



University of Ruhuna

Faculty of Graduate Studies

Master of Arts in Peace and Development Studies

Second Semester End Examination - December 2021

**PDS 10233 - Research Methods**

Answer any **Four (04)** questions.

Time: **03 Hours**

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1. i. What does it mean by scientific research?  
(03 Marks)
- ii. What scientific characteristics can be identified in scientific research?  
(04 Marks)
- iii. "Some social scientists argue that there are some limitations in using scientific method particularly in doing social research". Do you agree with this statement? Justify your answer by giving suitable examples.  
(08 Marks)
02. i. Name the stages of research process.  
(03 Marks)
- ii. What possible sources can be used in formulating a research problem?  
(05 Marks)
- iii. "A research design provides a blueprint for operationalizing the research activity". Explain with suitable examples.  
(07Marks)
03. i. Explain the nature of hypothesis and its role in social research.  
(05Marks)
- ii. Analyze the problems encountered in "generalization" of social science research.  
(10 Marks)

04. Write an essay on “The importance of Social Research in understanding contemporary social issues and identifying possible strategies to address them”.

(15 Marks)

05. i. Discuss how and when Focus Group Discussions can be employed in social research with suitable examples.

(15 Marks)

**Or**

ii. “In-depth interview is a special kind of knowledge producing conversation and a meaning-making partnership between interviewer and interviewee”. Critically evaluate the relevance of this technique in qualitative research.

(15 Marks)

6. (i). Briefly describe two qualitative data analysis methods/ techniques.

(06 Marks)

(ii). What are the steps of thematic analysis developed by Braun and Clarke? Explain with suitable examples.

(09 Marks)

7. Write notes on any **Three** (03) of the followings.

- i. Inductive and deductive approaches in thematic analysis
- ii. Triangulation
- iii. Questionnaire method
- iv. Word cloud
- v. Case study design

(5x3=15 Marks)

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