

1. What were the main findings of the study on the integration of nominal group technique (NGT) and joint application development (JAD) for system requirements determination (SRD)?

- The study aimed to integrate Joint Application Development (JAD), a facilitated group technique, with the Nominal Group Technique (NGT) for improved Systems Requirements Determination (SRD).
- JAD, designed to enhance team rapport and achieve synergy, faced challenges due to its freely interacting meeting structure, potentially hindering effectiveness.
- NGT, characterized by individual idea generation and structured evaluation, was integrated into the JAD process to address problems associated with negative group dynamics.
- The integrated approach, referred to as NJAD, was tested in a laboratory experiment.
- Results indicated that NJAD outperformed JAD in the test environment, demonstrating efficiency comparable to JAD while potentially reducing the need for advanced facilitation skills in group decision-making.

2. What were the key instruments used in the study to collect data?

- The study involved a completely randomized design with two communication structures (JAD and NJAD) and two levels of facilitation (expert and novice).
- Data were collected through questionnaires, including pre-session and post-session surveys, assessing attitudes towards group work, destructive dominance, and expert judges' ratings.
- The participants, including active JAD facilitators, note takers, and role-players, engaged in a simulated case focused on determining high-level systems requirements for an integrated order processing system.
- Measures such as group communication structure, facilitation skill level, group dynamics, task complexity, and participant satisfaction were analyzed to evaluate the impact of NJAD on the SRD process.

3. What is your take-aways or insights about this article?

- The integrated approach (NJAD) demonstrated superiority over traditional JAD in creating more desirable process conditions during SRD, potentially addressing communication challenges and negative group dynamics.
- NJAD maintained efficiency comparable to JAD, suggesting that the more structured NGT intervention did not significantly extend SRD cycle times.
- The study highlighted the importance of user satisfaction with the SRD process and its outcomes, emphasizing the role of affective and behavioral responses in systems success.
- NJAD was associated with higher quality requirements generation, contributing to improved outcomes in later development phases.
- The integration of NGT with JAD could potentially reduce the critical dependence on excellent facilitation skills, making the approach more widely applicable, especially when skilled facilitators are not readily available.
- The study acknowledged limitations related to the artificial setting of the experiment and emphasized the need for further research in natural SRD settings with emotional, political, and knowledge-related challenges.