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INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This bibliography was developed as part of a project to develop a procedural manual and guide for the conduct of health policy analyses. The study involved a review and analysis of the state-of-the-art in the application of structured group processes and mathematical models in health policy analysis. The bibliography presented in the following pages provides references to 182 items relevant to the use of structured group processes in policy analysis and planning. The items referenced include descriptions of structured group processes, methods, critiques, and applications. In addition, a limited amount of theoretical literature on group processes in general has been included. The analysis of the literature retrieved in the process of developing this bibliography is incorporated in *A manual for the use of structured group processes in health planning and health policy analysis*: Baltimore, Policy Research Incorporated, 1979.

Search Methods

A systematic search of the literature was conducted to identify articles on the use of structured group process technique. The search logic was developed on the basis of material already available in the PRI library. PRI's information specialist reviewed a number of articles dealing with structured group processes and their use in policy decision-making. This preliminary review provided keywords for the search logic and identified data sources. Keywords selected included:

structured group process(es), forecasting, group decision-making, nominal group (process), delphi (process, method, technique), small group judgment(s); and judgment techniques.

These keywords were manipulated in various combinations according to the data base being used. Five data bases were searched:

- (1) Dissertation Abstracts,
- (2) ERIC, (Educational Research Information Center)
- (3) Medlars, (National Library of Medicine)
- (4) NTIS, (National Technical Information Service) and
- (5) SSCI, (Social Science Citation Index).

In all cases the searches were restricted to English language materials and run on the complete data base (i.e., as far back in time as the data base would allow).

Literature selection. The results of the searches on the five data bases yielded 297 citations. A set of review criteria was developed to accomplish a title-by-title review of the search output. The primary consideration in the title-by-title review was to identify articles which discussed structured group process in the context of health and health planning. In addition, it was deemed important to identify articles which dealt with methods in structured group processes, critiques of the methods or their uses, and analyses of the effectiveness or accuracy of the methods. The search outputs were reviewed, and relevant articles were marked for retrieval.

Several sources for articles proved difficult to access, the retrieval process therefore omitted these sources. They were:

- (1) NTIS documents, (not retrieved at present because of time and expense considerations);
- (2) dissertations, (not retrieved because of time and expense considerations); and
- (3) documents in Research in Education (because the source was not locally available).

A total of 70 articles were finally retrieved and reviewed.

The 70 articles retrieved in the search process were added to those already in PRI's collection of information on structured group processes. The references sections of all articles were checked, and additional articles meeting the review criteria were identified and retrieved. The output of the search and retrieval process was 182 references, presented in the following bibliography.

A selection of articles relevant to the application of structured group processes in planning situations, and general discussions of methods of critiques of structured group processes was formally reviewed using a specially developed literature review form. This review was undertaken in order to extract state-of-the-art information for inclusion in the manual of health planning methods. Articles selected for formal review are indicated with an asterisk in the bibliography.

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