

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
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Model Answers
SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

I. ATTEMPT ALL QUESTIONS EACH CARRY EQUAL MARKS 16X2= 32.

- 7 Steps
- D. All
- D. All

- Detailed & In-depth
- A
- Three
- D. All

- B.
- B.
- True
- Rationale
- True
- Two
- True

- D.
- B.

II. ATTEMPT ANY FOUR QUESTIONS (Write your Answers 200-250 Words).17X4=68.

- The term **participation** refers to those voluntary activities by which the members of the beneficiary take part in different processes & aspects of activities meant for them at different levels. In simpler term we can describe participation as a condition/ process where the beneficiary has a say in the affairs of the programme. In other words, it is the effort by the people themselves in setting goals, pooling resources together and taking actions, which aim at improving their living conditions. Participation can

exist in three of its forms:

- **In decision making:**
It centers on generation of ideas, formulation of plans, evaluation of options and making choice from among the options
- **In implementation:**
Participation can be there in the implementation of programmes through resource contributions, in management and coordination and in programme enlistment activities.
- **In sharing of benefits:**
Implementation of programmes results in benefits to the community and client group and people participate in reaping the fruits of development. This may relate to material benefits, social and economic benefits or personal benefits
- **In monitoring & evaluation:**
After the implementation of programmes they need to be evaluated to know whether the programme objectives were realized or not; whether the intended benefits accrued to the people or not and other related matters. Project design should provide for people's participation to make the evaluation meaningful. Such participation may be direct or indirect. But it must be remembered that people's participation in evaluation is more difficult. Participation in decision-making and implementation can be considered as inputs and people's involvement in benefits and evaluation as outputs. In other words they connote contributive & distributive aspects. The success of any development programme or project depends to a large

extent on the degree of people's involvement and community participation. Higher the degree of participation, higher the degree of success and development. According to some sociologists participation serves the following purposes, viz., making local wishes known; generating development ideas; providing local knowledge; testing proposals for feasibility and improving them; increasing the capabilities of communities to handle their affairs and to control and exploit their environment; extracting, developing and investigating local resources; promoting desirable relationships between people, especially through cooperative work. Participation may serve any or a combination of a few purposes, thereby contributing to development. Participation of the client group is a hallmark feature of the social work practice & very basic to its success. It is necessary that participation must be more than symbolic, if popular energies are to be harnessed into the developmental process and if self-sustaining institution, for which it is determined to, are to be created to give development coherence and meaning. Define Social Work Research; Compare it with participatory approach, Analyze & conclude it.

- Since its introduction in the 1960s, grounded theory has been progressively developed in a way that are consistent with its original formulation, such that it is currently the most comprehensive qualitative research methodology available. Deriving its theoretical underpinnings from the related movements of American pragmatism and symbolic interactionism, grounded theory inquiry is portrayed as a problem-solving endeavor concerned with understanding action from the perspective of the human agent. Grounded theory is typically presented as an approach to doing qualitative research, in that its procedures are neither statistical, nor quantitative in some other way. Grounded theory research begins by focusing on an area of study and gathers data from a variety of sources, including interviews and field observations. Once gathered, the data are analyzed using coding and theoretical sampling procedures. When this is done, theories are generated,

with the help of interpretive procedures, before being finally written up and presented. This latter activity Glaser and Strauss claim is an integral part of the research process. Grounded theory is regarded by Glaser and Strauss as a general theory of scientific method concerned with the generation, elaboration, and validation of social science theory. *For them, grounded theory research should meet the accepted canons for doing good science (consistency, reproducibility, generalizability, etc.), although these methodological notions are not to be understood in a positivist sense.* The general goal of grounded theory research is to construct theories in order to understand phenomena; good grounded theory is one that is: inductively derived from data, & subjected to theoretical elaboration, and (3) judged adequate to its domain with respect to a number of evaluative criteria. Although it has been developed and principally used within the field of sociology, grounded theory can be, and has been, successfully employed by people in a variety of different disciplines. These include education, nursing studies, political science, and to a very limited extent, psychology. Glaser and Strauss do not regard the procedures of grounded theory as discipline specific, and they encourage researchers to use the procedures for their own disciplinary purposes.

