

DOES EXPERT JUDGEMENT IS IMPORTANT IN MINING INDUSTRY?: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Siti Noraishah Ismail^{1,2}, Azizan Ramli¹ and Hanida Abd Aziz¹

¹Faculty of Industrial Sciences and Technology, College of Computing and Applied Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Jalan Tun Abdul Razak, 26300 Gambang, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia.

²Faculty of Chemical and Process Engineering Technology, College of Engineering Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Jalan Tun Abdul Razak, 26300 Gambang, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia.

ABSTRACT –The Delphi technique is used to achieve consensus from a panel of experts on particular issues by several series or rounds. Previous scholars widely used Delphi in social science studies, business, healthcare, education and many more. However, there is a lack of systematic review on the contribution of Delphi in the engineering and technology field of research. Thus, the aims of this systematic literature review (SLR) are to investigate the contribution of Delphi in solving problems for the past 11 years in the mining industry and to understand the future outlook of Delphi in the Malaysian mining industry. By applying the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA), 37 selected papers were identified with three main themes and 24 subthemes created using thematic analysis. Based on the findings, the most highlighted contribution of Delphi came from Theme 3: Delphi's derivatives (50.0%), followed by Theme 1: Mine lifecycle (12.5%), and Theme 2: Analysis of Delphi (37.5 %). In conclusion, an SLR could hopefully increase awareness among mining players to use Delphi in solving their problems which cannot be solved by machinery or tools in achieving a consensus among experts.

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INTRODUCTION

The mining sector is well-known for being a high-risk business with a high chance of accidents. Unfortunately, there are some limitations when it comes to dealing with difficulties that arise at work that cannot be resolved exclusively via the use of technology, advanced equipment, or machines. At this stage, human judgement is required to address the problem. Delphi is a well-known methodology or process for gathering opinions and reaching a consensus among a panel of experts on a topic using quantitative and qualitative methodologies. To avoid near misses, accidents, or disasters in the mining sector, unanimity on certain problems is critical, such as during the planning, development, or production stages of the mining lifecycle. Medicine (Lemmen et al., 2021; Lyu et al., 2020), nursing (Lear, 2020; De Luca et al., 2021), education (Zawacki-richter, 2009), business (El-Gazzar et al., 2016), and psychology (Van der Vaart et al., 2014) have used Delphi techniques to solve problems that require human judgement on specific issues. Despite the fact that Delphi has made substantial contributions to healthcare, education, and business, the applications of this technique in the engineering and technology area are just 6.17% (Flostrand et al., 2020). There is a lack of systematic literature review (SLR) that looks into Delphi's role in engineering and technology, such as in the mining industry. Furthermore, the mining sector was chosen since it is a section of the author's work that makes use of Delphi in the research study (Noraishah et al., 2021). What are the contributions and importance of Delphi in the mining industry? That is the key research issue motivating this systematic study. Therefore, the objectives of the study are to investigate the contribution of Delphi in solving problems for the past 11 years in the mining industry and to understand the future outlook of Delphi in the Malaysian mining industry.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The mining industry is a high-risk occupation and is well known as one of the oldest industries in the world. Mining accidents, mining hazards, mining disasters, or mining catastrophes have similarities which are that they have a great impact on the victims (Lyra, 2019), mine owners (Lyra, 2019; Morisson et al., 2019), mine workers (Li et al., 2019), government (Pons, 2016; Lyra, 2019), policymakers (Liu et al., 2018; Kong et al., 2018; Düzgün & Leveson, 2018), economic loss (Gui et al., 2019; Shao, 2019; Xiao et al., 2019), local community (Zhu et al., 2018; Lyra, 2019) as well as to the environment and human health (Shao, 2019; Francini-filho et al., 2019; Morisson et al., 2019). According to Noraishah et al. (2021), sixteen main causes of mining accidents that occur worldwide can be summarised in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Various main causes of mine accidents (Adapted from Noraishah et al., 2021)

The Delphi method consists of several rounds of written questionnaires that allow experts to give their opinions. After the experts answer each round of questionnaires, the facilitator collects all the answers and hands out a summary report of the answers to each expert. Then, the experts review the summary report and either agree or disagree with the other experts' answers. The experts then fill out another questionnaire that gives them the opportunity to provide updated opinions based on what they understand from the summary report. The Delphi method becomes complete when a consensus of forecasts is achieved. A wide range of opinions can be included, which can be useful in cases where relying on a single expert would lead to bias.

According to Bammer et al. (2013), most research requires only two or three rounds of Delphi. If the goal of the study is to achieve group consensus and the sample is diverse, three or more rounds may be necessary. However, if the goal of the study is to grasp the implications, and the sample size is small, it is possible that fewer than three rounds will suffice to attain consensus, theoretical saturation, or reveal the information needed. The response rate and quality are the bottlenecks. The work required by Delphi participants grows as the number of rounds increases. This often leads to a decrease in response rates (Brady, 2015). Three rounds, according to Custer, Scarcella, and Stewart (1999), are usually adequate to acquire the essential information and attain a consensus. Figure 2 shows the numerous fields of studies that used Delphi techniques as reported by Flostrand et al. (2020). Despite its significant contributions to health care, education, and business, Delphi applications in engineering and technology account for only 6.17% of all Delphi applications (Flostrand et al., 2020). A systematic literature review (SLR) of Delphi's involvement in engineering and technology, such as the mining industry, is lacking as shown in Figure 2.

