Approaches to Managing Health Services Organizations
International Health Sections
Group Exercise #1
Nominal Group Technique

Topic: What are the key management challenges to improving the performance of essential health care in low-income countries?

Nominal Group Technique … A group process for eliciting opinions, aggregating judgments, and obtaining priority rankings from a group, increasing its rationality, creativity, and efficiency.

Instructions

1. Working in small groups of 5-6 persons, select a group facilitator and a rapporteur to record results
2. Present the question in writing, using a large flip-sheet
3. In silence, individuals should write out their initial ideas on their own paper
4. In round-robin sequence, compile ideas onto a composite list on the flip-sheet, avoiding any debate
5. Move group discussion serially through the full list of ideas for clarification and elaboration (but not advocacy or debate), aggregating or separating ideas as needed
6. Each group member silently and independently lists the five ideas of greatest importance in descending order
7. Compile and display the preliminary votes on item importance, in descending order
8. Hold brief discussions for clarification, interpretation, and refinement of results
9. Obtain, analyze, and display a final vote of descending order of ranked priorities
10. Hand in single sheet with printed and signed names of students, the descending list of ranked priorities, and the votes given for each priority