

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL NEEDS
EDUCATION PROGRAMME – 2020/2021
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2022
SNPA609 – QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION
DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS



Date: 17.09.2022

Time 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Answer question No. 01 and any other three (03) questions.

01. As an educator in the field of special needs education, you are requested to conduct qualitative research by the Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka under the following aspects.
- a. Special School
 - b. Integrated Education System
 - c. Inclusive Education System.
 - i. State a selected research problem, to conduct the qualitative research that you identified in relation to one of the above mentioned aspects. (05 marks)
 - ii. Illustrate the importance of the research problem which you selected. (04 marks)
 - iii. State the aim of the study and formulate **four (04)** research questions related to the selected problem. (08 marks)
 - iv. Select a qualitative research design that is suitable for your research problem and justify it with **three (03)** reasons. (04 marks)
 - v. State the participants of the study and briefly explain the process of selection with justification. (05 marks)
 - vi. Explain the data collection procedures which are suitable for your study and how you are going to collect data? (05 marks)
 - vii. Discuss the process of data analysis in your study including exploring the data, coding data, categorizing data and developing themes from the data. (06 marks)
 - viii. State how do you plan to disseminate the finding of the study. (03 marks)

(Total = 40 marks)

02. a. Explain the term “Qualitative Research approach”. (05 marks)
- b. Illustrates the unique features of the qualitative research approach. (07 marks)
- c. Explain citing examples the importance of the qualitative research approach in the field of special needs education. (08 marks)

(Total = 20 marks)

03. Select **two (02)** research designs that are more popular in the qualitative research approach which can be applied in the field of special education and answer the following questions.

- a. Justify why did you select the above **two (02)** research designs. (06 marks)
- b. Explain **three (03)** unique characteristics of each of the selected designs. (07 marks)
- c. Discuss **three (03)** strengths and **three (03)** limitations of each research design. (07 marks)

(Total = 20 marks)

04. a. What do you mean by sampling techniques in research? (06 marks)
- b. Explain citing examples on **two (02)** sampling methods which are more popular in the qualitative research approach? (07 marks)
- c. Illustrate **four (04)** strengths and **four (04)** limitations of each sampling technique. (07 marks)

(Total = 20 marks)

05. ‘Data is a key factor in research. Thus, instrument development, data collection, and data analysis are crucial parts of the research’

- a. Explain **two (02)** data collection methods regularly used in the qualitative research approach. (06 marks)
- b. Explain citing examples, the unique features of the data collector of the qualitative research approach. (06 marks)
- c. Illustrate citing examples, the importance of ethics in research in the filed of special needs education. (08 marks)

(Total = 20 marks)

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