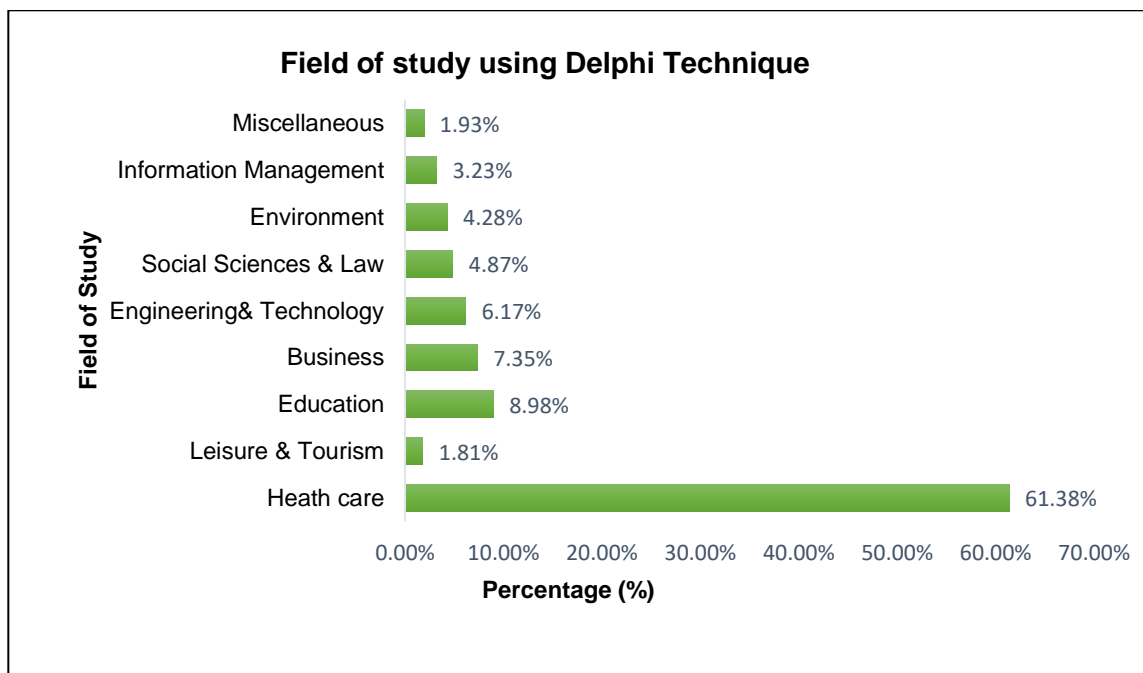


Figure 2. Field of studies that used Delphi Techniques (Adopted from Flostrand et al., 2020)

METHODOLOGY

There are two strategies carried out for this systematic literature review (SLR) which consists of:

- i. Data searching: to find related articles using the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) approaches
- ii. Analysing the articles based on thematic analysis (Nowell et al.,2017)

For the data or articles for SLR, there are four main steps of PRISMA that consist of (1) identification, (2) screening, (3) eligibility, and (4) data abstraction and analysis. The summary of PRISMA is summarised in Figure 3.

