

Community Engagement in Open Science for Higher Education Institutions: The Science Shop Model at ESAMI

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Abstract

The study aimed at analysing Community Engagement in Open Science for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs); by focusing on the Science Shop Model for Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI) under the Foster Project. However, empirical research on the motives of HEIs for such community engagement is lacking. This study adopted a qualitative methodology using the desktop approach based on exploratory design and a theoretical model by classical Sherry Arnstein's (1969) Ladder of Citizen Participation in developing this article. To get insights on what has so far been realized as far as open science, HEIs are concerned, a theoretical review was embarked on to collect data. Data was therefore collected using literature review, document analysis and focus group discussion held at Vrije University in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Then the data was analysed using narratives and descriptions to assess, evaluate and develop an integrated science shop model that ESAMI is using to undertake community engagement at Macro, Meso and Micro levels. The collected and analysed data was also used to find out what works in terms of opportunities and what does not work in terms of challenges associated with the use of science shop by ESAMI in her community engagement with the various stakeholders at Macro, Meso and Micro levels. It was concluded that community engagement in HEI should be aimed at undertaking research, teaching and consultancy programs aimed at responding to societal needs and coming up with feasible strategies for meeting such community needs in the most efficient, effective, innovative and sustainable

manner. It was therefore recommended that HEIs should therefore, use science shop models to undertake community engagements at Macro level, Meso level and Micro level so as to come up with solutions that are in line with problems affecting the people in the community.

Keywords: Open science, Open access, Citizen science, Open innovation, Science shops and Community Engagement