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Delphi studies for dummies: an immersive experience

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Active Learning Connection

We will have participants work through a simulated delphi study in pairs/small groups using polling software. We will also use discussion in small groups and the large group to apply learning and answer questions.

Abstract

The basic purpose of this workshop is to introduce attendees to the elements of a Delphi study. Delphi studies in education are a powerful tool used to gather feedback and generate consensus from content experts during development of new curricula, care guidelines (Vitacca et al, 2020), models/frameworks, best practices, or other educational innovations (Olsen et al, 2021). According to Savic (2023), three elements are required in Delphi studies anonymity of participants, iteration (multiple rounds of questions as you refine the content you are receiving feedback on), and consensus, which is defined in a pre-determined (a priori) way.

The presenters of this workshop have recently completed Delphi studies of their own (one on a new assessment framework and one on a palliative care curriculum) and are intimately aware of the nuances and sticking points that researchers need to keep in mind when conducting a Delphi study. Our aim is to highlight the different elements we had to create and decisions we had to make to conduct a successful Delphi study so participants will have a good idea of what it would take to conduct one themselves, and also to have the participants experience a simulated Delphi study for themselves. We see much potential for encouraging the use of Delphi studies within education research and innovation at OHSU.

Workshop Elements:

- Introductions of presenters and brief statements about the problem we were trying to solve that led us to a Delphi study approach (10 min)
- Brief intro to Delphi Studies, why we chose to use this tool for our work, steps of a Delphi study, how to select experts (10 min)
- Interactive Delphi Simulation - assessment framework (20 min)
- Interactive Delphi Simulation - curriculum (10 min)
- Show examples of qualitative and quantitative feedback received from experts, deciding what to revise based on feedback (10 min)
- Calculating Consensus (10 min)
- Lessons Learned, Pitfalls/gotchas, (10 min)
- Reflection, participants respond to prompts about how they might use a Delphi study in the future; questions (10 min)

This workshop will impact OHSU's education community by providing skills using a tool that improves educational innovations we engage in and that makes our work more publishable.

We will share how we took diversity into consideration in designing our Delphi study, through identifying our panel of experts (including accepting expertise beyond what aligns with traditional western ideas of expertise) and recruiting internationally. We will talk about how to include more diverse voices in each part of process.

Learning Objectives

1. Recognize when a delphi study approach would be appropriate to a research question or innovation
2. Identify the elements required of a delphi study.
3. Participate in a brief, simulated delphi study
4. Reflect on research questions they might have which could benefit from soliciting responses from a panel of experts.

References

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2. Savic, L. C., & Smith, A. F. (2023). How to conduct a Delphi consensus process. *Anaesthesia*, 78(2), 247-250. <https://doi.org/10.1111/anae.15808>
3. Vitacca, M., Lazzeri, M., Guffanti, E., Frigerio, P., D'Abrosca, F., Gianola, S., Carone, M., Paneroni, M., Ceriana, P., Pasqua, F., Banfi, P., Gigliotti, F., Simonelli, C., Cirio, S., Rossi, V., Beccaluva, C. G., Retucci, M., Santambrogio, M., Lanza, A., Gallo, F., et al. Arir Associazione Riabilitatori dell'Insufficienza Respiratoria Sip Societ  Italiana di Pneumologia Aifi Associazione Italiana Fisioterapisti And Sifir Societ  Italiana di Fisioterapia E Riabilitazione, O. B. O. A. A. I. P. O. (2020). Italian suggestions for pulmonary rehabilitation in COVID-19 patients recovering from acute respiratory failure: results of a Delphi process. *Monaldi archives for chest disease = Archivio Monaldi per le malattie del torace*, 90(2), 10.4081/monaldi.2020.1444. <https://doi.org/10.4081/monaldi.2020.1444>