

0025



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
MA DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC POLICY 2011/2012
MARGA – THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA COLLABORATIVE
PROGRAMME – LEVEL VII
FINAL EXAMINATION
SSP2132/2106 – ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 10th September 2011

Time: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Answer four (04) questions.
Each question carries 25 marks.

1. Design a multi-disciplinary framework for **analyzing and researching** the high rate of child malnutrition in the population group of Indian descent in the plantation sector depicting it in a network diagram and explain how you have designed it. Look for the social, political and economic dimensions of the problem. Select the indicators you would use for each of these.
2. Why does research into development processes and outcomes require a multi-disciplinary approach? Answer this question with reference to the social, economic and political variables, citing examples.
3. (a) Differentiate a research design from a research method with examples?
(b) Explain the advantages and the disadvantages of the questionnaire method in collecting socio-economic data.
4. “Quantitative research is most helpful when “answering questions of who, where, how many, how much, and what is the relationship between specific variables”. However, quantitative research is not apt for answering *why* and *how* questions. In contrast, qualitative research can address such process-oriented questions”. Explain.
5. “There has been a renewed focus on the integration of qualitative and quantitative methods in addressing research questions”. Explain this statement in context of multi-disciplinary approach.
6. “Statisticians have adapted the scientific method by developing an inferential method called hypothesis testing that evaluates a claim made about the value of a population parameter by using a sample statistic”. Illustrate with a hypothetical example.

7. (a) A job placement director claims that the average starting salary for nurses is Rs. 24,000. A sample of 10 nurses has a mean of Rs. 23,450 and a standard deviation of Rs. 400. Is there enough evidence to reject the director's claim at $\alpha = 0.05$?
- (b) Explain: "The principle advantage of multiple regression over simple regression is that it allows us to use more of the information available to us to estimate the dependent variable". What is the significance of multiple regression to the search for a better approach to interpret research problems?
8. What are the main issues to consider for writing up a research proposal in social sciences?

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