Balancing Scientific Excellence with Societal Impact Institute of Health Sciences and Technology Kaduna State University, Makarfi Campus

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Introduction

Impact is a demonstrable contribution an excellent research makes to the economy and the society. Considering the volume of scientific knowledge in the archive, it makes no sense overall if the relevant knowledge is not made available (through a medium) to both scientists and non scientists and can benefit because the scientist that borne and formulate this knowledge leaves also in the society. Formulating this knowledge by scientist and the equivalent access to this knowledge by the society depends on facing the following critical challengers.:

- The scientific knowledge base about the concept formed and his ability to divulge the information to the lay person i.e. individual researcher
- 2. The scientific organization
- 3. Government that controls science education

Scientific Excellence Knowledge

Scientific knowledge is multidisciplinary in nature. In essence scientific knowledge is rich and of diverse nature. This is true because they are myriads of scientific callings. Excellence in research is driven by curiosity to creating a research that is fundamental and brings a long term changes in a positive transformation and equally contributing way. This also means that research is expected to bring quick gain.

It is obvious that translational research may embolden and strengthen the role of science in the society. There are different conceptions of societal impact and value of science. This necessitates a narrative and of relating the science knowledge and importance to the society. Indulgence in fundamental research is key in the sense that its importance and role in the society cannot be over emphasized.

Societal Impact of Science Knowledge

It is very important to bring to the attention of science policy audience the societal impact of research. To appreciate this impact, there is need for mutual trust between both parties as regards the expectations, needs, and behaviours of both.

Beginning from Europe, European research council (ERC) is a good example of impact in research in Europe. Evaluation of the projects in ERC shows that 7% of the project in it are the top 1% of highly cited journals. Again, more than 70% of the publications make the most scientific breakthroughs; more than 30% of the publications have positive impact on the careers of researcher.

Balancing Scientific excellence

In striking a balance here, researcher's goal and practice are key ingredients to satisfying the professional requirement for new scientific findings and the societal demand for accurate and relevant knowledge. Of most important in balancing these two missions is the researcher's interest in reconciling tension between the two configuration of scientific and societal impact.

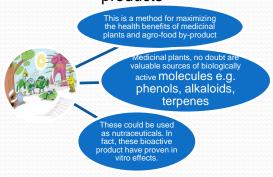
A case study is seen from an example using applied research – iwater project. In this example, research and society co-design a monitoring system for city water supply. The narrative behind this project iis a collaboration effort between research and society that aligns curiosity-based research with a specific societal challenge. A very specific result most importantly is the case report of nano-encapsulation. This is a method for maximizing the health benefits of medicinal plants and agro-food by-product

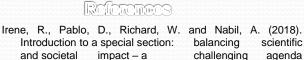
Recommendation

Basic recommendations for this conference are as follows:

- 1. Research organizations should develop accurate impact assessment policies and practices to provide credit and balance to the enormous potential and value that research brings to the society
- 2. Impact assessment policies as a matter of urgency should seek to assemble different relevant actors together
- 3. The use of ex-ante evaluation for allocating funds should be examined and executed accurately

Nano-encapsulation: a Method for Maximising Health Benefits from Medicinal Plants and Agro-food Byproducts





for academic research.

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Ward, J (2016). Symposium report: building a scientific narrative on impact and societal value of science. *Science Europe*.