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RESOURCE

Problem Structuring Methods

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Description / Abstract

Problem structuring methods (PSMs) are a broad group of model-based problem handling approaches whose purpose is to assist in the structuring of problems rather than directly to derive a solution. They are participative and interactive in character, and normally operate with groups rather than individual clients. In principle they offer OR/MS access to a range of problem situations for which more classical OR techniques have limited applicability. The most widely adopted of these methods are Soft Systems Methodology, the Strategic Choice Approach, and Strategic Options Development and Analysis (SODA).

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