

A Preliminary Review on Needs Analysis and Delphi Technique: Effective Tools for Data Collection

Jamilu Mustapha Chedi

Department of Vocational and Technology Education, Faculty of Technology
Education, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Nigeria

**Corresponding author: aljamil7@yahoo.com*

ABSTRACT

In any research, data collection is a critical component. Using appropriate data collection approaches or techniques are pertinent to gathering reliable empirical data. This study reviews the concept and application of needs analysis and Delphi technique as effective tools for data collection. Needs analysis is a tool to identify gap or discrepancy. Delphi technique is used in order to gather input from experts for the solution or improvement of the gap, needs or discrepancy identified. This article provides basic description of a combination method of the needs analysis and Delphi technique. Three stages process were discussed for need analysis namely: (a) planning and cause analysis, (b) data collection and analysis, and (c) reporting. When the existing gap or needs have been identified then a Delphi technique is implemented to gather experts' opinions to solve a problem. In addition, an explanation on consensus and stability as criterion in the Delphi technique is further elaborated.

Keywords: Needs analysis, Delphi technique, data collection, expert validation, technology education