

## Prospects and Challenges Among International Research Presenters Across Countries

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### **Abstract**

**Aim:** Research completion is not considered as the end of research process. It should be shared and disseminated through presentations in fora and conferences to make it functional by addressing the problem being studied. This paper determined the international presenters' prospects and challenges among countries wherein it specifically determined their profile, prospects, and challenges encountered towards paper presentations. The significant difference between and among their profiles, prospects, and challenges were also investigated. It further identified the capacity-building specified by the respondents.

**Methodology:** The descriptive-survey research design was utilized in this study. Purposive sampling was utilized among the paper presenters at the conference held in Malaysia wherein the instrument utilized was self-made validated by the experts and pilot-tested to other presenters of the conference. Completion of the study was done in December 2020. A co-author of this paper interpreted the instrument for ease of data gathering for non-English speaking respondents. The statistical tools used were percentage, mean, weighted average mean, and chi-square test.

**Results:** Data reveal that international presenters contribute to the solution of countries pressing problems and issues; being challenged by lack of recognition. A significant difference is observed in terms of the respondents' highest educational attainment, institution, country, language, and designation. To capacitate them scientific writing, publication and peer reviewing are identified.

**Conclusion:** International presenters across countries are females in their middle adulthood stage, master's degree holder from a university, English speakers, researchers, with presentations and publications. They derive social and economic benefits in presentations, likewise; they are most challenge in not receiving a recognition. A significant difference is observed in terms of highest educational attainment, institution, country, language as well as on designation except on sex and age. On the other hand, there is no significant difference between the prospects and challenges encountered among respondents across countries. They identified scientific writing as the main capacity building that they need most.

**Keywords:** *Prospects, Challenges, International, Research, Presenters*

### **INTRODUCTION**

In attaining deep knowledge and thorough understanding about a certain phenomenon, someone may subject themselves into the field of research. As claimed by Wijetunge (2021) research productivity is a key measure of one's excellence, improvement in quality, and prestige. Among the factors that can be attributed to such activity include research proposal, conduct, presentation, publication, implementation, utilization, and commercialization (Dundar & Lewis, 1998; Morell, 2015). Across the globe, research is considered to be a significant aspect that should be addressed because they need to escalate knowledge generation, dissemination, and utilization to solve if not lessen local, national, and international issues and concerns. In focus is the so-called paper presentations either through oral or poster. These are just some of the many ways in sharing the results of rigorous study conducted by scientists, researchers,

scholars, and academicians that is believed to contribute much in various life aspects (Miracle & King, 1994). Call for paper presentations by various agencies here and abroad is an avenue in showcasing one's research output, learn from one another, and apply significant findings in overcoming at the same time clear the gaps and even solve encountered related-problems. This can be associated to an approach that can cut-cross the boundaries of research-oriented people's perspective in making themselves become beneficial with each other and build strong connectivity along the research field (Kereselidze, et.al, 2015). Hence, such study is conducted.

This study determined the international presenters' prospects and challenges among countries wherein it specifically determined their profile, prospects, and challenges encountered towards paper presentations. The significant difference between and

among their profiles, prospects, and challenges were also investigated. It further, identified the capacity-building specified by the respondents.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Descriptive-survey research design was utilized in this study. Purposive sampling was used among the 40 paper presenters at the conference held in Malaysia wherein the instrument utilized was self-made validated by the experts and pilot-tested to other presenters of the conference. Completion of the study was done in December 2020. A co-author of this paper interpreted the instrument for ease of data gathering for non-English speaking respondents. The statistical tools used were percentage, mean, weighted average mean, and chi-square test.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **On Sex**

Data reveals that most (57%) of the respondents were females and the remaining (43%) were males. This implies that there are more females who were able to complete researches subject for presentation. This supports the result of study by Cocal & De Vera (2018) wherein they found out that 70.91 percent of the academic researchers were females.

#### **On Age**

The age of paper presenters is an important component to determine the age bracket of new researchers who contribute in the generation of new information and knowledge (Nane, et al., 2017). Result reveals that 30 percent of the respondents are 26-30 years of age. This means that most of them are in their early adulthood stage (Manning, 2010).

