

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
MAIN EXAMINATION
DECEMBER 2015

COURSE CODE : GNS 310
COURSE TITLE : RESEARCH METHODS
TOTAL MARKS : SEVENTY-FIVE (75)
DURATION : TWO (2) HOURS
No. of STUDENTS : SIXTY-EIGHT (68)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. THE PAPER HAS THREE QUESTIONS
2. INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH QUESTION
3. ANSWER ALL THREE QUESTIONS
4. HANDWRITING MUST BE LEGIBLE
5. FIGURES IN BRACKETS INDICATE MARKS ALLOCATED PER QUESTION OR A PART OF THE QUESTION

DO NOT OPEN THE EXAMINATION PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION IS GIVEN BY THE INVIGILATOR

QUESTION 1

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read the given situation.
2. All 25 questions that follow are related to the situation.
3. Write only the corresponding alphabet to the correct answers in your answer booklet as per given examples: 1.1 = d, 1.2 = a and so forth.

Situation

THE STATE OF ORAL HEALTH IN PUPILS ATTENDING PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN ONE REGION IN SWAZILND. This was the title of a study that was implemented by a fourth year nursing student in 2014 after the novice researcher had observed during her field attachment with the school health nursing team that quite a large number of pupils at primary school level in one school had a lot of dental health issues. Some of the pupils presented with for instance: halitosis, bleeding gums, coated tongues and rotten teeth. The student became curious and wondered how prevalent or extensive such oro-dental issues in pupils in the remaining primary schools in that region. She then decided to conduct research to investigate this phenomenon. Through this study the researcher sought to explore and describe the state of oral health of pupils attending primary schools in that region. The study design was also cross-sectional.

Questions

- 1.1 The phenomenon of interest to this novice researcher was the
- a. number of teeth
 - b. abnormalities in the pupils mouths
 - c. state of oral health
 - d. primary schools in that region.
- 1.2 The type of study the novice researcher conducted is referred to as _____ research.
- a. applied
 - b. qualitative
 - c. quantitative
 - d. basic .
- 1.3 For this study, the novice researcher used the _____ research approach.
- a. experimental
 - b. quantitative
 - c. non experimental
 - d. qualitative.
- 1.4 The population of the study was the
- a. mouths of the pupils in all primary schools
 - b. pupils in schools in that region
 - c. pupils in primary schools in the region
 - d. all school going children in the region.

- 1.5 The research setting was
- all primary schools in that region
 - all schools in that region
 - all primary schools in the country
 - all schools in that region.
- 1.6 The research design was most likely
- exploratory
 - exploratory and descriptive
 - exploratory, descriptive and cross-sectional
 - explanatory, descriptive and cross-sectional
- 1.7 Informed consent was sought and obtained from
- the parents/legal guardians of the pupils.
 - the Head Teachers of the Primary Schools.
 - Ministry of Education
 - Ministry of Health.
- 1.8 The researcher utilized _____ sampling method to recruit the sample for the study.
- Non probability
 - probability
 - purposive
 - accidental
- 1.9 From the sampling method you selected as answer to 1.8, the findings were
- not generalizable to the population of the study.
 - generalizable to the population of the study.
 - generalizable only to the sample of the study.
 - generalizable to the entire region.
- 1.10 Data that were collected by the researcher
- had numerical values.
 - had no numerical values.
 - were mostly nominal scale data.
 - all the above.
- 1.11 To collect the data, the researcher used a/an _____ research instrument.
- quick
 - structured
 - semi-structured
 - unstructured

1.12 Which computer programme might have been used to analyze the data?

- a. SSPS version 22.0
- b. PSSS version 22.0
- c. SPSS version 22.0
- d. SSPS version 22.0

1.12 In order to fulfill the ethical aspect of this research, the researcher referred to the

- a. Helsinki Declaration of Helsinki
- b. Nuremburg Code
- c. Rights of the Child framework
- d. Human Rights Charter.

1.14 The study had a relatively _____ sample size.

- a. small
- b. large
- c. broad
- d. narrow

1.15 Guided by your answer in question 1.14, such a sample size helped to

- a. maximize the study sampling error.
- b. enhance the data quality.
- c. make the data more manageable.
- d. minimize sampling error.

1.16 One of the advantages for using a structured research instrument is that it is _____.

- a. standardized
- b. flexible
- c. closed-ended
- d. open ended

1.17 A structured research instrument contains questions that _____.

- a. are brief in construction
- b. only have open ended
- c. have both open-ended and closed ended questions
- d. only have closed ended

1.18 Which of the following factors could have influenced the quality of data that the researcher collected?

- a. travelling from one school to the next
- b. the researcher's sleep pattern
- c. the weather on the days of data collection
- d. all the above

- 1.19 Cross-sectional study design are used because
- the researcher collects the data only at one point in time.
 - the researcher uses more than one data collection instrument.
 - they allow the researcher to conduct literature review prior to data collection.
 - the researcher needs to cross check the data with the participants.
- 1.20 The study design was exploratory because
- the researcher was conducting research for the first time.
 - it was an interesting study.
 - very little was known about the identified research problem.
 - the researcher has a passion for primary school pupils.
- 1.21 The study design was descriptive because the researcher desired to
- explain what was causing the pupil's oral challenges.
 - describe the relationship between selected variables.
 - conduct an experiment.
 - portray those the state of oral health among the participants.
- 1.22 The study findings were displayed and reported using
- descriptive statistics, tables, graphics and summaries.
 - tables only.
 - tables and graphics.
 - tables, graphics and summaries.
- 1.23 The research findings were of value to
- the school health nursing team.
 - nursing practice and nursing education.
 - nursing management and nursing research.
 - all the above.
- 1.24. Permission to conduct the study was sought and obtained primarily from the
- National Health Research Review Board.
 - Swaziland Scientific and Ethics Committee.
 - Headmaster of each Primary School.
 - parents of the pupils.
- 1.25 According to the researcher this study had _____ risks to it participants.
- no
 - negligible
 - small
 - many

[25 points]

QUESTION TWO

INSTRUCTION

Answer as directed by each question.

Context:

All research has ethical implications (Brink, van der Walt and van Rensburg, 2012).

- 2.1 Define the term 'ethics'. (1)
- 2.1 Discuss the three fundamental ethical principles that are involved in research with human participants. (9)
- 2.2 Discuss any five 'rights' that are generally included in the informed consent document of studies that investigate human participants. (15)

[25 points]

QUESTION THREE

INSTRUCTION

Answer as directed by each question

Literature review is an important aspect of the research process.

- 3.1 Name one data source (1)
- 3.2 Describe any four points on the role of literature review when conducting research. (8)
- 3.3 Briefly summarize each of the four phases of the research process (12)
- 3.4 Differentiate between the following:
 - 3.4.1 Primary and secondary data sources (2)
 - 3.4.2 Breadth and depth of literature (2)

[25 points]

THE END