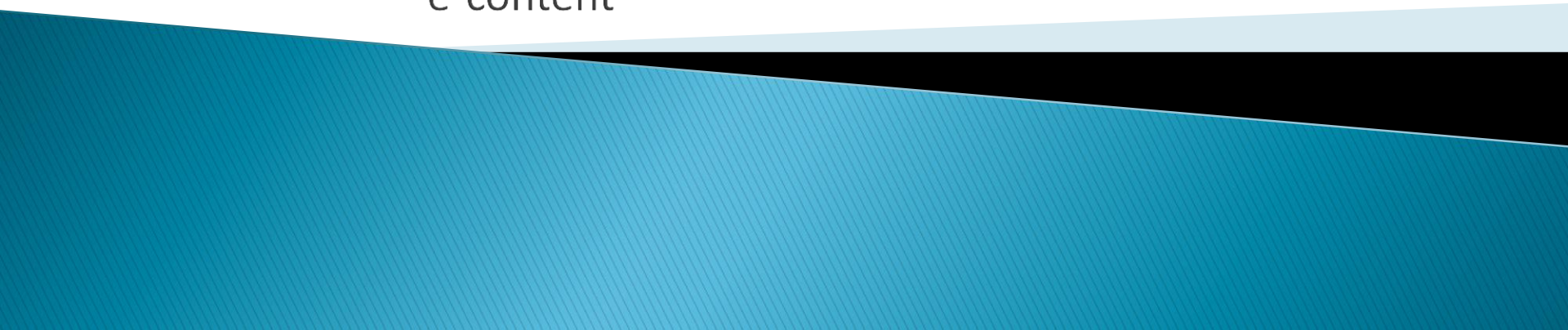


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MLIS Semester II
(Paper – 1)
Research Methods And Statistical Techniques
Topic – Delphi Method
e-content



Delphi method

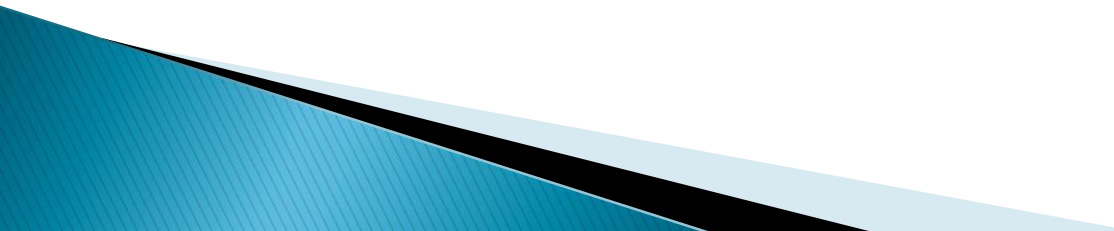
The Delphi method is popular in many disciplines. Originally developed in the US as a means of forecasting future scenarios, this method has been used to determine the range of opinions on particular matters, to test questions of policy or clinical relevance, and to explore (or achieve) consensus on disputed topics.

It is a process of arriving at group consensus by providing experts with rounds of questionnaires, as well as the group response before each subsequent round.

In Other words, Delphi method is a forecasting process framework based on the results of multiple rounds of questionnaires sent to a panel of experts. Several rounds of questionnaires are sent out to the group of experts, and the anonymous responses are aggregated and shared with the group after each round. The experts are allowed to adjust their answers in subsequent rounds, based on how they interpret the "group response" that has been provided to them. Since multiple rounds of questions are asked and the panel is told what the group thinks as a whole, the Delphi method seeks to reach the correct response through consensus.

Characteristics

- ▶ It uses a group of participants (known as 'panellists') specially selected for their particular expertise on a topic.
- ▶ It is often conducted across a series of two or more sequential questionnaires known as 'rounds'. It employs an initial 'idea generation' stage, in which panellists are asked to identify the range of salient issues.
- ▶ It collates ideas from Round 1 to construct the survey instrument distributed in subsequent rounds.

