

Abstract

Original Paper

Opportunities for Advanced Practice Nursing Experts to Influence Matters of Their Expertise through a Policy Delphi Study

Krista Jokiniemi, RN, PhD

Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing Science, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland. Assistant Head Nurse, Kuopio University Hospital, Kuopio, Finland.

Riitta Meretoja, RN, PhD

Docent, University of Turku. Development Manager, Corporate Headquarters, The Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa, Helsinki, Finland.

Kaisa Haatainen, RN, PhD

Docent, University of Eastern Finland. Patient Safety Manager, Kuopio University Hospital, Kuopio, Finland.

Anna-Maija Pietilä, RN, PhD

Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing Science, University of Eastern Finland. Social and Health Care Services, Kuopio, Finland.

Correspondence: Krista Jokiniemi, PL 1627, 70211, Kuopio, Finland E-mail: kristj@uef.fi

Abstract

Background: The Delphi technique has been applied widely in health care research; however, the Delphi experience from panelists' viewpoints has received scant attention. The rise in health-related research, despite the possible falling response rates, demands the acknowledgment of panelists' expectations and experiences, thus enabling the success of future research.

Objective: To describe and evaluate the Delphi panelists' expectations and experiences of taking part in a national Policy Delphi study. Additionally, the factors contributing to participants' motivation to partake in health research will be discussed.

Methodology: A descriptive survey was conducted in 2013. Data were gathered using a web-based online survey and analysis software. Data was analyzed using qualitative and quantitative methods.

Results: This study reports the expectations that participants (n=25) in the national Policy Delphi study had for the upcoming study. It also reports the results from a 36-item survey that was developed for this study and which inquired about the actualization of these expectations. Participants' expectations fall within the areas of participant knowledge and clinical nurse specialist role development, expectations of the Policy Delphi technique, and an opportunity to have influence. The study reveals that these expectations were met well and an additional asset of the technique, facilitation of learning, was also highlighted.

Conclusions: Policy Delphi method is revealed as an ideal opportunity to increase knowledge of the phenomena investigated, and as an opportunity for experts to learn from each other and to influence matters of their expertise.

Keywords: Advanced practice nursing, Delphi technique, descriptive survey, expert opinion