M.Phil./Ph.D. PROGRAMME IN ECONOMICS

00283   Term-End Examination

December, 2014

REC-001 : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Time : 3 hours   *Maximum Marks : 100*

SECTION A

Attempt any ***two*** *questions from this section in about 700 words each.*   *2×20=40*

1. What do you mean by the term 'scientific method' ? Critically examine the fundamental differences between Popper's and positivists' views about the theory of scientific method. Do you think that Popper is a semi-positivist ?

2. 'Social Research is conducted within theoretical and methodological perspectives.' Do you agree with this statement ? Give reasons and illustration in support of your answer.

3. How will you make a choice of an appropriate sampling method ? What are the alternative approaches of determining sample size ? Explain.

4. 'Research design is a logical rather than logistical exercise.' Explain. Give illustration in support of your answer.

SECTION B

*Attempt any **five** questions from this section in about 400 words each.*   *5×12=60*

5. What is the distinction between quantitative methods and qualitative methods ? Are the tools for data collection different under these two methods ? Give examples.

6. Explain the difference between any **three** of the following methods :

    (i)   Descriptive and Explanatory Research

    (ii) Ratio Scale and Nominal Scale

    (iii) Abduction and Retroduction

    (iv) Random Sampling and Theoretical Sampling

    (v)   Mono Method and Mixed Method

7. What is multi-collinearity ? How will you detect it and get rid of this problem ?

8. Distinguish between questionnaire and interview as a tool of data collection. How will you frame a questionnaire to evaluate the impact of application of PowerPoint presentation in classroom teaching ?

9. Frame a research proposal of your own choice for conducting the study from critical theory perspective.

10. What is the distinction between Hypothetico-Deductive model and Covering Law model of scientific explanation ? How does Hypothetico-Deductive model defuse the conflict between the realists and instrumentalists ?

11. What kind of data is generated by NSSO on household expenditure ? How is this data useful for analysis of poverty and inequality ?

12. Given the regression model

$$Y_i = \beta_1 + \beta_2 X_{2i} + \beta_3 X_{3i} + \beta_4 X_{2i} X_{3i} + u_i,$$

where Y is the personal expenditure, X_2 is personal income and X_3 is personal wealth.

(i) What is meant by $X_{2i} X_{3i}$ expression ?

(ii) How would you test the hypothesis that the marginal propensity to consume (MPC) is independent of the wealth of the consumer ?

13. Explain the various steps involved in hypothesis formulation and testing.

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