

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MASTERS IN HUMAN RIGHTS
Semester I Examination, (2020/21) (Conducting Online)
MHR 6101: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Duration: Two (02) hours

Total number of questions: 04

Answer any Two (02) questions only

(Illegible handwriting will be penalized)

1. A well-thought-out and carefully designed research proposal forms the backbone for any research study and hence becomes the most important step in the process of conducting research. With reference to your own research proposal that you have developed for the independent study in the chosen field, discuss the following aspects of a research proposal:
- (a) Purpose of the study;
 - (b) Research problem/ problem statement;
 - (c) Literature review/ knowledge gap;
 - (c) Design/ methodology/ approach
 - (d) Research limitations/ implications

(5 x 5 Marks = 25 Marks)

2. “Quantitative and qualitative research designs differ in terms of their epistemological, theoretical and methodological underpinnings.”
- Do you agree? Critically comment with reference to the differences between the two research paradigms mentioned in the statement.

(25 Marks)

3. “Literature review is an essential feature of academic research. Fundamentally, knowledge advancement must be built on prior existing work. To push the knowledge frontier, we must know where the frontier is.”

In light of the above statement, discuss the purpose and steps that should be followed in conducting a literature review in the context of socio-legal research.

(25 Marks)

4. Write notes on **any two** of the following:

- (a) Research ethics;
- (b) Referencing and plagiarism;
- (c) Comparative research;
- (d) Research as a tool of law reform; and
- (e) Epistemology of law.

(12.5 x 2 Marks = 25 Marks)