SCIENTIFIC METHOD:

In breaking with methodological orthodoxy, grounded theory has been subjected to a considerable amount of criticism, principally on the grounds that the approach signals a return to simple "Baconian" inductivism. However, grounded theory methodology embodies a conception of scientific inquiry that is far removed from such a naive account. Indeed, I believe that, suitably reconstructed, grounded theory offers us an attractive conception of scientific method. Accordingly, this paper provides a methodological reconstruction of Glaser and Strauss's perspective on social science inquiry. It takes the view that grounded theory is best regarded as a general theory of scientific method concerned with the detection and explanation of social phenomena. To this end, grounded theory is reconstructed as a problem-

oriented endeavor in which theories are inductively generated from robust data patterns, elaborated through the construction of plausible models, and justified in terms of their explanatory coherence, with recent developments in scientific realist methodology. Analyze & conclude it in your own words.

- The purpose of hypothesis testing is to determine whether there is enough statistical evidence in favor of a certain belief about a parameter. The word hypothesis is just slightly technical or mathematical term for “sentence” or “claim” or “statement”. In statistics, a hypothesis is always a statement about the value of one or more population parameter(s).

Hypothesis: A statement that something is true concerning the population.

Null Hypothesis, H_0 : The hypothesis upon which we wish to focus our attention. Generally this is a statement that a population parameter has a specified value.

Alternative Hypothesis, H_a : A statement about the same population parameter that is used in the null hypothesis. Generally this is a statement which specifies that the population parameter has a value different from the value given in the null hypothesis.

At the conclusion of the hypothesis test, we will reach one of two possible decisions. We will decide in agreement with null hypothesis and say that we fail to reject H_0 . Or we will decide in opposition to null hypothesis and say that we reject H_0 . Analyze & conclude it in your own words.

- There are four possible outcomes that could be reached as a result of the TESTING being either true or false and the decision being either “fail to reject” or “reject”.

Chi Square testing is used to test hypothesis in following way:

True

False

Correct Decision
(1- α)

Type II Error
 β

Type I Error
 α

Correct Decision
(1- β)

$\alpha = P(\text{commit a type I error}) = P(\text{reject } H_0 \text{ given that } H_0 \text{ is true})$
 $= P(\text{commit a type II error}) = P(\text{accept } H_0 \text{ given that } H_0 \text{ is false})$

Test Criteria: Consist of

- determining a test statistic,
- specifying a level of significance
- and determining the critical region.

Example: Researchers are interested in the mean level of some enzyme in a certain population. They take a sample of 10 individuals, determine the level of enzyme in each and compute a sample mean 22. It is known that the variable of interest is approximately normally distributed with a variance of 45. Let us say that they are asking the following question: Can we conclude that the mean enzyme level in this population is different from 25?

Since the population variance is unknown then the test will be T-test.

Level of significance = 0.05

Example Researchers collected serum amylase values from a random sample of 15 apparently healthy subjects. The mean and standard deviation computed from the sample are 96 and 35 units/100 ml, respectively. They want to know whether they can conclude that the mean of population from which the sample of serum amylase determinations came is different from 120.

$H_0: = 120$

$H_a: 120$

t Distribution Table					
df.	Amount of α in two-tail				
	0.20	0.01	0.05	0.025	0.01
	Amount of α in one-tail				
	0.40	0.20	0.10	0.05	0.02
1	1.376	3.078	6.314	12.706	31.821
2	1.061	1.886	2.920	4.303	6.965
...
30	0.854	1.310	1.697	2.042	2.457
40	0.851	1.303	1.684	2.021	2.423
...
120	0.845	1.289	1.658	1.980	2.358
...
Sonsuz	0.842	1.282	1.645	1.960	2.326

Analyze & conclude it in your own words.

5. A descriptive study involves the systematic collection and presentation of data to give a clear picture of a particular situation. Descriptive studies can be carried out on a small or large scale. A major purpose of many research studies is to describe situations and events. The researcher observes and then describes what was observed. Scientific descriptions are typically more accurate and precise than casual. When a new disease is recognized, the main purpose may be to describe the nature of the disease and to evaluate the probable means of transmission, reservoir and natural history.

Examples:

Indian census is an excellent example of descriptive research. The goal of census is to describe accurately and precisely a wide variety of characteristics of the Indian population, as well as the populations of

smaller areas such as states/Districts.

It can be at one point of time or more than one point of time period. Many qualitative studies aim primarily at description. For example, descriptive case studies. A case may be a patient, a health center, or a village.

