

ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD
(Department of Home and Health Sciences)

Course: Research Methods (7509)
Level: M. Sc/MS

Semester: Autumn, 2013
Credit Hours: 4(3+1)

CONTENT LIST

Following items are included in the study pack:

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 1. | Course Book | (Unit 1-9) |
| 2. | Theory Assignments | One |
| 3. | Practical Assignment | One |
| 4. | Assignment Forms | 06 |
| 5. | Schedule for submitting the assignment and tutorial meetings. | |

Note: If any item from the above-mentioned content is missing from your study pack kindly contact:

Mailing officer
Mailing section
Services & Operational Block
Allama Iqbal Open University
Sector H-8, Islamabad

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WARNING

- 1. PLAGIARISM OR HIRING OF GHOST WRITER(S) FOR SOLVING THE ASSIGNMENT(S) WILL DEBAR THE STUDENT FROM AWARD OF DEGREE/CERTIFICATE, IF FOUND AT ANY STAGE.**
- 2. SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS BORROWED OR STOLEN FROM OTHER(S) AS ONE'S OWN WILL BE PENALIZED AS DEFINED IN "AIOU PLAGIARISM POLICY".**

Course: Research Methods (7509)
Level: Post Graduate
Credit Hours: 4(3+1)

Semester: Autumn, 2013
Total Marks: 100
Pass Marks: 40

ASSIGNMENT No. 1

Note: All questions are compulsory. Distribution of marks is given against each.

- Q. 1 Explain "Research" as defined by different scholars. Discuss characteristics and types of research with examples from Health Profession. **(20)**
- Q. 2 What is meant by research process? Briefly describe the importance of each step involved in this process. **(20)**
- Q. 3 a) Discuss the importance of review of literature in conducting research. Elaborate on the procedure for review of literature and its write up in different sections of thesis. **(10)**
b) Elaborate on importance of writing a research proposal. **(10)**
- Q. 4 Differentiate between concept and variables. Discuss various types of variables from the view point of "*causation*". **(10)**
- Q. 5 Elaborate on classification of research designs in various perspectives. Give examples to explain each research design. **(10)**
- Q. 6 Write short notes on the following: **(5+5+5+5=20)**
- Importance of hypothesis in research
 - Types of sampling techniques
 - Differentiate between primary and secondary data
 - Advantages and disadvantages of data collection through questionnaire

ASSIGNMENT No. 2

Total Marks: 100

Pass Marks: 40/50

This assignment is of practical nature. You will have to prepare a research proposal/synopsis in consultation with your tutor before commencement of workshop. This synopsis will be presented by each student in the workshop at the end of the semester. Marks obtained after presentation will be included in the final result of the course. Each student will have to prepare 02 copies of the synopsis in spiral binding for submission. (One for the tutor and one for the departmental record)

Instructions for the development of synopsis include following:

- 1. Selection of the topic:-** Select your research topic from the field of Community Health and Nutrition and should be approved by your tutor. Relevance of the topic to the discipline and Researchers interest in the research topic is key to quality research.
- 2. Format of research proposal/synopsis shall be as follows:**
 - a) Introduction/theoretical framework/review of literature/Background/Rationale
 - b) Statement of the problem
 - c) Objectives
 - d) Hypotheses where appropriate/Research Questions
 - e) Significance
 - f) Assumptions where applicable
 - g) Delimitations
 - h) Method of Research/Research Methodology
 - i) Research Design
 - ii) Population
 - iii) Sample and sampling technique
 - iv) Research instrument: Type, Development, Validation, Pilot testing
 - v) Data Collection
 - vi) Analysis and interpretation of data
 - i) Definition of Terms where applicable
 - j) References
- 3. The research proposal/synopsis should not exceed 8-10 typed pages.**

COURSE OUTLINES

RESEARCH METHODS (7509)

Level: M.Sc.

Credit Hours: 4(3+1)

Unit-1: RESEARCH: A WAY OF THINKING

- Introduction, Definitions of Research
- Characteristics of Research
- Types of Research
- Applications of Research

Unit-2: FORMULATING A RESEARCH PROBLEM

- Reviewing the Literature
- Formulating a Research Problem
- Identifying Variables
- Constructing Hypotheses

Unit-3: CONCEPTUALIZING A RESEARCH DESIGN

- The Research Design
- Selecting a Study Design
- The Number of Contacts
- The Reference Period
- The Nature of the Investigation

Unit-4: CONSTRUCTING AN INSTRUMENT FOR DATA COLLECTION

- Selecting a Method of Data Collection
- Collecting Data Using Primary Sources
- Collecting Data Using Secondary Sources

Unit-5: SELECTING A SAMPLE

- The Concept of Sampling
- Principles of Sampling
- Factors Affecting the Inferences Drawn From a Sample
- Types of Sampling

Unit-6: WRITING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

- The Preamble/Introduction
- The Problem
- The Objectives of the Study

- The Hypotheses to be Tested
- The Study Design
- Measurement Procedures
- Analysis of Data
- Structure of the Report
- Problems and Limitations
- Work Schedule

Unit-7: DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING

- Ethical Issues in Data Collection
- Tools of Data Collections
- Data Processing

Unit-8: DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

- Data Analysis
- Data Presentation in the Form of Tables, Graphs and Figures

Unit-9: WRITING A RESEARCH REPORT

- Introduction to Research Writing
- Tools of Data Collection
- Developing an Outline
- Referencing
- Writing a Bibliography

Recommended Books:

1. *Ranjit Kumar, Research Methodology – A Step by Step Guide for Beginners. 1999. Published by Sage Publications*
2. *Michelle Lowe, Beginning Research a Guide for Foundation Degree Students – 2007. Published by Routledge New York*
3. *Judith Bell, Doing Your Research Project. A Guide for First Time Researchers in Education and Social Science 3rd Edition. 2004. Open University Press, U.K.*
4. *Tariq H. Malik, Meliorism of Research Methodology. 1998, Published by Melliorium Publications, Islamabad.*

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