

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

(DEV511)

DEGREE EXAMINATIONS

JUNE 2023

Time: THREE (3) HOURS
Subject: DEVELOPMENT STUDIES HONOURS LEVEL
Marks: 100%

This paper consists of 4 pages including the cover page

First Examiner

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Second Examiner

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INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Answer the question below.**
- 2. The essay should be legibly written and clearly articulated.**
- 3. The question counts 100 marks.**

Choose any ONE of the following scenarios and use the information in the scenario to answer the questions below:

Scenario 1

You are tasked by a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that aims to combat Gender-based Violence (GBV) to do an assessment of how the Covid-19 lockdown impacted on the ability of women in a rural village in the Eastern Cape to access protection from abusive spouses. The NGO wants to get a perspective from women themselves and they are interested in the extent to which the South African Police Services and government social services were prepared for the possible increase in GBV cause by the lockdown.

Scenario 2

An international donor has decided to do a pilot study of how a rural community will respond to the introduction of a basic income grant. They want to select a specific rural village in the Eastern Cape and then pay each adult member of the community a basic income grant for a year (a monthly amount of R800 per person). They want to know how the payment of such a grant will impact on livelihood strategies in the community and whether it will have positive impacts. You are asked to develop a research strategy to measure the impact of the pilot study on the community.

Scenario 3

You are the director of a research unit at the University of Fort Hare that specializes in development research. In light of the ongoing load shedding crisis in South Africa, an international donor wants to work with government to implement a range of solar energy projects in the rural Eastern Cape. But before they implement the project, they want to do a needs assessment of rural communities and their energy needs. You are commissioned to do this assessment in the Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality.

Questions based on your choice of scenario:

- (a) Formulate research objectives and research questions for the project you will embark upon;
- (b) Identify potential sources of data (observation, interviews and documents) that you could use in order to find answers to your research questions and evaluate these sources of data in terms of appropriateness for your project;
- (c) Say whether you think your research questions are nomothetic or ideographic in nature and explain why you say so;
- (d) Use the supplied “toolbox” of research methods in order to choose the most appropriate method or combination of methods that you will use to do the research;

- (e) Comment on how you will select cases or participants for your research;
- (f) Discuss how you will go about to analyze your data;
- (g) Discuss potential ethical risks and how you will address those risks.

C N I E N I L

A classification of research methods by sources of data and mode of explanation

NOMOTHETIC (USUALLY QUANTITATIVE DATA)		
<i>Direct observation</i>	<i>Interviews</i>	<i>Documents</i>
Experiments		Typographical studies, comparative research
Intervention research		
		Official statistics
	Field experiment	Content analysis
	Surveys	
	In-depth interviews	Life history
	Focus group	Case study
Ethnography, participant observation		Historical study
Participatory action research		
IDEOGRAPHIC (UNUSUALLY QUALITATIVE DATA)		

Source: Adapted from Groenewald, Johann. 1986. *Social Research: Design and analysis*. Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University Press.