher Education Framework*.

The IRB chair made the suggestion of splitting the proposal into two, creating one portion as an observational component that would determine the need for the training, which would produce the second proposal. If this were to be done, the first proposal would need to take an entirely new approach, creating a new research question. To preserve the original need of the community, I would like to keep the research question, but make significant changes to the process itself, to protect the rights and liberties of the participants.

Below, all of the concerns from the IRB board were addressed and modified in the resubmission document:

- 1) *Risk of coercion in recruitment because all teachers are expected to participate*
 - a. The coercion issue is addressed on **page 5-7**, regarding the recruitment process. Multiple schools are now included in the research population sample. There is also the option to participate in the training, but not the research process, to avoid any power relational issues.
- 2) *Inclusion and exclusion criteria*
 - a. This information is on **page 5** and was revised to include a generalized background of teachers in northern, India.
- 3) *Lack of clarity regarding plans for data collection*
 - a. A revised and thorough research plan has been added to the resubmission. This process has been described in a much more detailed manner. The analysis process can be found on **page 11-12**. Adjustments to the research plan have been made on **page 14-19**. The most substantial change is that I completely reformatted my evaluation process by removing the evaluation component, making it a group reflection process, and incorporating an action plan component. This process has been depersonalized, which means that I have shifted away from an individual focus and created a collaborative process, which enhances the development of the school as a whole. There is also a significant increase of research rationale, supported by citations throughout the plan. An appendix has been added to show the data collection material, which has been focused to include the precise script and questions that will be shared with the participants, and the exact process of each stage throughout the entire research process. The appendix can be found on **page 25-34**.
- 4) *Risk of participant distress and no plan for referral*
 - a. The risk of participant distress has been addressed on **page 9-10**. Professional help will be offered for all participants during and after the research process.

Thank you for the time and consideration you have offered as a board. I have taken the time and effort to deeply consider your suggestions through significant changes to the overall design. I am truly considering my participants overall wellbeing as the main priority.

Sincerely,
Heidi Rico