

C-55: Some statistics on ongoing research projects in Sri Lanka

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Statistics on current research are an important source of information for research managers to decide on future research activities and to help them to identify the trends and gaps that are prevailing in the system. A Database on Ongoing Scientific Research (DBOSR) is maintained by the National Science Foundation (NSF). This database contains 788 ongoing scientific research projects carried out in research institutions, universities and other scientific organizations in the country. The analysis shows that 680 researchers are engaged in carrying out research in various fields. Most of the research projects are in the Agricultural Sciences followed by Medical Sciences. A high percentage (80%) of researchers in the university sector are involved in one research project at a time, and in research institutions the percentage is about 54%. As the number of projects handled by a researcher increases, the contribution from the research institution also increases. Both the university sector and the research institutions report a larger portion of applied research (59.6% and 65% respectively) compared to the basic and experimental development activities. Analysis of the sub-disciplines shows that there is a considerable amount of research activities on health planning indicating the input from research on health policy.