



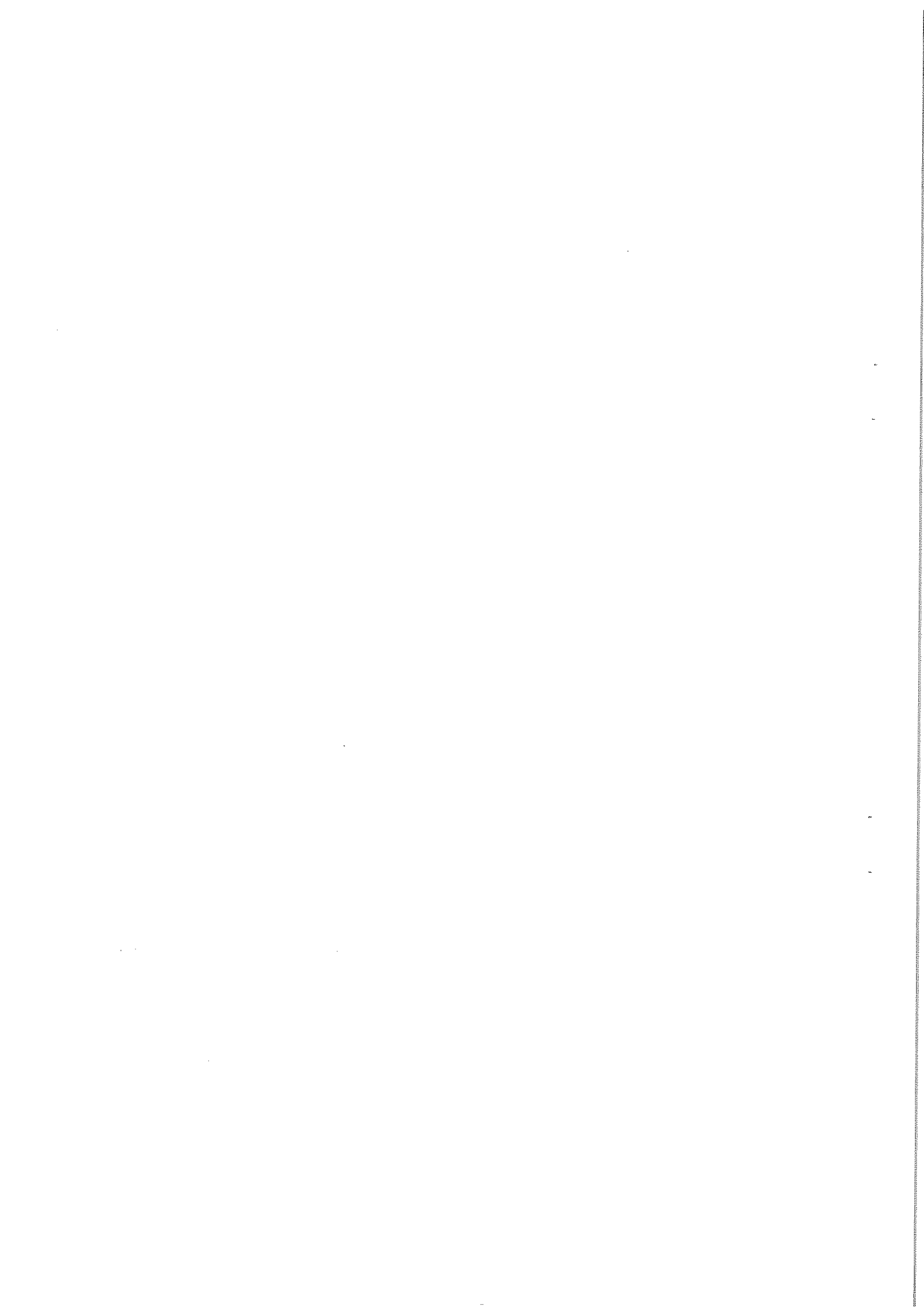
The Open University of Sri Lanka
Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences (B.MLS Hons)
MLU3146 – Research Methodology
Academic Year 2018/19– Semester 1
Final Examination

Date: 26. 02. 2019

Time: 130pm – 330pm

Index Number:

Duration: 02 hours



Part B – Matching Questions**(10 marks)**

Match the statements given on the **Left** column with suitable answers given in the **Right** column by putting the correct letter in the brackets.