- ▶ It has an evaluation phase (third or further rounds) where panellists are provided with the panel's responses and asked to re-evaluate their original responses.
 - ▶ It is interested in the formation or exploration of consensus, often defined as the number of panellists agreeing with each other on questionnaire items.
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Delphi Method Works

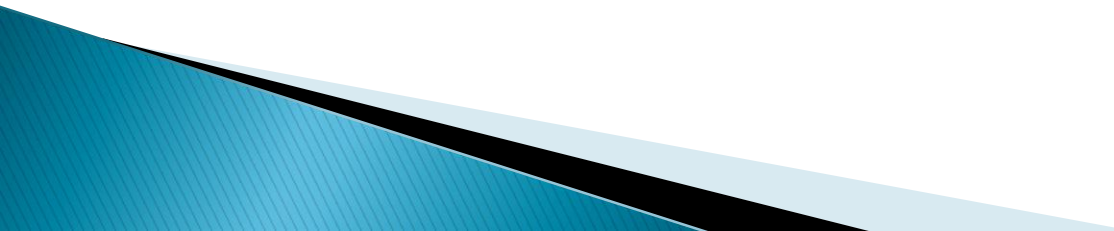
First, the group facilitator selects a group of experts based on the topic being examined. Once all participants are confirmed, each member of the group is sent a questionnaire with instructions to comment on each topic based on their personal opinion, experience, or previous research. The questionnaires are returned to the facilitator who groups the comments and prepares copies of the information. A copy of the compiled comments is sent to each participant, along with the opportunity to comment further.

At the end of each comment session, all questionnaires are returned to the facilitator who decides if another round is necessary or if the results are ready for publishing. The questionnaire rounds can be repeated as many times as necessary to achieve a general sense of consensus.

Steps Of Delphi method

First Step

Panel

- ▶ The first step is to assemble a panel of experts.
 - ▶ Unlike other approaches to group decision making, however, it isn't necessary to bring the panel members together in one place.
- 

Participate

- ▶ Because the Delphi technique does not require the experts to leave their offices or disrupt their schedules, they are more likely to participate.

Second Step

Questionnaire

- ▶ The second step is to create a questionnaire consisting of a series of open-ended questions for the group.


Third Step

Analyzed

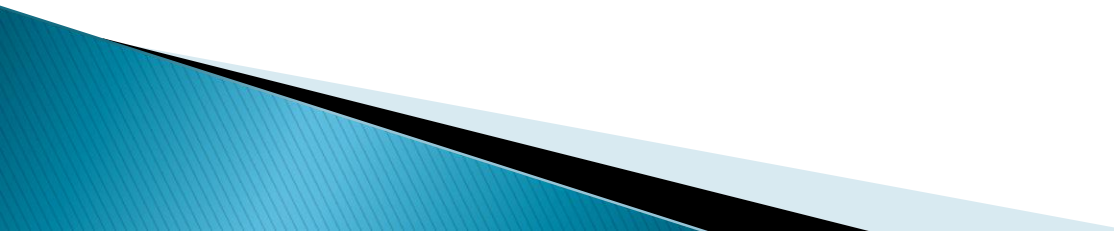
- ▶ In the third step, the group members written responses are analyzed, summarized and feedback to the group for reactions until the members reach agreement. Asking group members why they agree or disagree is important because it helps uncover their unstated assumptions and beliefs.

Again, this process of summarizing panel feedback and obtaining reactions to that feedback continues until the panel members reach agreement.

Advantage

- ▶ Long term problems can be assessed.
 - ▶ Reduces tacit and complex knowledge into a single statement.
 - ▶ Provides reliable judgment or forecast results.
 - ▶ Enables better judgment in decision making in the present.
 - ▶ Allows sharing of information and reasoning among participants.
 - ▶ Conducive to independent thinking and gradual formulation.
 - ▶ Can be used to reach target among hostile groups to each other without their knowledge.
 - ▶ Can be an inexpensive way to create a census from large number of participants.
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Disadvantage

- ▶ Judgments are those of a selected group of people and may not be representative.
 - ▶ Expert biasing, as top experts consider their own research specialty relatively higher in importance to others.
 - ▶ More time consuming than the group process method.
 - ▶ Requires skill in written communication.
 - ▶ Requires adequate time and participant commitment and ownership.
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Thank You