

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

Course: Research Methods (7509)
Level: Post Graduate

Semester: Autumn, 2012
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 Teaching Sessions

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
Ph. No. 051-9057612

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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".**

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ASSIGNMENT No. 1
(Units: 1–7)

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

- Q. 1 a) Explain characteristics of a quality research. (10)
b) Discuss types of research according to its application. (10)
- Q. 2 Discuss steps of research process keeping in view any relevant research topic of your interest. (15)
- Q. 3 Discuss the importance of review of literature in research process. Elaborate on sources of collecting review of literature. (15)
- Q. 4 Differentiate between concept and variables. Discuss various types of variables to be considered in data collection and analysis. (15)
- Q. 5 a) Define research design. Elaborate the function of a research design in conducting a quality research. (10)
b) Discuss study design according to number of contacts. (10)
- Q. 6 Write short notes on the following
- a) Types of hypothesis (05)
b) Questionnaire as method of data collection (05)
c) Importance of random sample design (05)

ASSIGNMENT No. 2

Total Marks: 100

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 the 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) Population
 - ii) Sample and sampling technique
 - iii) Research Design
 - 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.**
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COURSE OUTLINES RESEARCH METHODS

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.*