Left		Right
1. Clinical research		A. Population
2. Factors related to external validity		B. Network sampling
3. Qualitative study		C. Power analysis
4. True experimental designs		D. Belmont Report
5. Difficult or impossible to obtain a sample		E. Inferential statistics
6. Empirical phase		F. Representativeness
7. Entire set of elements in a study		G. Generalizability
8. Determining sample size		H. Declaration of Helsinki
9. Quantitative study		I. Content Analysis
10. Respect for human dignity		J. Manipulation
		K. Research Design

Part C –3 Short Answer Questions

(60 Marks)

Answer all questions. Use the spaces given for the answer.

Question 01

(28 Marks)

The main purpose of qualitative research is exploration of little known concepts. The qualitative designs are planned to collect and analysis of loosely structured data on people in naturalistic settings.

1.1 Name **three (03)** most common types of qualitative exploratory designs. **(06 Marks)**

- I.
- II.
- III.

1.2 Write **one (01)** strength and **one (01)** weakness of qualitative research. **(06 Marks)**

- I. Strength
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 -
- II. Weakness
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 -

1.3 Read the following abstract of a research article and answer the questions within given spaces.

A qualitative study on the breastfeeding experiences of first-time mothers in Vientiane, Lao PDR

Hope Mei Hong Lee^{1†}, Jo Durham^{2†}, Jenny Booth^{1†} and Vanphanom Sychareun^{3*†}

Abstract

Background: The benefits of breastfeeding are well-recognised. The majority of first-time mothers in the Lao People's Democratic Republic however do not follow WHO guidelines of exclusively breast feeding for the first six months, and less than half breastfeed for two years. UNICEF identified lack of exclusive breastfeeding as the second highest risk factor for under five mortality in Lao PDR, closely following lack of skilled delivery care. This study explored the reasons and influences behind first-time mothers' breastfeeding practices, as well as the role of attitudes, beliefs and experiences in influencing those practices.

Methods: A qualitative research design was chosen for this exploratory study. Two districts in Vientiane were selected, and in each district four focus group discussions, two with six first-time mothers and two with health staff were undertaken. In addition, sixteen in-depth interviews with first-time mothers and seven individual key informants were conducted.

Results: Participants demonstrated positive attitudes towards breastfeeding and recognised its importance. Despite this, breastfeeding practices were suboptimal. Few exclusively breastfed for the first six months of the baby’s life and most of the first-time mothers included in the sample had stopped or planned to stop breastfeeding by the time the infant was 18 months of age. Work was named as one of the main reasons for less than ideal breastfeeding practices. Traditional beliefs and advice from health staff and the first-time mothers' own mothers', were important influences on breastfeeding practices. First-time mothers also cited experiencing tension when there were differences in advice they received from different people.

Conclusion: Overall, the mothers were well-informed on the benefits of breastfeeding, and displayed positive attitudes towards it. Nevertheless, few maintained optimal breastfeeding practices in the first two years of the infant’s life. Further effort needs to be directed at addressing knowledge and non-knowledge barriers to optimal breastfeeding practices. Of particular importance is working with employers, developing supportive employment policies, providing postnatal support and working with lay people and health professionals. Research is also needed to identify the optimal combination of interventions to promote good breastfeeding practices.

1.3.1. What is the purpose of this study? (04 Marks)

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1.3.2. What are the data collection methods used in this study? Name **two (02)** of them. (04 Marks)

- I.
- II.

1.3.3. Draw a diagram to explain data collection methodology of this study in the given space. (08 Marks)

Question 02 (16 Marks)

2.1 Assume that you are planning to begin a research study and reviewing literature. List **four (04)** items that you will include in your notes to successfully organize your review. (06 Marks)

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| I. | III. |
| II. | IV. |

2.2 References are categorized as primary or secondary sources. Define each category within the given spaces. (04 Marks)

- I. Primary Sources
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II. Secondary Sources

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2.3 State the **two (02)** basic methods of writing the problem statement and define both methods. **(06 Marks)**

I.
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II.
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Question 03 **(16 Marks)**

3.1 The research process is how a researcher carries out a scientific inquiry against human inquiry. The framework consists of several phases and steps. Entire research process is cyclic and tends to be repeated. Draw a simple diagram to explain research process in the given space. **(12 Marks)**

3.2 Human inquiry misses many important steps in the research process which will reduce the effectiveness of the solution. Write two steps that can be missed out. Give one example for each step. (04 marks)

I.
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II.
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