Other examples of descriptive studies are the computation of age-gender profiles of populations done by demographers and also computation of sexually transmitted disease for different states.

The main shortcomings of descriptive studies are seldom limited to a merely descriptive purpose. Researchers usually go on to examine why the observed patterns exist and what they imply.

- Case Reports
- HIV/AIDS: Efficacy of Bone Marrow Transplant in an HIV-Infected Patient
- HIV/AIDS: Spontaneous Cure of HIV

Analyze & conclude it in your own words.

6.

A research problem is the situation that causes the researcher to feel apprehensive, confused and ill at ease. It is the demarcation of a problem area within a certain context involving the WHO or WHAT, the WHERE, the WHEN and the WHY of the problem situation. There are many problem situations that may give rise to research.

Three sources usually contribute to problem identification.

Own experience or the experience of others may be a source of problem supply.

- A second source could be scientific literature.

- You may read about certain findings and notice that a certain field was not covered. This could lead to a research problem.
- Theories could be a third source. Shortcomings in theories could be researched.

Definition of a Research Problem

A situation in need of a solution, improvement, or alteration; or a discrepancy between the way things are and the way they ought to be.

Sources of Research Problems

Researcher and Peer Interaction

Literature Review

Theory

Research Priorities

Research can thus be aimed at clarifying or substantiating an existing theory, at clarifying contradictory findings, at correcting a faulty methodology, at correcting the inadequate or unsuitable use of statistical techniques, at reconciling conflicting opinions, or at solving existing practical problems.

2 IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM

The prospective researcher should think on what caused the need to do the research (problem identification). The question that he/she should ask is: Are there questions about this problem to which answers have not been found up to the present?

Research originates from a need that arises. A clear distinction between the PROBLEM and the PURPOSE should be made. The problem is the aspect the researcher worries about, thinks about, and wants to find a solution for. The purpose is to solve the problem, i.e. find answers to the question(s). If there is no clear problem formulation, the purpose and methods are meaningless.

Keep the following in mind:

- Outline the general context of the problem area.
- Highlight key theories, concepts and ideas current in this area.
- What appear to be some of the underlying assumptions of this area?
- Why are these issues identified important?
- What needs to be solved?
- Read round the area (subject) to get to know the background and to identify unanswered questions or controversies, and/or to identify the most significant issues for further exploration.

The research problem should be stated in such a way that it would lead to analytical thinking on the part of the researcher with the aim of possible concluding solutions to the stated problem. Research problems can be stated in the form of either questions or statements.

- The research problem should always be formulated grammatically correct and as completely as possible. You should bear in mind the wording (expressions) you use. Avoid meaningless words. There should be no doubt in the mind of the reader what your intentions are.
- Demarcating the research field into manageable parts by dividing the main problem into sub-problems is of the utmost importance.

3 SUBPROBLEM(S)

Sub-problems are problems related to the main problem identified. Sub-problems flow from the main problem and make up the main problem. It is the means to reach the set goal in a manageable way and contribute to solving the problem.

4 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The statement of the problem involves the demarcation and formulation of the problem, i.e. the WHO/WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY. It usually includes the statement of the hypothesis.

Example of a Research Problem

Research on the factors affecting adoption out of foster care can help improve the

rates of adoption for foster care children and reduce the high rates at which many children currently now stay in foster care until they age out into adulthood. Such research can lead to new forms of intervention and supportive services for foster care, children, foster care families and adopting families that can help make such adoptions more likely and more likely to be successful.

Definition of Research Purpose

A purpose is a concise, clear statement of the specific goal or aim of the study. The purpose includes the variables, population, and setting for a study.

Examples of a Research Purpose

Research Question

Research questions are interrogative statements that focus on what variables or concepts are to be described and what relationships might exist among them.

Determining the Feasibility of a Study

- Money
- Time
- Researcher's Expertise
- Availability of Subjects, Facility, and Equipment
- Cooperation of Others
- Ethical Considerations

1. Selection of Topic

Research topic is a concept, subject or issue that can be studied through research.

Personal experience

Curiosity

The state of knowledge in the field

Solving a problem

Social premiums

Personal values

Everyday life

- Literature Review: It is based on the assumption that knowledge accumulates and that we learn from and build on what others have done.

