



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION –
2023/2024

FINAL EXAMINATION

SNPA608 – QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 17.05.2025

Time 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

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

01. The Department of Special Needs Education, Faculty of Education of The Open University of Sri Lanka intends to conduct a research competition among special education teachers and has called for research proposals from the teachers. The teachers can submit research proposals in relation to the following themes.
- Children with Specific Learning Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorder/Down Syndrome/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
 - Gifted and Talented Children
 - Inclusive Education
 - Individualized Educational Plan/Individualized Transition Plan
 - Assistive Technology/Augmentative and Alternative Communication Systems

Suppose you are one of the teachers who would like to apply for the above competition.

- Identify a specific research problem from the given themes and justify the selection of the research problem with evidence. (05 marks)
- Briefly explain the significance of studying the selected problem. (04 marks)
- State the main aim of the study and formulate **three (03)** specific research objectives/research questions related to the selected problem. (09 marks)
- Select an appropriate quantitative research design to study the selected problem and justify your selection with **two (02)** reasons. (04 marks)
- State the sample and population (if relevant) you intend to use and explain the appropriate sampling technique with justification. (05 marks)
- Specify the instruments you propose for data collection and justify their suitability to achieve the research objectives of the proposed study. (06 marks)
- State the data analysis techniques (at least 2) proposing for the study and discuss their suitability with evidence. (03 marks)
- Specify **four (04)** limitations of your research study. (04 marks)

(Total = 40 marks)

02. Select **two (02)** research designs of your choice out of Survey, Correlational and Quasi-experimental research designs, and compare and contrast them under the following themes. Examples should be provided wherever necessary.
- i. The main purpose of conducting research. (06 marks)
 - ii. Prominent characteristics (At least four) (07 marks)
 - iii. Strengths and limitations (at least three each) (07 marks)
03. i. Explain the main differences between probability and non-probability sampling methods using **three (03)** examples. (06 marks)
- ii. Describe **two (02)** different sampling methods specifically used in quantitative research studies and explain with examples how those methods can be adopted in a research study. (07 marks)
- iii. Explain **three (03)** issue that could be encountered by the researchers when selecting a sample using quantitative research approach and suggest **three (03)** measures that can be taken to minimize those issues. (07 marks)
04. i. Explain how the quantitative research approach would be suitable for conducting research in the Special Needs Education area providing **three (03)** examples. (06 marks)
- ii. Describe **two (02)** different data collection methods that could be used in quantitative research studies their specific characteristics and explain with examples how those methods can be developed and used in a selected study. (07 marks)
- iii. Explain **three (03)** challenges that would be encountered by researchers when collecting quantitative data and suggest **three (03)** measures that can be applied to minimize those issues. (07 marks)

05. i. Explain **three (03)** main differences between quantitative and qualitative data with examples. (06 marks)
- ii. Discuss with examples, **three (03)** quantitative data analysis methods that could be used in Special Needs Education research. (07 marks)
- iii. Explain **three (03)** issues that could be encountered by researchers when analyzing quantitative data and suggest **three (03)** measures that could be applied to minimize those issues. (07 marks)

(Total = 100 marks)

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