

**GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY
SILVASSA CAMPUS**

**Course: Research Methods and Legal Writing
Semester- I (Batch: 2023-24)**

End Semester Examination: Oct-Nov 2023 (LL M)

Date: 01st Nov, 2023

Duration: 3 hours

Max. Marks: 50

Instructions:

- Read the questions properly and write the answers in the given answer book.
- Do not write anything on the question paper.
- The respective marks for each question are indicated in-line.
- Indicate correct question numbers in front of the answer.
- No questions or clarification can be sought during the exam period, answer as it is, giving reason, if any.

Marks

- Q.1** Read the following passage highlighting the issue of data privacy in the health sector. (10)
Develop a research proposal including the following:

Title, Research Problem, Research Questions, Objectives, Methodology, Hypothesis
New Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences is renowned for the quality and popularity of its medical services. Interestingly, the hospital has also served as an important testbed for many of India's digital health initiatives. It was among the first to adopt the National Informatics Center's e-Hospital system, a cloud-based hospital management information system.

In 2016, the hospital announced free registration for patients who furnish their Aadhaar ID. More recently, it has also started integrating the Health Ministry's new universal health ID scheme – the Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts IDs – with its systems.

Riding on this digitisation wave, in October 2022, AIIMS announced that it would go completely paperless by the start of 2023. However, less than a month later, the hospital's digital systems came to a complete halt following a major cyber-attack.

The hackers took over the servers of AIIMS and encrypted the data on it, making it impossible for the hospital to access its own systems. This forced an unplanned switch back to manual processes resulting in significant delays and inconvenience. At the same time, the incident compromised the privacy of 30 to 40 million individuals whose data is reported to have been exposed in the attack.

Based on the design of the e-Hospital system, one can surmise that the AIIMS servers included data relating to patient registration, admissions, billing, use of lab services, and clinical records. The last category consists of sensitive personal data about patients' health conditions, diagnosis, medical history, and prescriptions. The sensitivity of this information arises from its immutable character – a person's medical history is permanent and non-perishable – and the grave implications of its misuse, including the stigma attached to certain health conditions.

- Q.2** Imagine that you are a researcher working on the condition of female prisoners in India. (10)
In the light of the information given below, write a report of your field visit to female prison facilities highlighting your observations.

Women constitute a small fraction of the general prison population in India. As on 31st December 2018, there were 19,242 women lodged in prisons across the country as compared to 4,46,842 men (NCRB 2018). However, the level of female criminality in India has been rising over the past decade, and the percentage increase is almost the same as the increase in male criminality (Table 1). Globally, the number of female inmates has grown much faster than the male prison population, with the number of women in prison increasing by over 50% since 2000, while the male population increased by only around 20 %.

Despite the fact that the incidence of crimes committed by women remains low, it is important to review how a society responds to female criminality. In the Indian context, society places upon every woman the responsibility to preserve “social norms, traditions, customs, morality and family cohesiveness”. Women who deviate from taking up such a role, for example, those who wish to stay single or do not prefer to have children, are often ostracised in both overt and subtle ways. Criminality, in many ways the ultimate form of deviation, is still perceived to be a “masculine deviation”. There is, thus, a natural reluctance to accept female criminality as a reality and accord it the same importance and urgency as male criminality in both academia and policy.

STATISTICS ON PRISONERS IN INDIA

Prisoners	2003	2008	2018	% increase (in 15 years)	% increase (in 10 years)
Male	12,780	15,929	19,242	50.56	20.79
Female	3,13,739	3,68,824	4,46,482	42.42	21.15

Source : National Crime Records Bureau

- Q.3 How does socio-legal research contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex inter-play between law and society? How does it impact policy formulations? (10)
- Q.4 What are the ethical considerations a researcher needs to keep in mind while conducting research? (5)
- Q.5 What is doctrinal research? How is it different from non-doctrinal research? Substantiate your answer with the help of examples. (5)
- Q.6 What is the difference between interview method and questionnaire? Develop a questionnaire to map the impact of COVID- 19 on migrant workers covering aspects like health, security and livelihood. (10)