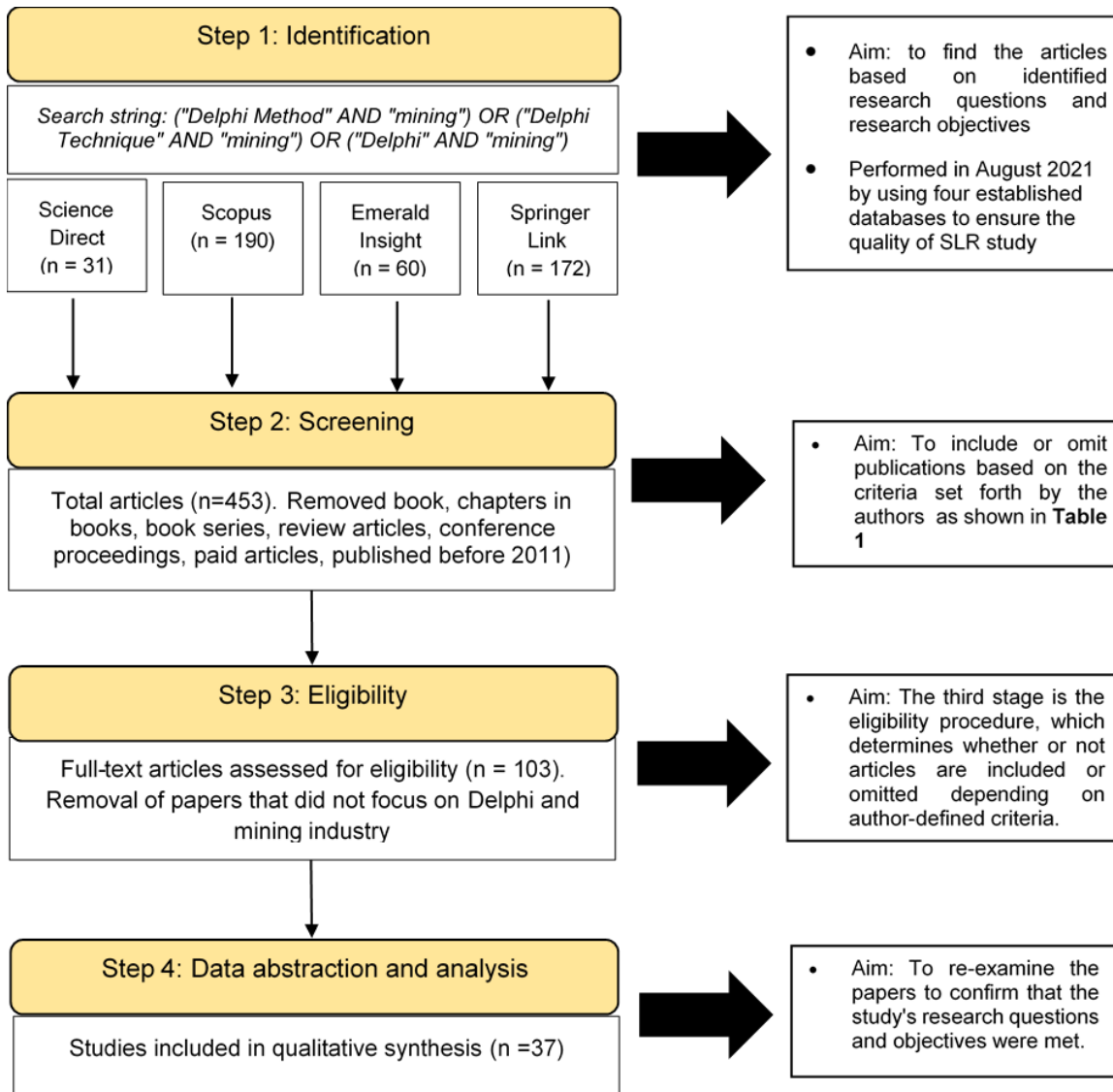


Figure 3. Steps of PRISMA approach used in the SLR study (Modified from Ismail et al., 2021)

Table 1. The inclusion and exclusion criteria

Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Publication period	2011-2021	2010 and before
Document type	Journal (research articles) only	Journals (conference proceeding, review paper systematic review, book chapter, and series)
Type of industry	Mining industry only	Exclude other than mining industry, text mining, data mining
Language	English	Non-English

The identification of the themes related to the contribution of Delphi in the mining industry was obtained from Step 4: Data abstraction and analysis where 37 articles were identified and categorised based on thematic analysis. According to Nowell et al., (2017), the thematic analysis consists of six stages as listed below:

- 1) Data familiarisation (understand and analyse 37 articles)
- 2) Initial code generation (identify similarities and differences for 37 articles)
- 3) Theme development (create or identify suitable themes based on 37 articles)
- 4) Review the constructed themes again (to ensure themes and subthemes lie in the main context of each article)
- 5) Name the themes and subthemes by defining them and giving them names
- 6) Report writing (in this case, refers to the SLR)

RESULTS

The findings show the contribution of Delphi based on 37 articles obtained using the PRISMA approach. Fourteen (14) countries consisting of China, Iran, India, Ecuador, Sweden, Canada, Indonesia, Spain, South Africa, Taiwan, Vietnam, Poland, Turkey, and Ghana were highlighted for their contribution to the use of Delphi in solving the problems related to mining operations and activities. The reported number of publications that used Delphi in mining research studies and the respective types of mines based on countries for the year 2011 until 2021 is shown in Table 2. Overall, for the past 11 years, China was the top nation in publishing Delphi articles in the mining industry, with 15 articles, followed by Iran (5 articles), India and Ecuador (3 articles each), Sweden (2 articles), and Canada, Indonesia, Spain, South Africa, Taiwan, Vietnam, Poland, Turkey, and Ghana, each with one article. Table 3 also displayed the SLR findings by year, nation, number of published papers, and journal title.

Table 2. Number of publications that used Delphi in mining research studies with their respective types of mines

Country	Number of publications	Type of Mine
China	15	Coal (12), Phosphate (1), NA (1), various mines (1)
Iran	5	Coal (3), Limestone (1), NA (1)
India	3	Coal (1)
Ecuador	3	Gold (3)
Sweden	2	Coal (2), NA (1)
Canada	1	NA (1)
Indonesia	1	NA (1)
Spain	1	Coal (2)
South Africa	1	Coal (2)
Taiwan	1	NA (1)
Vietnam	1	NA (1)
Poland	1	Coal (1)
Turkey	1	Coal (1)
Ghana	1	Gold (1)

Note: NA is not available or not mentioned in the paper

Table 3. Results of SLR for 37 articles

Year	Country	No of published articles	Title of Journal
2011	China	1	Transactions of Nonferrous Metals Society of China (English Edition)
2012	Not available		
2013	India	1	Journal of Manufacturing Technology Management
2014	Not available		
2015	China	2	Resources Policy
	Turkey	1	Arabian Journal of Geosciences
	Ghana	1	International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health
2016	China	1	Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment
	Canada	1	Journal of Cleaner Production
	Sweden	1	International Journal of Mining Science and Technology
2017	Iran	1	International Journal of Coal Science & Technology
		1	Journal of Environmental Health Science & Engineering
	China	1	Safety Science
		1	Environmental Monitoring and Assessment
	South Africa	1	South African Journal of Industrial Engineering
2018	Spain	1	Computers and Industrial Engineering
	Vietnam	1	Environment, Development, and Sustainability
	Iran	1	International Journal Mining & Geo-Engineering
	China	1	Journal of Cleaner Production
		1	PLoS ONE
		1	Occupational and Environmental Medicine
2019	China	1	Geotechnical and Geological Engineering
		2	Hindawi Mathematical Problems in Engineering
	Taiwan	1	Sustainability
	India	1	Clean Technologies and Environmental Policy
2020	India	1	Resources Policy
	Indonesia	1	Indonesian Journal of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
	Poland	1	Arch. Min. Sci
	Ecuador	1	Resources
	Sweden	1	International Journal of Emergency Services
	China	1	Energies
		1	Natural Resources Research
	Iran	1	Geotechnical and Geological Engineering
		1	International Journal of Quality and Reliability Management
2021	NA	1	Natural Resources Research
	Ecuador	1	Minerals
		1	South African Journal of Industrial Engineering

