

Eastern University, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Agriculture

Final Year / First Semester Examination in Agriculture -2005/2006

(June 2007) (Proper / Repeat)

AEC 4101 – Social Research Methodology

Answer Any Four Questions only

Time Allowed: 02 Hours

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1. *“There are several ways of obtaining answers to your professional questions. These methods range from the fairly informal to formal scientific procedures. Research is one of the ways to find answer to your questions”*

- (a) How would you define the term “Research”?
- (b) How do you categorize researches?
- (c) Briefly explain the operational steps of the research process in social sciences

(25 Marks)

2. *“The Literature Review is an integral part of the entire research process and makes a valuable contribution to almost every operational step”*

- (a) What do you understand by the term “Literature Review”?
- (b) How does literature review help you in processing your research?
- (c) Briefly explain the steps in reviewing literature

(25 Marks)

3. ***"The formulation of a research problem is the most crucial part of research journey on which the quality of the entire project depends"***

- (a) What do you mean by the term "Research Problem"?
- (b) What are the aspects that you should consider when selecting research problem?
- (c) Briefly explain the steps in formulating a research problem with an example.

(25 Marks)

4. ***"Conceptualization and Operationalization are the main stages of research process in which the concepts, variables, indicators, and measures are identified and operationally defined"***

- (a) How do you distinguish between a concept and a variable?
- (b) How can you classify variables from the viewpoint of causation? Briefly explain each of them with examples.
- (c) What are the four types of measurement scale? Briefly explain each of them giving some examples.

(25 Marks)

5. ***"A research design is a blueprint or detailed plan for how a research study is to be completed - operationalizing variables so they can be measured, selecting a sample of interest to study, collecting data to be used as a basis for testing hypotheses, and analyzing the results"***

- (a) What are the different methods of data collection for researches?
- (b) Briefly discuss the relative advantages and disadvantages of using questionnaire for data collection.
- (c) What is a Sample? How do you categorize the different sampling methods? Briefly describe each of them.

(25 Marks)