06 OCT 2022
Department of Psychology

DATE: 06th OCTOBER 2022 TIME: 9.30AM – 11.30AM

SECTION 2: STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTIONS (60 MARKS)

Choose 04 out of the 06 questions given below and answer using the provided answer sheets

2.1 Kamala recently carried out an observational study on primary school children as she is interested in concepts related to educational psychology. She simply decided to sit in the classroom of a former classmate who taught in a primary school and observe the student-teacher interactions. At the end of the school day one of the other teachers in school asked Kamala whether she had requested and received permission to observe the classroom.

a) Kamala's observational study employed a vulnerable population. Name five other groups that are considered as vulnerable populations? (5 marks)

b) Informed consent seems to be an issue in Kamala's study. List five things you would mention when gaining informed consent from research participants. (5 marks)

c) When working with children, it is important to consider the notion of assent. How are the concepts of consent and assent different from but also related to each other? (5 marks)

2.2 Maintaining privacy, confidentiality and anonymity is important in practice as well as in research.

a) Differentiate between confidentiality and privacy (5 marks)
List five strategies that can be used to maintain confidentiality and anonymity in a research setting (5 marks)

b) Describe two conditions under which a mental health professional can breach confidentiality (5 marks)

2.3 Ethical principles facilitate the ethical practice.

a) Name and define the four ethical principles put forth by Beauchamp and Childress (8 marks)
b) What precautions can a mental health practitioner take to avoid malpractice? Describe two strategies in detail. (7 marks)

2.4 Laud Humphrey wanted to investigate men who engaged in sexual activities with other men in public restrooms in the 1960s. Homosexuality was considered an illegal activity during this time. He recorded the activities inside what was referred to as 'tea rooms' and would alert the men in tea rooms of approaching people or police, while resorting to secretly observing couples' behaviour. In addition, he recorded personal information such as the license plate numbers of the tearoom participants. He did not inform the participants that he was a researcher nor that he was recording their personal information. A year later he disguised himself and tracked down a sample of the participants. He visited their homes and conducted interviews with them to better understand their lives and identities. Humphreys published his research amid severe backlashes.

a) Name the five principles upheld by the American Psychological Association that Humphreys would be expected to adhere to today (5 marks)

b) What are the ethical issues did you notice in this research? Analyse based on ethical principles and standards provided by the American Psychological Association (10 marks)

2.5 Culture plays a significant role in ethics in psychology.

a) Name five dimensions of culture popularised by Hofstede (5 marks)

b) Briefly explain the implications of cultural differences on two of the following areas (5 marks)

c) Briefly describe two ethical issues related to practising psychology in Sri Lanka. (5 marks)

2.6 Sanka decided to go in for counselling as he was feeling very overwhelmed in a new position in his company. He had fought to obtain a senior position in the company and was looking forward to the extra responsibility and duties. However, since taking on the new role 6 months ago, he has become entangled in a situation which could harm his reputation. He has been feeling tired all the time, pessimistic and unmotivated about what he could achieve. In addition, in his first session, he admits that he has not been eating or sleeping well and was experiencing rapid mood changes and says that at times he feels like "ending it all." Sanka mentions to the counsellor that he does not want anyone in the organisation to know about his counselling sessions.
Navi, one of the counsellors attached to Sanka's organisation, is a recent graduate and has not had much experience in dealing with clients with Sanka's presenting problem. She decides to take the case on as a learning opportunity. As Navi has just read a book on Compassion Focused Therapy (CFT), she decides to introduce these techniques with little explanation of procedure or the possible outcomes. Navi is not aware of the effectiveness of CFT in dealing with Sanka's issues but is quite enthusiastic to experiment with different techniques with her client. When Sanka comes back for his next visit, he says he feels more agitated and distressed however Navi convinces

Sanka to continue the intervention for one more session. Just to clear some doubts regarding the case, Navi brings up Sanka's case while eating lunch with the other counsellor who then remembers that they should be more careful when discussing client cases in public.

Analyse the scenario and explain which ethical principles and standards have been violated in this scenario. Provide examples from the case to illustrate your points. (15 marks)

----------END OF QUESTION PAPER----------