Three major themes with 24 subthemes were developed using thematic analysis. Figure 3 and Table 4 highlight the number of articles linked to each subtheme, as well as the information for each subtheme. Based on the SLR, 50.0% reported on Theme 3: Delphi's Derivatives, followed by 37.5% on Theme 2: How to Analyse Delphi? and 12.5% on Theme 1: Mine Lifecycle. Based on Figure 3, the most used Delphi was highlighted for the Development of Mine lifecycle (Theme 1) with 22 articles (59.5%), followed by the reclamation stage ($n = 7$) and Theme 3: Fuzzy Delphi-AHP ($n = 7$).

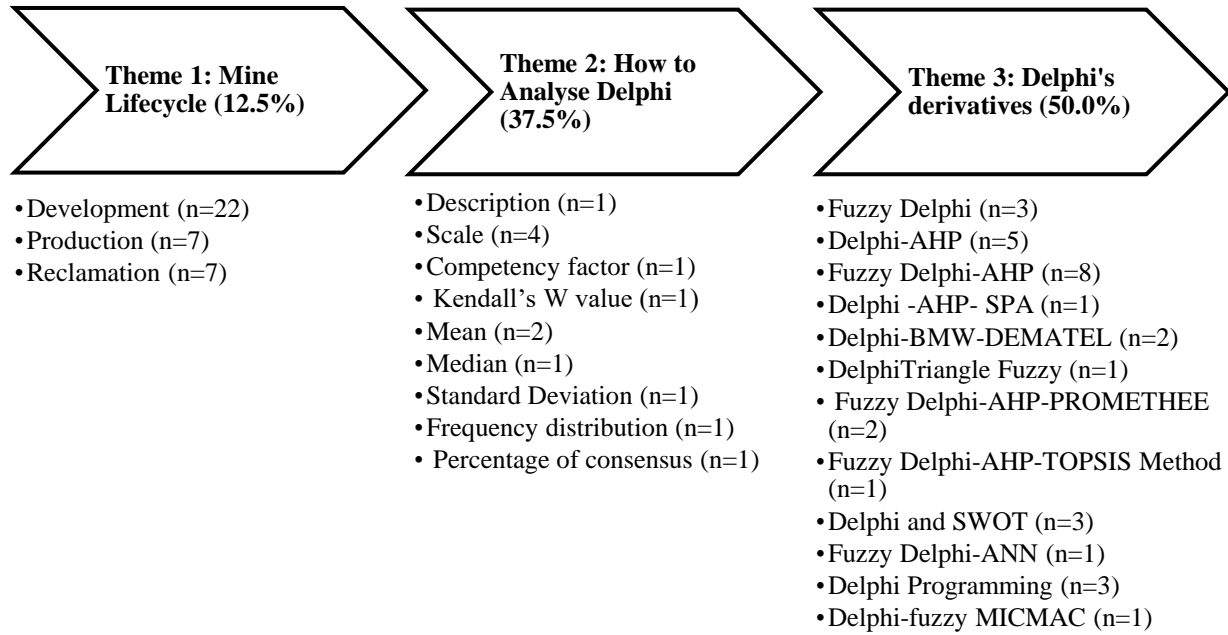


Figure 3. Number of articles related to each subtheme (n) for three themes

Table 4. SLR results on the contribution of Delphi technique/method in mining research from 2011 to 2021 (Theme 1 to Theme 3)

Authors	Country	Type of mine	Theme 1: Mine Lifecycle			Theme 2: How to Analyse Delphi?								
			DEV E	PRO D	REC L	DE S	SCAL E	COM F	KEN D	MEA N	MEDIA N	FRE Q D	PERC D	
(Wu et al.,2011)	China	Coal			/									
(Barve et al.,2013)	India	Coal			/									
(Shang et al.,2015)	China	Phosphate	/											
(Kavakl et al.,2015)	Turkey	Coal	/											
(Chen et al.,2015)	China	Coal	/											
(Basu et al., 2015)	Ghana	Gold	/											
(Guan et al.,2016)	China	Coal	/											
(DeLoe2016)	Canada	NA		/		/								
(Lanke et al., 2016)	Sweden	NA		/										
(Saffari et al.,2017)	Iran	Coal	/											
(Asghari et al.,2017)	Iran	NA		/									/	
(Chong et al., 2017)	China	Coal mine	/											
(Journal et al.,2017)	South Africa	Coal	/				/							
Geng et al.,2017)	China	Coal	/											

