



JOSHA's Critical Review of "The Problem of 'Trickle-down Science from the Global North to the Global South" by D. Reidpath and P. Allotey

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This article by Daniel D. Reidpath and Pascale Allotey examines the issue of 'trickle-down science' from the Global North to the Global South and its impact on scientific research. The authors identify three consequences of this focus: researchers in the Global North shifting their attention away from the Global South, those trying to maintain their focus on the Global South, and frustrated researchers returning to the Global South due to a lack of opportunities. The article uses examples to illustrate the mismatch between research conducted in low- and middle-income countries and the specific needs of the Global South. The authors highlight the challenges facing the Global South and argue for a more collaborative and balanced approach that takes into account the needs and priorities of this region. This article was first published in 'BMJ Global Health' on July 05, 2019 (<https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2019-001719>).

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Abstract

This article by Daniel D. Reidpath and Pascale Allotey examines the issue of 'trickle-down science' from the Global North to the Global South and its impact on scientific research. The authors identify three consequences of this focus: researchers in the Global North shifting their attention away from the Global South, those trying to maintain their focus on the Global South, and frustrated researchers returning to the Global South due to a lack of opportunities. The article uses examples to illustrate the mismatch between research conducted in low- and middle-income countries and the specific needs of the Global South. The authors highlight the challenges facing the Global South and argue for a more collaborative and balanced approach that takes into account the needs and priorities of this region. This article was first published in 'BMJ Global Health' on July 05, 2019 (<https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2019-001719>).



The article "The problem of 'trickle-down science' from the Global North to the Global South" by Daniel D. Reidpath and Pascale Allotey discusses how the Global South suffers from "trickle-down science", explaining that the concentration of intellectual power, resources and opportunities in the Global North produces the best science, which then trickles down to the Global South. It goes on to describe three consequences of this focus: researchers in the Global North who shift their focus away from the Global South, those who try to maintain their focus on the Global South, and researchers who return to the Global South, frustrated by a lack of enabling environment to apply their new skills. The authors provide three examples that highlight the gap between research conducted in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) and the needs of the Global South.

The article explains the theory of 'trickle-down science' and its potential impact on the Global South. It discusses three findings, each with its limitations, and uses three examples to demonstrate the mismatch between research conducted in LMICs and the needs of the South. The first example describes a meeting in Malaysia where a Northern researcher dismissed research on the cause of death in settings where autopsies are rare. The second example describes a researcher in Indonesia who, unable to initiate or develop science herself, becomes a field researcher for colleagues in the US. The third example discusses how the concentration of intellectual weight, resources, and opportunities in the Global North produces sub-standard science in the Global South. While the authors do not make recommendations for improvement, they do shed light on the issues facing the Global South and highlight the need for changes to the current system to address these issues.

The article concludes by taking a critical look at the current state of scientific research, highlighting the problem of 'trickle-down science' from the Global North to the Global South and how it is failing the latter. The authors cite several examples illustrating the mismatch between research conducted in LMICs and the needs of the Global South, as well as the concentration of intellectual power, resources and opportunities in the Global North. Overall, the article highlights the need for a more collaborative and balanced approach to scientific research that takes into account the needs and priorities of the Global South.

JOSHA's conclusion: By examining the concentration of intellectual power, resources and opportunities in the Global North, the authors highlight the inequalities and consequences faced by researchers in the Global South. While the



authors refrain from making specific recommendations for improvement, the article serves as a wake-up call, urging the scientific community to re-evaluate the existing system. By critically examining the challenges and limitations of the current state of scientific research, the article highlights the importance of addressing the imbalance and aiming for a more inclusive and balanced scientific landscape. Overall, the article serves as a catalyst for reflection and action, advocating for a more inclusive and empathetic approach to scientific research that benefits both the Global North and the Global South.

JOSHA's Critical Reviews focus on recent studies and discoveries in medicine and science that may impact patient care. Our editors aim to stimulate thoughts and reflections on new developments and interventions. While our opinions are subjective, we hope this service is helpful. We welcome comments from our readers!

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