1. Why are research ethics important for protecting human participants (subjects) in social

science research? Research ethics assist in protecting boundaries of human rights and help researchers understand that the research itself is not greater than the subjects by which the research is to be conducted. “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Gen. 1:27, King James Version). The Belmont Report of 1979, an effort to protect human subjects in research, is still clouded by differing views. At the time of its creation, the members of the National Commission, the staff philosophers, and the staff directors harbored differing views on the influence the Belmont Report would have (Nagia et al., 2022). What are some potential risks associated with collecting data from

human participants? One potential risk is discrimination of social classes themselves and the individual members within a specific class. US congress had the foresight to see this and established the National Research Act of 1974 to implement the following three principles:

(1) To avoid harm whenever possible, or at least to minimize harm; (2) to provide for fair treatment by avoiding discrimination between classes or among members of the same class; and (3) to respect the integrity of human subjects by requiring informed consent. (DHEW 1975, p. 33545)

Another potential risk is participant bias.

2. What is the difference between a target population and a sample? The difference between a target population and a sample is a target population is the total population in a study. A sample is a portion or percentage of the target population (Creswell, 2018). How does sample

size relate to parametric (generalizable to the target population) and nonparametric

(applicable only to the sample) statistical procedures? A suitable sample size is necessary to represent the target population; and to guarantee validity and reliability in studies, the sample size that is chosen must be obtained by using scientific techniques (Pirani, 2024). Nonparametric statistical procedures are reliable by a sample when that sample satisfies the needs of efficiency, representativeness, dependability, and adaptability for a study (Pirani, 2024).

3. Describe the following approaches to recruiting participants and designing sampling

procedures: convenience, purposive, and snowball. Why are inclusion and exclusion

criteria important when recruiting participants? Convenience sampling is defined as selecting subjects based on the investigator’s convenience (Karunarathna et al., 2024). Karunarathna et al. (2024) defines purposive sampling as a selection based on the investigator’s judgement and criteria. Snowball sampling is the method of recruiting that is initiated through the researcher’s social networks. The researcher contacts participants who fit the criteria for the study who, in turn, reach out to others that they know who may fit the criteria as well (Parker et al., 2019). Inclusion and exclusion criteria are important when recruiting participants because in social science research it is important to clearly and completely explain and define what is being investigated (Parker et al., 2019).

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