Alvarez-Garcia et al.,2018)	Spain	Coal mine	/						
(Yang et al.,2018)	China	Coal	/						
(Anh et al.,2018)	Vietnam	NA	/				/		
(Xu et al.,2018)	China	Coal	/	/					
(Ghadernejad et al.,2018)	Iran	Coal		/					
(Cui et al., 2018)	China	Coal	/				/		
(Sun et al.,2019)	China	Coal	/			/			
(Hsueh et al.,2019)	Taiwan	NA		/					
(Luo et al.,2019)	China	Coal	/						
(Hasanuzzaman et al.,2019)	India	Coal mine		/					
(Nan et al.,2019)	China	NA	/						
(Seam et al.,2020)	China	Coal	/				/		
(Chand et al.,2020)	India	NA	/						
(Setyono et al., 2020)	Indonesia	NA	/						
(Frejowski et al.,2020)	Poland	Coal mine	/				/		
(Sexmo et al.,2020)	Ecuador	Gold		/					
(Gyllencreutz et al.,2020)	Sweden	NA		/			/	/	/
		coal, iron ore, bauxite, lead-zinc, molybdenum, gold, fluorite, and graphite							
(Zhang et al.,2020)	China		/						
(Mikaeil et al.,2020)	Iran	Coal mine		/					
(Jafarpisheh et al.,2020)	Iran	Limestone		/					
(Li et al.,2021)	China	NA	/						
(Turner et al.,2021)	Ecuador	gold		/		/			
(Herrera-franco et al.,2021)	Ecuador	Gold		/		/			

Authors	Country	Type of mine	Theme 3: Delphi's Derivatives			
			DAHP	FDAHP	DASDBDDTFFDAPFAT.DSWOTFD_ANNDProg	DF-MICMAC
(Wu et al.,2011)	China	Coal	/			/
(Barve et al.,2013)	India	Coal				/
(Shang et al.,2015)	China	Phosphate	/			
(Kavakl et al.,2015)	Turkey	Coal				/
(Chen et al.,2015)	China	Coal				
(Basu et al., 2015)	Ghana	Gold				
(Guan et al.,2016)	China	Coal	/			
(DeLoe2016)	Canada	NA				
(Lanke et al., 2016)	Sweden	NA	/			
(Saffari et al.,2017)	Iran	Coal	/			
(Asghari et al.,2017)	Iran	NA			/	
(Chong et al., 2017)	China	Coal mine		/		
(Journal et al.,2017)	South Africa	Coal				
Geng et al.,2017	China	Coal	/			
Alvarez-Garcia et al.,2018)	Spain	Coal mine				
(Yang et al.,2018)	China	Coal	/			
(Anh et al.,2018)	Vietnam	NA				
(Xu et al.,2018)	China	Coal	/			
(Ghadernejad et al.,2018)	Iran	Coal			/	
(Cui et al., 2018)	China	Coal	/			
(Sun et al.,2019)	China	Coal	/			
(Hsueh et al.,2019)	Taiwan	NA				
(Luo et al.,2019)	China	Coal		/		
(Hasanuzzaman et al.,2019)	India	Coal mine			/	/
(Nan et al.,2019)	China	NA	/			
(Seam et al.,2020)	China	Coal				
(Chand et al.,2020)	India	NA		/		
(Setyono et al., 2020)	Indonesia	NA		/		
(Frejowski et al.,2020)	Poland	Coal mine				
(Sexmo et al.,2020)	Ecuador	Gold			/	
(Gyllencreutz et al.,2020)	Sweden	NA				
(Zhang et al.,2020)	China	coal, iron ore, bauxite, lead-zinc, molyb-	/			

		denum, gold, fluorite, and graphite	
(Mikaeil et al.,2020)	Iran	Coal mine	/
(Jafarpisheh et al.,2020)	Iran	Limestone	/
(Li et al.,2021)	China	NA	/
(Turner et al.,2021)	Ecuador	gold	
(Herrera-franco et al.,2021)	Ecuador	Gold	

Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3
DEVE = Development PROD= Production RECL= Reclamation	DES=Description SCALE=Likert's scale COMF= Competency factor KEND= Kendal's value MEAN= Mean MED= Median SD= Standard deviation FREQD= Frequency distribution PERC= Percentage consensus	DF= Fuzzy Delphi DAHP = Delphi-Analytic Hierarchy Process FDAHP = Fuzzy Delphi Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) DAS = Delphi Analytic Hierarchy Process- Set Pair Analysis DBD= Delphi- Best Worst Method -Decision-making trial and evaluation laboratory (DEMATEL) DTF = Delphi Triangle Fuzzy FDAP= Fuzzy Delphi- Analytic Hierarchy Process- Preference Ranking Organization Method for Enrichment Evaluations (PROMETHEE) FAT = Fuzzy- Analytic Hierarchy Process- Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS) DSWOT= Delphi and SWOT FD_ANN = Fuzzy Delphi- Artificial Neural Network (ANN) DProg =Delphi Programming Language DFMIMAC= Delphi-fuzzy-Matrics' Impacts Croises-Multiplication Applique' and Classement)

DISCUSSION

The main objective of the SLR was to investigate the contribution of Delphi in the mining industry for the past 11 years. The current review identified 37 studies that showed significant contributions of Delphi. The most highlighted contribution of Delphi came from Theme 3: Delphi's derivatives (50.0%), followed by Theme 1: Mine lifecycle (12.5%) and Theme 2: Analysis of Delphi (37.5%).

Theme 1: Mine lifecycle

The sequence of mine lifecycle starts from the (1) Prospecting, (2) Exploration, (3), Development, (4) Production, and (5) Reclamation stage. Based on the thematic analysis, there are only three stages (or subthemes) involved using Delphi for SLR that consists of exploration, development, and reclamation as subthemes. The biggest contribution of Delphi came from the development stage with 23 studies, followed by the reclamation (8 studies) and production stages (6 studies). For the development stage, out of 23 studies, 16 studies used Delphi for coal mine research studies, and the rest used in phosphate, gold mining, and many more.

