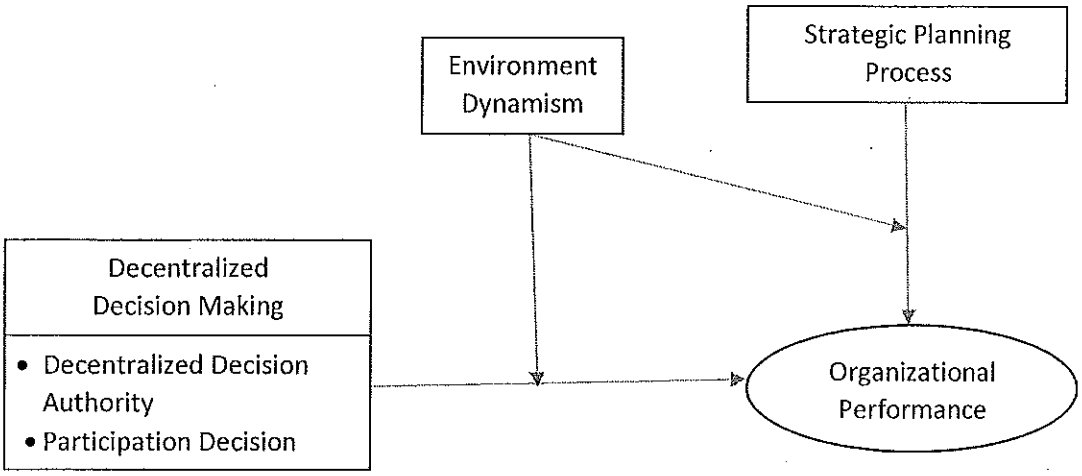
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THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
COMMONWEALTH EXECUTIVE MASTER OF BUSINESS/PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
FINAL EXAMINATION – AUGUST 2019
MCP2698/MSPA498 – RESEARCH METHODS
DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS

DATE: 24. 08. 2019	TIME: 1.30 pm- 4.30pm

INSTRUCTIONS:
Answer any five (05) questions. All questions carry equal marks.

(1) A researcher wants to investigate whether the decentralized strategic decision making, and strategic planning process are associated with Organizational Performance across industrial environment characterized by different levels of dynamism. Reviewing literature, he identified two variables for decentralized decision making in addition to strategic planning process variable and environment dynamism variable. Based on findings of previous studies, he has developed following conceptual model to investigate his research problem.



(i) What might be the problem statement or problem definition for the given situation? (3 Marks)

(ii) Write down the specific research questions that would help you to address the problem as stated in (i) above. (4 Marks)

(iii) Specify the main objective of the study and specific objectives that researcher should strive to achieve through this study. (4 Marks)

(iv) Identify the relevant variables in the above conceptual model. Classify the above variables from the view point of causal relationship and provide reasons for classifying them as such variables. (6 Marks)

(v) Develop at least six different hypotheses based on the above conceptual framework. (3 Marks)

(2) (i) Explain the difference between concept and variable using appropriate examples. (4 Marks)

(ii) "What is measured is not the person or object but some characteristics of it" explain this statement using appropriate examples. (6 Marks)

(iii) "What is meant by operationalization of the concept? (4 Marks)

(iv) Using an example, explain four main steps that involve in operationalization of a concept. (6 Marks)

(3) (i) What is the measurement? (2 Marks)

(ii) How is the interval scale more sophisticated than the nominal and ordinal scale? (8 marks)

(iii) Define hypothesis. (3 Marks)

(iv) Explain the role of developing hypothesis in conducting a research study? (7 Marks)

(4) (i) "The formulation of a research problem is the first and most important step of the research process". Explain. (6 Marks)

(ii) Discuss the major factors to be considered in selecting a research problem. (6 Marks)

(iii) Explain the process of deriving research problem from your topic of research with an example? (8 Marks)

(5) (i) What are the main functions of a research design? Explain why it is important to have a research design for a study. (10 Marks)

(ii) Determine the sample design and define the major type of sampling design. Explain what are the factors affecting decisions on sample size with suitable examples. (10 Marks)

(6) (i) Discuss the followings with suitable examples.

(a) Simple Random Sample
(b) Systematic Random Sample
(c) Convenience Sampling
(d) Snowball Sampling (4x3=12 Marks)

(ii) "There is a considerable overlap in the methods of data collection between qualitative and quantitative research". What are the factors that differentiate them? Explain. (08 Marks)

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