

MASO

# **Master's Degree Programme in Sociology**

**First Year  
M.A. Sociology**

**Assignment  
July 2026 and January 2027 sessions**

**MSO-108: Research Methods**



**FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY  
MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110 068**

## ASSIGNMENTS

Dear Student

We have explained in the Programme Guide for the Master's Degree Programme in Sociology (MA Sociology) that you would have to complete one **Tutor** Marked Assignment (TMA) for each of the courses.

In these assignments, we have included several types of questions to sharpen your ability, to describe, to analyse and to critique, and to ensure that you know and are able to write over a topic systematically and coherently. In these assignments there are some broad descriptive and analytical questions. There are 10 questions in each assignment, with two sections. In each section there are five questions.

Your answers for a broad question worth 20 marks should be within the approximate range of 500 words each. It could be advisable to have a group discussion on the questions with your co-learners and the Academic Counsellors in the Study Centres before you attempt these assignments. Remember you are encouraged only to share each other's ideas and not to copy answers at all. Group discussion and constant practice of writing answers to assignment questions will help you to write better answers to questions in the term-end examination. It is important that you write answers to all questions **in your own words**.

| Admission Cycle                             | Date of Submission               | To be sent                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| For students admitted in July 2026 Batch    | 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2027     | <b>To,<br/>The Coordinator of the<br/>Study Centre allotted to<br/>you</b> |
| For students admitted in January 2027 Batch | 30 <sup>th</sup> September, 2027 |                                                                            |

You must **obtain a receipt from the Study Centre for the assignments submitted and retain it**. If possible, keep a xerox copy of the assignments with you. The Study Centre will have to return the assignments to you after they are evaluated. Please insist on this. The Study Centre has to send the marks to the SR&E Division at IGNOU, New Delhi.

### Some Tips for Doing Assignments

You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind while doing the assignments:

- 1) **Planning:** Read the assignments carefully; go through the units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then rearrange them in a logical order.
- 2) **Organization:** Be selective and analytical before drawing up a rough outline of your answer. Give adequate attention to the introduction and conclusion.
- 3) **Presentation:** Once you are satisfied with your answer, you can write down the final version for submission. Write each answer neatly and underlining the points you wish to emphasize. Make sure that the answer is within the stipulated word limit.

Wishing you all the best,

**Faculty of Sociology**  
**MA Sociology**  
**Faculty of Sociology**  
**School of Social Sciences**  
**IGNOU Delhi – 110 068**

**Indira Gandhi National Open University  
MSO-108: Research Methods  
Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)**

**Programme Code: MASO**

**Course Code: MSO-108**

**Assignment Code: MSO-108/AST/TMA/2026-2027**

**Maximum Marks: 100**

**Weightage: 30%**

Answer any *five* questions in about 500 words each.

|                                                                                                                                            | <b>Marks</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. What is the difference between qualitative and quantitative research? Explain with reference to the viewpoint of Ramakrishna Mukherjee. | 20           |
| 2. What is non-probability sampling? Explain its types.                                                                                    | 20           |
| 3. Examine the relevance of fieldwork in sociological research.                                                                            | 20           |
| 4. In what way does secondary data contribute to understanding of social reality?                                                          | 20           |
| 5. Discuss emerging trends in ethnographic research.                                                                                       | 20           |
| 6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of survey method?                                                                             | 20           |
| 7. Present the main stages of survey design.                                                                                               | 20           |
| 8. Explain the difference between method and methodology.                                                                                  | 20           |
| 9. Provide the historical background of the emergence of the participatory approach.                                                       | 20           |
| 10. What are the main types of research. Explain.                                                                                          | 20           |