

DOING SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH (SSR) IN NIGERIA:

Bridging Research Gap and Improving Development Policies

The Study

Method

- Context analysis
- Systemic mapping of stakeholders
- Comprehensive data collection

Sample

- 17 key informants
- 585 researchers
- 145 research administrators
- 75 policymakers

From

From

- 50 Universities
- 5 Research Institutes (RIs)
- 33 Government, Funding Agencies and Donors
- 7 Houses of Assembly
- 15 Private sector organizations
- 20 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Production

Personnel

Reliable data is unavailable. Best estimate based on available data.¹



About 30% PhD



About 25% female

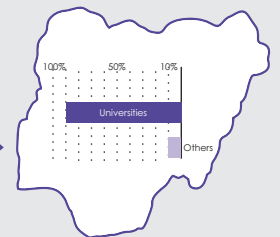


Publications

Nigeria is the second largest producer of SSR in Africa, after South Africa (by a wide margin), but a minor contributor on a global scale.



of which



90% from Universities

10% from RIs, Private Consultancies and CSOs

Funding

Funding of SSR is poor in Nigeria. Foreign funding of SSR is predominant, distorting research focus.

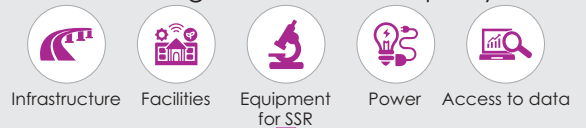


0.000124 of GERD

6.2% of which goes to SSR

Government research funding is biased towards the hard science.

Poor funding affects the adequacy of



Coordination

SSR system is poorly coordinated.

No single policy or institution responsible for national coordination of SSR system.

Sparse formal ethics



Weak Incentive for quality research

Distraction due to poor research support system. 30% of time spent on actual research



1. UNESCO Science Report (2016); Nigerian R&D Survey (NACETEM); Nigeria University Commission's Statistical Digest (2018).

Dissemination

Diversity of Actors

Diverse actors among whom collaboration is commonplace, both locally and internationally.



85%
International
Collaboration

In 2015-2017

1 out of 3 SSR publications by Nigerian authors was co-produced with foreign authors.



Visibility of Research

Most of the SSR is invisible as most local journals are not online



Social
Science
Research

About 145 journals on AJOL², yielding between 1 and 5 journals per 1000 researchers in Nigeria.



Research Language

SSR communication and dissemination is in English Language.



English
Language

Almost 0% of local journals are published in any local language.



Uptake



SSR Researchers enjoy freedom from political interference to conduct and disseminate research results.



Disconnect between researchers and policymakers in the production and use of SSR.



- Only few (24%) of elected policymakers have had research background.
- Less than 10% of SS researchers have held policymaking positions.

Levers of Change



Create strong and coordinated regulatory frameworks for SSR.

Create demand for high-quality research.



Overhaul incentives and assessment system to reward quality in production.

Connect research agenda to local development challenges and priorities.



Demand clear uptake plans as part of research grants.

Support gathering, curating and disseminating secondary data.



Increase local funding for research, infrastructure and research support.

2. Africa Journals Online, is the World's largest online collection of scholarly journals published on the Africa continent.