

Global Researcher Attitudes to Societal Impact: SDG6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

These findings are part of a **GLOBAL SURVEY** of more than **9,000** researchers. About 700 researchers identified SDG6 as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to their research.



Researchers who identified **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION** as relevant to their research most often said that GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING (54%) and **CLIMATE ACTION (51%)** were related to their work as well.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIETAL IMPACT TO RESEARCHERS

of researchers who identify SDG6 as related to their research describe **societal impact** as either **extremely or very important**.

The overall goal of research is to improve the quality of life, in my case water quality.

> Waterborne disease is a significant cause of preventable morbidity and mortality. Through my career it has seemed to me to be important to reduce this.

It is necessary to create knowledge for societies to develop and produce sustainable changes for the benefit of the population.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF IMPACT DO YOU HOPE THAT YOUR MOST **RECENT PUBLICATION WILL HAVE?**

IMPACT 72%

ACADEMIC



SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 53%



IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE 52%

The majority of researchers believe that the funding of research should be more

THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH FUNDING

strongly linked to demonstrable societal impact.

STRONGLY AGREE 36% 6% 38% 15% ...Research needs to have impact on society and human welfare, actually that is the The aim should be making a difference in particular to vulnerable communities. The tax payer should know where their money is spent. critical objective of research. This is a short sighted vision Funding should be all about the for a long-term endeavour. science rather than additional, hard WHILE SOME to quantify, metrics. Why not just **DISAGREE** • trust the person writing the grant?

of researchers say their choice of journal was influenced 'a great deal'

or 'a lot' by the intended societal impact of their research.

COMMUNICATING RESEARCH

A GREAT DEAL 32% 19% 29% 11% 7%

Scientific social networking sites are the most popular way SDG6 researchers increase their societal impact. Scientific social networking site ■ Which have you done? 62%

58% Conference Open access **50%** Professional 41% web page Open data 8% 37% Social media 9% 36% Public engagement 9% 29% Personal website 28% Uploaded to 23% repository Media coverage **19%** Subject-specific 16% mailing list Podcast or video 11%

ACADEMIC

- And researchers also believe this method has the
- greatest impact, as well as

Which one has the greatest effect?

open access. NOT all researchers or academics can attend the



2%

If papers are open access, they can be found by google and so when anybody googles something related to it, my paper would be readable.

SOCIETAL

public to read and learn. This

could also spur interest in the

field of specialization and

Which of the following audiences were you trying to reach with your most

MEASURING ACADEMIC VS. SOCIETAL IMPACT

An overwhelming majority of researchers track the societal impact of their research to some extent, but there is limited tracking of impact outside of academic research.

recent publication?

SPHERE SPHERE 84% 38% 37% 22% Researchers in commercial business and industry Researchers outside of my area Researchers in my subject area

Which one method do you think is the best for tracking the societal impact of

CITATIONS FROM OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

33%

your research?

14% What are the **biggest roadblocks** stopping researchers from measuring the societal impact of their work?

CITATIONS/

DOCUMENTS

POLICY

REFERENCES IN

13%

DOWNLOADS

OF YOUR

PAPERS

RESEARCH

13%

PROFILE OF

READERS OF

PUBLICATION

YOUR RESEARCH

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TIME **TOOLS** To learn more about our new strategic partnership to accelerate progress on global societal challenges through open research, visit: springernature.com/SDGimpact

> **SPRINGER NATURE GROUP** SDG Programme supporting the Sustainable Development Goals





Our technology partners



DIGITAL