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POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

MD (COMMUNITY MEDICINE/COMMUNITY DENTISTRY) PART I
EXAMINATION (OLD PROSPECTUS) – AUGUST 2016

Date :- 29th August 2016

Time :- 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

PAPER I

Answer all four questions.

Answer each question in a separate book.

1. A national survey is planned to provide information regarding the health and nutritional status of mothers and children in Sri Lanka.
 - 1.1. Write four (04) objectives that can be included in this survey, giving justification for each. (20 marks)
 - 1.2. Describe an appropriate sampling procedure to select a nationally representative sample for this survey, considering the practical issues and diversity. (50 marks)
 - 1.3. List five (05) logistic/administrative requirements for this survey and state how these requirements will be met. (30 marks)
2.
 - 2.1. Discuss the similarities and differences in “interpretivist” and “feminist” perspectives in qualitative research. (60 marks)
 - 2.2. A qualitative study was conducted on “perceptions on modern contraceptive usage” in a rural community with a distinct religious orientation. Explain the concept of “transferability” in relation to the qualitative research method used in this study. (40 marks)

Contd..../2-

3. A Psychiatrist working at a District General Hospital attends to many elderly persons and their caregivers as part of his work. He observes that the caregiver burden is high in this group.

He requests you to help him design a simple screening tool to assess the caregiver burden among caregivers of elderly persons in a hospital setting.

- 3.1. In the first stage, you decide to identify items to include in the tool. In order to do this, you decide to use a Delphi technique.

Briefly explain the Delphi technique in the development of this tool.

(50 marks)

- 3.2. In the next stage, you decide to validate the screening tool using the Psychiatrist's diagnosis of caregiver burden as the gold standard.

- 3.2.1. Name the type of validation referred to in 3.2. (10 marks)

- 3.2.2. Describe the steps in doing this validation study, including the calculation of the sample size. (40 marks)

4. A cluster randomised trial was conducted to assess the effectiveness of an educational package to reduce risky sexual behavior among the state university students in Sri Lanka. Participants were followed up for six months. Intention to treat analysis was applied. The following table shows the results.

Table 1

Groups	Sample size	Risky sexual behaviour				P-value Pre versus Post
		Pre intervention		Post intervention		
		n	(%)	n	(%)	
Intervention	560	80	(14.3)	51	(9.0)	0.007
Control	590	95	(16.0)	80	(13.5)	0.046

- 4.1. What is meant by the term "complex interventions"? (15 marks)

- 4.2. Describe 'intention to treat analysis' in relation to the above study. (20 marks)

4.3.

- 4.3.1. Interpret the Table 1 above. (10 marks)

- 4.3.2. Describe an alternative method for analyzing the data to enhance the validity of the results. (25 marks)

- 4.4. Describe three (03) other methods (not mentioned in the description of the study above) which should be applied for improving the validity of the results. (30 marks)

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Thiru Sanyu

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MD (COMMUNITY MEDICINE/COMMUNITY DENTISTRY PART I
EXAMINATION (OLD PROSPECTUS) – AUGUST 2016

Date :- 30th August 2016

Time :- 9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

PAPER II

Answer all four questions.

Answer each question in a separate book.

1.

1.1. Describe the shortcomings in the practice of the “free at the point of delivery healthcare policy” in the state health care system in Sri Lanka at present. (50 marks)

1.2. “Cost-benefit analysis is more useful than cost-effectiveness analysis”. Define these two (02) techniques and give reasons to support the statement above. (50 marks)

2. The garment manufacturing industry in Sri Lanka has been growing over the past few years, exporting finished goods all over the world.

2.1. Describe the social, health and safety issues that are faced by workers in this industry. (50 marks)

2.2. Considering the demographic profile of the workers in the industry, outline a plan to deliver a comprehensive health service at the factory level. (50 marks)

Contd.../2-

3.

- 3.1. The cost of health care is increasing and recent National Health Accounts produced by the Ministry of Health indicate an out of pocket expenditure (OOP) on health as 40% of total health expenditure. Previous National Health Accounts produced have also indicated high OOP expenditure.

You are part of the planning team in the Ministry of Health.

Describe the options available to address the issue of high out of pocket expenditure. (50 marks)

- 3.2. The government is concerned about the increased per capita sugar consumption. Describe the multisectoral interventions that can be implemented to reduce per capita sugar consumption in the country. (50 marks)

4. Human Resources for Health is a key requisite in public health program delivery.

- 4.1. List key factors to be considered when planning to recruit the required number of health personnel. (20 marks)
- 4.2. Discuss how job description will improve the performance of the public health personnel. (30 marks)
- 4.3. Describe how a Consultant Community Physician (Planning) will assess the need for capacity building of the public health team at a provincial level. (50 marks)