Public Engagement and Involvement in Health Research: How well are we doing? Views from the global north and the global south.

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Outline.

2. Eh!woza background: Anastasia
3. Pivot Collective/Interfer Background: Nabeel
4. Successes/Challenges around research-led engagement: Anastasia
5. Engagement outside of institution: Nabeel
6. Discussion
Global South – South African Context.

1. Internet: 59.3%
   53%依靠移动连接; 9.5%家庭访问 [StatsSA]
2. Secondary School Completion: 30.7% [StatsSA]
3. Unemployment: 30.1% (pre-Covid19) [StatsSA]
4. TB: incidence of 520 per 100 000 [WHO]
5. HIV: prevalence of 20.4% - 424 per 100 000 [UNAIDS]
6. COVID: 159 333 total, 2.79 % case fatality [SA Dep Health]
7. Trust in science: 74% trust advice from doctors + nurses; 54% believe science in SA is beneficial [Wellcome Global Science Monitor]
EH!WOZA: AN EXAMPLE

Newly independent NPO:
- Incubated within academic institute (IDM)
- Wellcome multi-year discretionary award – local platform for PE
With thanks to funders/partners/support.
Inclusive Research & Engagement.
Participation.
Storytelling.
Engagement.
Methods Exploration & Dev.

Collab & Inclusive Knowledge Production.
Collab Knowledge Translation.
De-Colonized Research.

Community Representation

Art
Science
With thanks to funders/partners/support.
Research-led engagement: Successes/Challenges.

• Scholarly work:
  • Peer-reviewed papers
  • Formal lectures
  • Postdoc in PE (in progress)

• Capacity development:
  • Young biomedical researchers (PhD, postdocs)
  • “Formalise” PE

• Change in culture is slow
• PE not always valued/resourced as much as biomedicine
• Administrative bureaucracy
• Tick boxing
Engagement from outside of institution.

Challenges:
• Uni-directional Engagement
• Tickboxing
• Engagement/Research as distinct processes
• “us” vs “them”, i.e. mirrors traditional Development thought
• As external: Limited power to influence; Max power to explore/challenge/advocate
• Meaningful Engagement requires multi-/ diverse-skillsets
• Engagement is not Once-off

Requires Improvement:
• Participation & Inclusion of beneficiaries and varied stakeholders
• Inclusion & Participation (from design to evaluation)
• Innovation. Innovation. Innovation…
• Engagement and research as continuous didactic process
• Greater immersion in knowledge co-production & co-translation
• De-colonization or -structuring of imagined static processes