Goals of Literature Review

To show familiarity and establish credibility

To show the path of prior research and its linkage with the current project
To integrate and summarize what is known in an area
To learn from others and stimulate new ideas

- Focus/formulate Research Questions
 - Developing research questions
 - They can be about local or global phenomenon
 - Very specific or more general
 - Can focus on the past, present or future
 - Can be related to social reality or seek answer to social problems
 - Can be inductive or deductive in nature
 - Aim at exploring new knowledge or seek to fill gaps in existing knowledge

- Designing the study
Any research is valid when its conclusions are true. It is reliable when the findings are repeatable. Reliability and validity of the research require the planning of inquiry, i.e., the detailed strategy of how the research will be conducted. Design' means "drawing an outline" or planning or arranging. Therefore, 'Research Design' is planning a strategy of conducting research

- Hypothesis

A hypothesis is a proposition to be tested or a tentative statement of a relationship between two variables, Hypothesis is used to test the direction or strength of a relationship bet. Variables, Criterion of a good hypothesis, Conceptual clarity
Should have empirical referents, Specific, Should be related to available technique of testing, Should be related to a body of theory

- Collect data
Always collect data on the lowest unit of analysis. It is easy to aggregate data collected on individuals but not possible to disaggregate data collected on groups.
- Analysis data
In analyzing data generally, we look for pattern or trend of data and the slope. When we analyses the meaning of a data we look for the data pattern and its trend so that we can see the shifts in the target problem when intervention is introduced. That is, we try to get evidence for supporting that the intervention is affecting the target problem. The point in analyzing data is the examination of the reference.
- Interpret data:
Interpretations made about objects, events and processes concerning social situations. To data, changes in terms of social and behavioral phenomena cannot be identified

with the concept of physical movements but by external observation alone. However, during the interpretation of the data, if some more evidence is needed we may go for another round of data collection. Actually, in research, the process of data collection, its analysis and interpretation go on in cyclical order till satisfactory answers to the questions arising in the course of investigation are found and a clear cut picture of the case emerges through investigation. Most case studies aiming at understanding the dynamics of an stop at this stage.

- Report Writing

Social work research reexamines the special body of knowledge, concepts and theories and tries to evolve a systematic theory and valid concepts in the area of social work practice. Social work research may be conducted to know the efficacy of different methods of social work as to search for alternate interventions and treatments. Identification of social work needs and resources, evaluation of programmes and services, evaluation of programmes and services of social work agencies, are some of the areas in which social work researches are undertaken.

Analyze & Conclude it.

7. Social work research may be conducted to know the problems faced by professional social workers in social work agencies and communities in their concern with social work functions. Thus, social work research embraces the entire gamut of social work profession: concepts, theories, methods, programmes, services and the problems faced by social workers in their practice. Social work research typically focuses on assessment of practitioner's work with individuals, groups, families' communities or appraisal of agencies or programmes that involve the continued efforts of practitioners with many clients. As such, the research design, data collection and analytic strategies in social work research vary as a function of unit of analysis and programme of agencies of social work practitioner. It focuses on or confines itself to select aspects of behavior and alternate modes of behavior modifications. It helps to find ways and means to enhance social functioning at the individual, group, community and societal levels. When the focus of research is on concepts, principles, theories underlying social work methods and skills, social work research is known as intervention research. It also involves the study of the relationship of social workers with their clients: individuals, groups or communities on various levels of interaction or therapy as well as their natural relationships and functioning within the organizational structure of social agencies. The concept of measurement refers to the process of describing abstract concepts in terms of specific indicators by assigning numbers to these indicants in accordance with rules. Measurement of social phenomena has become an essential prerequisite because of a number of reasons. One of the important reasons for measuring social phenomena is to allow the researcher the opportunity of using these phenomena in measurement to determine the effects of a set of variables on others. Let us consider the following example to understand the problems of measurement of social phenomena: "the adults

who are lower in their self-esteem will tend to become chronic absentees in adult literacy classes than the adults with higher self-esteem” (a social psychological component of personality). Measuring this needs a formal theoretical scheme where ‘self-esteem’ would be related systematically to ‘absenteeism’ in a causal fashion. One part of the testing/measuring process would consist of determining rank of absentees of the adults from the attendance above, until and unless we can quantify the variable ‘self-esteem’.

Structuralism: Social life as a sign system; Sign is anything which determines something else, Signs are codes which represent underlying structures, All communication occurs through specific cultural contexts. We need to understand certain basics of linguistics. A word is associated with several meanings coming from certain cultural contexts

Eg. Table – what comes to your mind when we say table? What are the characteristics that accompany tables?

