

## AN EVALUATION OF THE DELPHI METHOD AND ITS USES IN EDUCATION PLANNING

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### ABSTRACT

This paper evaluates the Delphi Method and its uses in Educational Planning. The paper provides a description of the Delphi Technique and its applications with some specific examples. Strengths and weaknesses of the method and its value for Educational Planning have been discussed in detail. At the end, a number of suggestions for the improvement of the method have been made. This paper also includes a questionnaire, for determining the objectives of the Teacher Education Program of the Institute of Education and Research, Gomal University, D.I.Khan.

### INTRODUCTION

The Delphi technique is a group of related procedures for eliciting and refining the opinion of a group of people. The technique was first developed in early 1950 by Olaf Helmer and his colleagues at Rand Corporation to obtain group opinion about urgent defence problems such as forecasting the defence technology needs and collecting opinions about future dates of occurrence of social and technological advances. Now a days Delphi is well known among the methods of studying the future.

The Delphi technique is said to work on the principle that two heads are better than one. It has been variously described as a "forecasting tool" [16], an "anonymous debate" [7,8], a process for "eliciting and refining opinions of a group of individuals" [12], and an "intuitive forecasting method" [16]. One authority states that it has its roots in the jury system: another, that it serves as a mechanism for reviving the "advocacy process" [13,3] calls it a "rapid and relatively efficient way to cream the tops of the heads of a group of knowledgeable people". Helmer and Rescher [8] presented the classic definition of the Delphi Technique:

"A carefully designed program of sequential individuals'