Most researchers used Delphi in their studies and claimed Delphi was the most suitable method or technique to find consensus among the experts. This was proven because to open a certain mine, either surface mining or underground mining, the details and critical judgement and point of view of mining experts need to be considered. The extensive experiences of mining experts are vital because mining operations require very detailed planning as well as a great deal of financial investments. Therefore, the previous scholars claimed Delphi was the suitable method to find the consensus among the experts. For example, Xu et al. (2018) in the study on the production of coal mines in China, conducted mine safety assessments to prevent mine accidents by applying the Delphi and set-valued statistics-triangular fuzzy number methods to establish a composite risk analysis model.

For the reclamation stage, Delphi was used in gold, limestone, and coal mines. The reclamation stage refers to the mine closure that requires proper planning before the mine can be closed or abandoned. According to Turner et al. (2021), a combination of the Delphi and Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analyses was used to gather

opinions from experts to convert the unused mine to a museum site. The importance of Delphi was clear because proper planning for the reclamation stage could prevent the adverse effects of mines to the environment, marine life, and local community as well as to avoid loss of money due to mining accidents or disasters. This kind of contribution by Delphi is significant.

For the production stage, six studies were reported on the usage of Delphi in gold, limestone (Jafarpisheh et al., 2020), and coal mining (Xu et al., 2018; Ghadernejad et al., 2018; Hasanuzzaman et al., 2019) studies. In Delphi, it is important to find a consensus of agreement among the mining team, especially when they face problems at the production stage. The utilisation of machinery in mining is limited when dealing with problems that involve the judgement of humans that cannot be solved by machines or tools. At this point, Delphi was used by previous scholars or researchers when they faced any arising matters at the production stage. The consensus of mining experts was needed to optimise the production, prevent financial loss as well as avoid mining disasters in terms of designing the production layout for mining areas.

Theme 2: Analysis of Delphi

Theme 2: Analysis of Delphi was generated based on 37 studies obtained from the SLR results. Fourteen out of 37 articles discussed how to analyse the Delphi. Based on the SLR articles, there are two types of analysis for the Delphi technique or method as shown in Table 5. Qualitative analysis is more on the description based on the feedback of respondents. This is usually obtained from open-ended interview sessions for the first round of Delphi. For the quantitative analysis, the questionnaire survey will be used, which is in the second round of Delphi. Usually, a 5-point or 7-point Likert scale is used, such as significant to not significant, strongly agree to strongly disagree. The findings will be analysed quantitatively such as mean, median, standard deviation, and many more as shown in Table 5 to achieve the consensus among the panel of experts (respondents).

Table 5. SLR results on Qualitative and Quantitative analysis of Delphi

A. Qualitative analysis		B. Quantitative analysis	
i.	Description based on interview’s findings (DeLoe2016)	i.	discussion on Likert’s scale (scale significant or not significant or (high to low. (Journal et al.,2017; Sun et al.,2019; Turner et al.,2021; Herrera-franco et al.,2021)
		ii.	Calculate competency factor (Frejowski et al.,2020)
		iii.	Kendall’s W value (Anh et al.,2018; Cui et al., 2018)
		iv.	Mean (Seam et al.,2020; Gyllencreutz et al.,2020)
		v.	Median (Gyllencreutz et al.,2020)
		vi.	Standard Deviation (Gyllencreutz et al.,2020)
		vii.	Frequency distribution (Asghari et al.,2017)
		viii.	Percentage consensus (Gyllencreutz et al.,2020)

Furthermore, there are various interpretations to determine the consensus on Delphi. Table 6 shows the determination of expert judgement consensus based on the Delphi Technique (quantitative) as suggested by previous scholars.

Table 6. Determination of Expert Consensus using Delphi Technique (Quantitative)

Delphi’s Round	Analysis method	Description to achieve consensus
Quantitative (Interview)	1. Based on statement	Consensus is achieved if (Stitt-Gohdes & Crews, 2004); i. Two-thirds of experts or ii. More than 60% of the experts agreed on each statement known as common consent
	2. Based on percentage response	At least 51% achieve agreement on each response (McKenna, 1994). An increase in percentage agreements for each round (Holey, et al., 2007)
	Analysis method	Description to achieve consensus

	5-point Likert scale	10-point Likert scale	
Quantitative (questionnaire survey)	1. Based on Median	According to Lamers et al., (2016); i. Median >3: consensus on agreement with a statement, according to Lamers et al., (2016). ii. Median = 3: there is no consensus on whether or not a statement is true. iii. iMedian 3: agreement on a statement's disagreement.	According to (Aigbavboa et al., 2015); i. Strong consensus: median 9-10, ii. Good consensus: median 7-8.99 iii. Weak consensus: median ≤ 6.99
	2. Based on Standard deviation	Decrease in standard deviations for each round indicates an increase in agreement. (Rayens and Hahn, 2000) Smaller values of standard deviations for each round (Holey, et al., 2007)	Not available Not available
	3. Based on Interquartile Deviation (IQD)	Consensus achieve if IQD of 1.00 or less is obtained (Spinelli,1983) Consensus achieve if Rayens and Hahn (2000) i. IQD of 1.00 for more than 60% of experts answered it with agreement or disagreement ii. More than 60% consensus or agreement.	According to (Aigbavboa et al., 2015); i. Strong consensus - interquartile deviation (IQD) ≤1 and ≥80% (8-10); ii. Good consensus - IQD ≥1.1 ≤2 and ≥60% ≤79% (6-7.99); iii. Weak consensus - IQD ≥2.1 ≤3 and ≤ 59% (5.99).