#### **On Highest Educational Attainment of Respondents**

Half (50%) of the respondents are master's degree holder, followed by 25 percent are doctorate degree, and only 15% are Bachelor's degree. This implies that being able to finish a graduate program adds confidence to an individual to present papers internationally as a part of their professional growth and experience (Hartnett & Katz, 2016).

#### **On Institution where Respondents' Work**

In terms of the kind of institution where the respondents work, 95% of the respondents are from university while only 5 percent of them are from Secondary School. This supports the result of the study conducted by Ehrenberg (2005) wherein he concluded the significance of institutional researchers to colleges and universities who may contribute much in institutional decision making and the formulation of public policy towards higher education.

#### **On Country**

Forty percent of the respondents are from Malaysia, 20% from China, 15% from Nigeria, 10% respectively from India and Thailand while 5% from the Philippines. This has an implication that international presentations bring together researchers from varied countries that may promote linkages and work collaborations across countries (Bammer, 2018).

#### **On Language**

The data reveal that the respondents speak English (50%), Bahasa Malaysia (20%), Mandarin (15%), Arabic (10%), and French (5%). This shows that regardless of the language used by the paper presentations sharing of research outputs to derive the desired purpose is present (Ngulube, 2005).

#### **On Designation**

It was found out that 65% of the respondents occupy a designation as researcher, lecturer (15%), Professor (10%), coach/mentor (5%), and educator (5%). This signifies that more than 50% of the research paper presenters are occupying the research designation which imply that their productivity lies in producing researches that maybe subjected to presentations (Hu & Chen, 2011).

#### **On Paper Presentations and Publications**

All (100%) of the respondents have presented papers in other countries and have published articles as well. This means that they are productive along the conduct, presentation and publication of researchers (Abramo, et al., 2013).

#### **Prospects of International Presenters**

Among the identified prospects of the respondents include contributing to the solution of countries pressing problems and issues (4.30); improve educational practices (4.20); improve standard of living (4.15); serve as catalyst for achieving change (4.05); widen knowledge and hone skills (3.90), and liberates an individual from poverty (3.85).

#### **Challenges Experienced by International Presenters**

The respondents consider lack of recognition (3.95); inadequacy of facilities (3.90); lack of presentation support (3.90); minimal scientific writing skills; lack of incentive (3.80); lack of funds (3.80); and limited time (3.65) as the challenges that they experienced.

#### **Significant Difference between the Selected Profiles of Respondents and Across their Prospects and Challenges**

Result of the computed data reveals that a significant difference is observed in terms of the respondents' highest educational attainment (.05);

institution (.00), country (.00), language (.022), and designation (.00) except on sex (.19) and age (.27). It implies that those variables do vary from one country to another. On the other hand, there is no significant difference that exist between their prospects (.938) and challenges (.408). This means that international presenters' prospects and challenges are alike regardless of their respective countries. It implies that research presenters are bounded by similar experiences along research-related aspects which tend them to do collaborations, partnerships, work in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary world to make them become more productive in sharing the results of their study (Bammer, 2008; Kereselidze, et.al, 2015).

### Capacity Building Needed by International Presenters

The respondents point out that the capacity building that they needed most is on scientific writing (100%), publication (80%), and peer-reviewing (60%) of the total respondents have a very high clamor on these areas as necessary that will boost further their potentials along the research field.

### CONCLUSION

International presenters across countries are females with age ranging from 26-30, master's degree holder, works in University, from Malaysia English speakers designated as researchers, with presentations and published articles. For them, paper presentations aid them to derive social and economic benefits such as it helps solve problems, likewise; they are most challenge in not receiving a recognition as presenter. A significant difference is observed in terms of highest educational attainment, institution, country, language as well as on designation except on sex and age. On the other hand, there is no significant difference between the prospects and challenges encountered among respondents across countries. They identified scientific writing as the main capacity building that they need most.

### RECOMMENDATION

Sustain the prospects of present and future researchers by creating an established policies and guidelines for them to become more research oriented to address more related issues.

Address the identified challenges encountered by the researchers by providing incentives to international presenters aside from engaging in a more exploratory ways in conducting and implementing the capacity building cascaded from this study for the researchers to improve further their knowledge, skills and bring out in them their full potentials.

Other variables to measure researcher's performance to make it multidimensional is encouraged.

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