

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Masters in Labor Relations and Human Resource Management (MLRHRM) (Semester I

Examination – September, 2020)

MLRHRM 51403 – Research Methods

Three (03) Hours

Answer any FOUR (04) Questions only.

This paper consists of Six (06) questions and Three (03) printed pages.

1. "Identification of a problem/ issue for the study is the foremost important task in the research process".

i. Evaluate the above statement.

(10 Marks)

ii. What are the important matters to be considered when identifying a research problem/ issue for your study?

(05 Marks)

iii. How can a desk research/ preliminary literature review be helpful for identifying a research problem/ issue?

(10 Marks)

(Total: 25 Marks)

2. "Literature survey and subsequently the literature review is the backbone of a research study. It will guide and support the entire study".

i. Explain how can a literature review 'guide' and 'support' your study.

(10 Marks)

ii. Describe the stages in a literature review process.

(15 Marks)

(Total: 25 Marks)

3. "Adhering to research ethics is important. You should obtain ethics clearance if your research study involves human subjects".

i. What are Research Ethics?

(05 Marks)

ii. Suppose that you are writing a research proposal for conducting a study on labor unions in Sri Lankan organizations while conducting a questionnaire survey and interviews designed for operational level workers, managers and trade union leaders.

State the steps that you propose to obtain ethics clearance from the FGS for this research.

(15 Marks)

iii. State the information that you should provide in an 'Information Sheet' for the respondents.

(05 Marks)

(Total: 25 Marks)

4. "Research Onion is a well-known metaphor used for explaining the elements of a research design".

i. Describe the elements of a research design with reference to 'Research Onion'.

(15 Marks)

ii. Differentiate between 'Deductive approach' and 'Inductive approach' to research with the use of appropriate examples.

(10 Marks)

(Total: 25 Marks)

5. Write short notes on the following:

- i. Case study strategy
- ii. Cross sectional study
- iii. Research paradigm
- iv. Literature review diary
- v. Desk research

(05 x 05 = Total: 25 Marks)

6. i. Differentiate between 'Quantitative methods' and 'Qualitative methods' in research.

(06 Marks)

ii. Briefly describe the characteristics of a good questionnaire.

(05 Marks)

iii. Explain different types of sampling methods that you can use in a research study.

(06 Marks)

iv. Explain the steps for analyzing qualitative data in your research.

(08 Marks)

(Total: 25 Marks)
