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KEY WORD: DELPHI / NEEDS ASSESSMENT / CONSENSUS / COOPERATION

SUVALEE TAWEEBOOTH : A COMPARISON OF CONSENSUS BUILDING RESULTS AND THE DEGREE OF EXPERTS' COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TRADITIONAL AND MODIFIED DELPHI TECHNIQUES USED IN NEEDS ASSESSMENT. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO. PROF. SUWIMON WONGWANICH, Ph.D. THESIS COADVISOR : ASST. PROF. NONGLAK WIRATCHAI, Ph.D. 168 pp. ISBN 974-636-190-2

The purpose of this research was to compare the consensus building results and the degree of experts' cooperation between traditional and modified Delphi techniques used in Needs Assessment. Seventy-six students in master's degree programs at Chulalongkorn University were randomly assigned into two groups according to types of Delphi techniques. The questionnaires were sent to the subjects by mail. The obtained data were analyzed using arithmetic mean, mode, median, and interquartile range. Data were analyzed through the use of t-test independent and Chi-square test of independence. Results of the study could be summarized as followed :

1. The consensus building results :

1.1 The initial information received from modified Delphi techniques was more extensive and more elaborate than traditional Delphi techniques.

1.2 At round two, the proportions of items having higher degrees of consensus obtained by modified Delphi techniques were equivalent as traditional Delphi techniques, but those of traditional Delphi techniques were higher than modified Delphi techniques at round three.

1.3 At round two, The proportions of items reaching consensus between traditional and modified Delphi techniques were significant at 0.01 but not significant at round three.

1.4 The proportions of items having stability of degrees of consensus obtained by modified Delphi techniques were higher than traditional Delphi techniques.

1.5 The number of rounds for data collection between traditional and modified Delphi techniques were not different.

1.6 The length of time for data collection between traditional and modified Delphi techniques were not significant.

2. The degree of experts' cooperation :

At round three, the proportions of experts who returned response in 1-7 days in modified Delphi techniques were higher than traditional Delphi techniques, but those of traditional Delphi techniques were higher than modified Delphi techniques at round three. The proportions of sample loss from modified Delphi techniques were less than traditional Delphi techniques.

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