- So structuralism operates on this basic premise that –
- Society is full of sign systems determining meanings. First meanings are established by people of specific cultures who inhabit society.
- This meaning is then carried forward through history and then it takes varied forms.

Functionalism in the philosophy of mind is the doctrine that what makes something a mental state of a particular type does not depend on its internal constitution, but rather on the way it functions, or the role it plays, in the system of which it is a part. This doctrine is rooted in

Aristotle's conception of the soul, and has antecedents in Hobbes's conception of the mind as a “calculating machine”, but it has become fully articulated (and popularly endorsed) only in the last third of the 20th century. Though the term ‘functionalism’ is used to designate a variety of positions in a variety of other disciplines, including psychology, sociology, economics, and architecture, this entry focuses exclusively on functionalism as a philosophical thesis about the nature of mental states.

The following sections will trace the intellectual antecedents of contemporary functionalism, sketch the different types of functionalist theories, and discuss the most serious objections to them.

Functionalism is the doctrine that what makes something a thought, desire, pain (or any other type of mental state) depends not on its internal constitution, but solely on its function, or the role it plays, in the cognitive system of which it is a part. More precisely, functionalist theories take the identity of a mental state to be determined by its causal relations to sensory stimulations, other mental states, and behavior.

For (an avowedly simplistic) example, a functionalist theory might characterize *pain* as a state that tends to be caused by bodily injury, to produce the belief that something is wrong with the body and the desire to be out of that state, to produce anxiety, and, in the absence of any stronger, conflicting desires, to cause wincing or moaning. According to this theory, all and only creatures with internal states that meet these conditions, or play these roles, are capable of being in pain.

Suppose that, in humans, there is some distinctive kind of neural activity (C-fiber stimulation, for example) that meets these conditions. If so, then according to this functionalist theory, humans can be in pain simply by undergoing C-fiber stimulation. But the theory permits creatures with very different physical constitutions to have mental states as well: if there are silicon-based states of hypothetical Martians or inorganic states of hypothetical androids that also meet these conditions, then these creatures, too, can be in pain. As functionalists often put it, pain can be *realized* by different types of physical states in different kinds of creatures, or *multiply realized*. (See entry on Multiple Realization.) Indeed, since descriptions that make explicit reference only to a state's causal relations with stimulations, behavior, and one another are what have come to be known as “topic-neutral” (Smart 1959) — that is, as imposing no logical restrictions on the nature of the items that satisfy the descriptions — then it's also logically possible for *non*-physical states to play the relevant roles, and thus realize mental states, in some systems as well. So functionalism is compatible with the sort of dualism that takes mental states to cause, and be caused by, physical states.

Still, though functionalism is officially neutral between materialism and dualism, it has been particularly attractive to materialists, since many materialists believe (or argue; see Lewis, 1966) that it is overwhelmingly likely that any states capable of playing the roles in question will be physical states. If so, then functionalism can stand as a materialistic alternative to the Psycho-

Physical Identity Thesis, the thesis that each type of mental state is identical with a particular type of *neural* state. This thesis, once considered the dominant materialistic theory of the mind, entails that no creatures with brains unlike ours can share our sensations, beliefs, and desires, no matter how similar their behavior and internal organization may be to our own. This is a consequence that many regard as implausible (but see Hill 1991, for a spirited defense). Thus functionalism, with its claim that mental states can be multiply realized, is widely regarded as providing a more inclusive, less “(species-) chauvinistic” (Block 1980) — and thus more plausible — theory that is (at least arguably) compatible with materialism.

Within this broad characterization of functionalism, however, a number of distinctions can be made. One of particular importance is the distinction between theories in which the functional characterizations of mental states purport to provide analyses of the meanings of our mental state terms (or otherwise restrict themselves to a priori information), and theories that permit functional characterizations of mental states to appeal to information deriving from scientific experimentation (or speculation). (See Shoemaker 1984c, and Rey 1997, for further discussion and more fine-grained distinctions.) There are other important differences among functionalist theories as well. These (sometimes orthogonal) differences, and the motivations for them, can best be appreciated by examining the origins of functionalism and tracing its evolution in response both to explicit criticisms of the thesis and changing views about the nature of psychological explanation.

Analyse and Conclude it in your own words.