Theme 3: Delphi’s Derivatives

For Theme 3, the derivatives of Delphi refer to the combination of Delphi with various multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) tools in mining research. MCDM is a tool for decision-making. In most decision-making problems, an attempt is made to select the best one according to the requirements and conditions. Based on the SLR, twelve (12) derivatives of Delphi and the objectives for each research have been summarised in Table 7. China was aggressively using the combination of Delphi with various MCDMs to solve their problems in the coal mine, followed by India and Iran as shown in Table 7. The Delphi was used as the basis to find the consensus among the panel of experts and later, for the MCDM tools that will help the researchers to simulate or model it before the real execution takes place at the mine site.

Table 7. SLR Results on Delphi’s Derivatives

No	Delphi’s Derivatives	Type of Mine/Country	References
1	Fuzzy Delphi	Coal/China	Chen et al.,2015
		Coal/Spain	Alvarez-Garcia et al.,2018
		Not mentioned/ Taiwan	Hsueh et al.,2019
		Coal/China	Guan et al.,2016
		Coal/China	Geng et al.,2017
2	Delphi -Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP)	Coal/China	Xu et al.,2018
		Coal/China	Cui et al., 2018
		coal, iron ore, bauxite, lead–zinc, molyb- denum, gold, fluorite, and graphite / China	Zhang et al.,2020
3	Fuzzy Delphi -AHP	Coal/China	Wu et al.,2011
		Phosphate/ China	Shang et al.,2015
		Not mentioned	Lanke et al., 2016
		Coal/ Iran	Saffari et al.,2017
		Coal/China	Yang et al.,2018

4	Delphi -AHP- SPA	Coal/China Not mentioned Coal/ Iran Coal/China	Sun et al.,2019 Nan et al.,2019 Mikaeil et al.,2020 Chong et al., 2017
5	Delphi-BMW- DEMATEL	Not mentioned/ India Not mentioned/ Indonesia	Chand et al.,2020 Setyono et al., 2020
6	Delphi Triangle Fuzzy	Coal/China	Luo et al.,2019
7	Fuzzy Delphi- AHP- PROMETHEE	Coal/ Iran Limestone/ Iran	Ghadernejad et al.,2018 Jafarpisheh et al.,2020
8	Fuzzy AHP-TOPSIS Method	Not mentioned/Iran	Asghari et al.,2017
9	Delphi and SWOT	Coal/India Gold / Ecuador	Hasanuzzaman et al.,2019 Sexmo et al.,2020
10	Fuzzy Delphi-ANN	Not mentioned/China	Li et al.,2021
11	Delphi-Programming Language	Coal/China	Wu et al.,2011;
12	Delphi-fuzzy- Matriced' Impacts Croises- Multiplication Applique' and Classement (MICMAC)	Coal/India Coal/India	Barve et al.,2013 Hasanuzzaman et al.,2019

Moreover, there are various MCDM tools that have benefits and great potential when combined with Delphi. The flexibility of Delphi which involves qualitative (interview) and quantitative (questionnaire survey) methods can be further refined using MCDM tools which help to achieve accurate supporting findings for the Delphi method before a conclusion on the consensus can be made. For example, Table 8 shows various MCDM models and the application for each of them.

Table 8. Various MCDM models and their applications

No.	MCDM Methods	Applications	References
1	Analytic Network Process (ANP)	i. Agriculture ii. Actuarial iii. Finance iv. Economics v. Energy Management vi. Water Management	(Keyvanfar et al.,2021)
2.	Data envelopment analysis (DEA)	i. Retail and Business ii. Medicine iii. Economics iv. Utilities v. Agriculture vi. Road Safety	(Khoshandam et al., 2014)
3.	Aggregated Indices Randomization method (AIRM)	i. Agriculture ii. Actuarial iii. Finance iv. Economics v. Energy Management vi. Water Management	(Dotsenko et al.,2014)

4.	Weighted Product model (WPM)	i.	Distribution Systems	(Supriyono et al.,2018)
		ii.	Production Planning and Scheduling	
		iii.	Portfolio Selection	
		iv.	Wildlife Management Health Care	
		v.	Energy Planning	
5	Weighted Sum Model (WSM)	i.	Distribution Systems	(Mulliner et al.,2016)
		ii.	Production Planning and Scheduling	
		iii.	Portfolio Selection	
		iv.	Wildlife Management Health Care	
		v.	Energy Planning.	
6.	Goal Programming	i.	Distribution Systems	(Keyvanfar et al.,2021)
		ii.	Production Planning and Scheduling	
		iii.	Portfolio Selection	
		iv.	Wildlife Management Health Care	
		v.	Energy Planning	
7.	ELECTRE (Elimination EtChoix Traduisant REalite')	i.	Distribution Systems	(Komsiyah et al.,2019)
		ii.	Production Planning and Scheduling	
		iii.	Portfolio Selection	
		iv.	Wildlife Management Health Care	
		v.	Energy Planning	
8.	Multi-Attribute Utility Theory (MAUT)	i.	Agriculture	(Kailiponi et al., 2010)
		ii.	Actuarial	
		iii.	Finance	
		iv.	Economics	
		v.	Energy Management	
		vi.	Water Management	
9.	Simple Multi-Attribute Rating Technique (SMART)	i.	Transportation and Logistics	(Barron et al., 1996)
		ii.	Assembly Problems.	
		iii.	Construction	
		iv.	Manufacturing	
		v.	Military	
		vi.	Environmental	
10.	Fuzzy Set Theory	i.	Engineering	(Lin et al.,2021)
		ii.	Management	
		iii.	Economics	
		iv.	Medical	
		v.	Social	
		vi.	Environmental	

FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR MALAYSIAN MINING INDUSTRY

The current study showed no recorded published articles on utilising the Delphi technique in the Malaysian mining industry for the past 11 years using the PRISMA approach from two established journal databases. For example, currently, the research on the mining industry in Malaysia is conducted on ex-tin mining to study the impact on environmental and social activities as reported by Sanusi et al. (2017), Sakai et al. (2017), Ahmed et al. (2018), Sanusi et al. (2021), Shahbudin et al. (2021), and Lehmann et al. (2021). Moreover, Sarman et al. (2019) conducted research on iron ore mining, concentrating on the potential of geotourism for ex-iron ore mines in Bukit Besi, Dungun, Terengganu. Meanwhile, Tohar et al. (2020) studied the potential of major rare earth-bearing minerals in Johor, Malaysia's southern peninsula. Therefore, this is a significant gap whereby the importance of the Delphi Technique, which is to use expert judgement, is not considered in the mining issue or related industrial problems in the Malaysian mining industry. Even though there is no major mining disaster or accidents recorded in the Malaysian mining industry, it does not mean the importance of expert judgement in the mining industry can be denied. The findings could give a valuable lesson to mine players or the government of Malaysia to use expert judgement in solving the current issues or problems at the mining

workplace. The role of governance and integrity is also important for government or state authorities in preventing mining accidents. This is related to previous scholars who stressed that a good ethical climate in the organisation, clear policies, guidelines, and code of conduct should be established in all government ministries, departments, and statutory bodies in the public sector (Sajari et al., 2019). The mining business is one of the riskiest industries; thus, expert judgement is important and it must avoid any biased judgement and unethical decisions. Therefore, a good judgement which is closely related to the ability of the expert or leader (AbdulShukor et al., 2019) in practicing world-class business ethics and good governance in solving their problems are crucially required (Wan Husain et al., 2020; Kamarudin et al., 2020; Haron et al., 2020).

LIMITATIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

In mining operations or activities today, the use of technical tools, machinery, or modern equipment is critical. However, the input of humans, particularly their expertise and knowledge in solving problems or difficulties in the sector, is increasingly significant. When assessing a specific issue that cannot be handled by technical techniques, Delphi gives the ultimate agreement or consensus among a panel of specialists. Based on the PRISMA approach, the SLR successfully found 37 publications, and this study has filled the gaps in comprehending Delphi's contribution to the mining sector for the last 11 years (2011 to 2021).

Domains and variables generated from the findings of this study may provide new knowledge for future scholarly efforts. The research also encourages stakeholders in the mining industry to utilise Delphi to tackle problems that cannot be handled using technical solutions. This study makes a number of recommendations for future research, including undertaking systematic reviews of Delphi's contributions to various engineering research projects, such as mechanical, construction, manufacturing, and electrical engineering.

CONCLUSION

The SLR investigated Delphi's contributions to the mining sector in the last 11 years (2011–2021) and used the PRISMA technique to generate three major themes and 24 subthemes utilizing four databases: ScienceDirect, Scopus, Emerald Insight, and SpringerLink. Theme 3: Delphi's derivatives (50.0%) was the most significant Delphi contribution among the 37 papers reviewed, followed by Theme 1: Mine lifecycle (12.5%) and Theme 2: Delphi analysis (37.5%). The SLR determined that expert judgement using Delphi was often used in the development of the mining subtheme under Theme 1. Delphi's participation is critical in planning and designing the mining area for the development stage, with the goal of providing a safe working environment for all mine employees and, as a result, reducing the risk of mining accidents. This study also gives a good understanding of the lack of published scientific articles and the contribution of Delphi in the Malaysian mining industry for the past 11 years. To conclude, expert judgement using Delphi is significant and consensus among experts is required to solve the problem in the mining industry.

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AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHY



Author's Full Name: Ts. Dr. Azizan Ramli

Author's Email: azizanramli@ump.edu.my

Author Professional Bio: Ts. Dr. Azizan Ramli is a senior lecturer at Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Malaysia where he teaches process safety, occupational safety, health & environment and process engineering management. He holds a PhD in technological hazards, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. He has more than 10 years' working experience as an engineer before joining UMP in 2008. He is a registered Professional Technologist, Malaysia Board of Technologists (MBOT), graduate member of the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM), professional member of the International Institute of Risk Management and Crisis Strategies (IIRMACS), and member of Malaysian Society for Occupational Safety and Health (MSOSH). His research interest is process safety, especially with respect to issues relating to industrial disaster risk reduction. He has authored and co-authored several books and academic articles on the topics with regards to safety



Author's Full Name: Siti Noraishah Ismail

Author's Email: snoraishah@ump.edu.my

Author Professional Bio: Siti Noraishah Ismail is a lecturer in Faculty of Chemical and Process Engineering Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP). She graduated her Master degrees at UMP majoring in MSc Mining with Mineral Technology and MSc Petroleum Engineering at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). She completed her undergraduate in B.Eng Chemical (Gas Engineering) in UTM. Currently she is pursuing her PhD in Occupational Safety and Health in UMP.



Author's Full Name: Ts. Dr. Hanida Abdul Aziz

Author's Email: hanidaaziz@ump.edu.my

Author Professional Bio: Ts. Dr. Hanida Abdul Aziz is a senior lecturer at Faculty of Industrial Sciences and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang. Her areas of research expertise include PSM system and risk management. She is a principal investigator of FRGS and ASEAN NCAP research projects. She also has published articles in reputable journals including Chemical Engineering Bulletin and Process Safety Progress.