

Review of the article “Developing and validating a global governance framework for health: a Delphi consensus study”¹

Resenha do artigo científico “Developing and validating a global governance framework for health: a Delphi consensus study”

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Resumo

Esta resenha avalia o artigo de Abdel-Motaal e Chun, que propõe e valida empiricamente o Global Governance Framework for Health (GGFH) por meio de um estudo envolvendo o Método Delphi. A motivação essencial para a escolha deste artigo reside na sua profunda correlação teórica e metodológica com o meu projeto de pesquisa doutoral (Pinho Filho, 2026), no qual validarei um Modelo de Maturidade de Governança Pública focado no Poder Executivo da União, Estados e Distrito Federal, utilizando também a técnica Delphi. A presente resenha estabelece um diálogo crítico entre o artigo analisado, a literatura sobre abordagem metodológica em revisões de fontes, e o Método Delphi como instrumento de consenso de especialistas.

Palavras-chave: Governança Global em Saúde. Método Delphi. Modelo de maturidade. Governança Pública. Framework Referencial.

¹ Linguistic review was performed by Ana Júlia da Silva Bastos de Pinho.

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Abstract

This review evaluates the article by Abdel-Motaal and Chun, which proposes and empirically validates the Global Governance Framework for Health (GGFH) through a study involving the Delphi Method. The primary rationale for selecting this article lies in its strong theoretical and methodological alignment with the doctoral research project (Pinho Filho, 2026), in which I will validate a Public Governance Maturity Model focused on the Executive Branch of the Union, States, and Federal District, also using the Delphi technique. This review establishes a critical dialogue between the analysed article, the literature on methodological approaches in source reviews, and the Delphi Method as an instrument for expert consensus.

Keywords: Global Health Governance. Delphi Method. Maturity Model. Public Governance. Reference Framework.

Introduction

The article under analysis focuses on filling emergency and structural gaps in global health governance, which were severely exposed by deficits in coordination, transparency, and equity during the COVID-19 crisis. To solve this scenario, the authors propose the GGFH and subject it to robust methodological validation.

The relevance of this study aligns directly with the problem of my doctoral research, since I seek to identify, analyse, and validate a Referential Framework of Public Governance perfectly adjusted to the Brazilian federative arrangement.

Just as the authors sought to operationalize World Health Organization regulations that lacked practical application, my research points out that public governance in Brazil is still frequently limited to formal and bureaucratic compliance with legal requirements, demanding a structured model that translates theory into practical and measurable institutional culture.

Both studies rely on the Delphi Method for empirical confidence to ensure that the generated framework is functional.

Methodological Approach

In the reviewed article, the validation of the GGFH was based on a three-round Delphi methodological design, aiming to structure and refine the consensus among an international panel of 31 experts in the first round.

The foundation of this technique lies in rigorous literature search and evaluation to construct the initial questionnaire. The literature on research methodology elucidates that the literature review is an iterative process, by which the author synthesizes relevant sources and examines existing contradictions to build their argumentative instrument.

The very development of the research process is iterative and consists of continuous repetitions of searching, reflecting, and adjusting. Abdel-Motaal and Chun effectively applied this iterative approach throughout the Delphi process, utilizing feedback from Rounds 1 and 2 to address identified ambiguities, submitting the refined statements in Round 3 and achieving greater analytical convergence.

Development and Dialogue with the Literature

Within the GGFH, governance was structured into seven core domains, encompassing dimensions such as WHO leadership, sustainable financing, regional architecture, and accountability.

The validation of these criteria relied on the foundational principles of the Delphi method: participant anonymity, expert selection, iterative rounds with controlled

feedback, and the systematic pursuit of collective consensus. Corrêa and Gaspar (2022) note that this tool not only maps scenarios but also enables organizations to develop innovative, collective responses grounded in the group's refined and unbiased deliberations across successive rounds.

Furthermore, from a risk management perspective, a core governance component, the Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT) recognizes the Delphi method as a formal, reliable technique for managing and evaluating uncertainties through structured expert judgment.

The adoption of governance requires continuous risk control to minimize deviations and increase the efficiency of public policies, a premise shared by my doctorate.

The authors established rigorous statistical thresholds for consensus validation (e.g., *strict consensus*: median ≥ 6 , SD ≤ 1.35 , $\geq 75\%$ agreement), achieving full validation across all GGFH components by Round 3.

This dynamic confirms the design established in my thesis pre-project (Pinho Filho, 2026), which will require $\geq 80\%$ consensus among experts from the TCU, CGU, academia, and international organizations to validate the Brazilian framework.

Unlike corporate governance, where market outcomes drive performance, public governance lacks a corrective market mechanism. As citizens are the ultimate stakeholders, governance frameworks require rigorous evaluation by control bodies prior to implementation.

Conclusion and Critical Analysis

The reviewed study demonstrated exceptional success by empirically validating the global health governance model, consolidating the fact that reference structures (frameworks) operate as critical vectors to convert conceptual abstractions and generic laws into practical and executable guides for progressive improvement.

In a critical and analytical manner, the authors highlighted as a limitation the underrepresentation of certain peripheral actors, particularly frontline health workers from highly vulnerable regions.

Consequently, a critical takeaway for refining this doctoral research is the necessity of ensuring rigorous demographic and professional diversity within the Brazilian expert panel.

Proportionally representing the institutional and regional heterogeneity across the Union, States, and Federal District will be essential to minimize evaluator bias and ensure the broad applicability of the proposed Public Governance Maturity Model.

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