

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR NOMINAL GROUP TECHNIQUE (NGT)

Title: Sustaining Programs and Research Through Strong Practitioner-Scientist Collaboration: Lessons from the Nigeria Implementation Science Alliance Using a Nominal Group Technique

Welcome and Purpose: Thank you for agreeing to participate in this session. We are here to explore your perspectives on the collaboration between implementation practitioners and implementation scientists, with a focus on identifying challenges and opportunities to sustain programs and research. The results from this discussion will help inform strategies to strengthen such collaborations within the Nigeria Implementation Science Alliance (NISA).

Process Overview (Explanation made using PowerPoint presentation): We will use the Nominal Group Technique (NGT), which allows us to gather and prioritize ideas systematically. The process includes individual brainstorming, group discussion, and ranking of key ideas.

Ground Rules:

1. Respect all opinions and viewpoints.
2. Focus on the topic at hand.
3. Allow everyone an opportunity to contribute.
4. Every table must nominate a Group Leader

Consent: All information shared during this NGT process will be anonymized. Do we have your permission to proceed?

NGT Questions:

Question 1: In your experience, what are the most significant challenges to effective collaboration between implementation practitioners and implementation scientists?

Question 2: What do you see as the most significant opportunities for fostering better collaboration between these groups?

Phase 1: Individual Brainstorming: Silent individual brainstorming for 7 minutes (stage of silent idea generation).

Phase 2: Group Discussion

1. "Round Robin" listing of ideas from individuals by Group Leader.
2. At each table, the nominated Group Leader presents all ideas from the brainstorming phase (listed on a flip chart or digital board).
3. The Group Leader encourages participants to elaborate on or clarify their ideas.

Probing Questions:

4. Can you provide examples of situations where these challenges/opportunities were evident?
5. How do these challenges affect the outcomes of programs or research initiatives?

6. Are there specific structural, organizational, or cultural factors contributing to these challenges or opportunities?

Phase 3: Prioritization and Ranking

1. **Ranking Exercise:** Each table group brainstorms on the priority ideas constituting identified challenges and barriers to rank them in order of their relative importance. Group Leaders ask participants at their respective tables to individually rank their top 5 challenges and top 5 opportunities from the list generated.
2. **Group Discussion:** Each table reviews and discusses the ranked lists and identify areas of consensus or divergence among participants.

Wrap-Up

Summary and Next Steps: The Facilitator will summarize the key points discussed and highlight the prioritized challenges and opportunities. He/She will explain how the findings will be analyzed and shared with participants. He/She will encourage participants to reach out if they have additional thoughts or clarifications. Facilitator and Co-facilitators will gather, compile, and subsequently transcribe ranked items for the purpose of data analysis and interpretation.

Thank You: Thank participants for their time and valuable input. Provide contact information for follow-up inquiries.

*****Facilitator Notes:** Ensure balanced participation. Use neutral language to avoid influencing responses. Be mindful of time and keep the session on track.

Post-Session: Debrief with co-facilitators to capture observations and ensure accurate data recording.