

SweDev seminar chat: Increasing the use of research in Swedish development policy and practice

10:28:05 From Eva Stephansson to Everyone:

How many in your network are both researchers and Consultants?

10:28:15 From Rune Andersson to Everyone:

Several of the master students at Gothenburg University has performed their field study in association to development work in low- and middle income countries including projects performed by the churches. The reports have sometimes been part of the evaluation. Has any other of you such experiences? It is important to get the students interested early in development research.

10:29:26 From Mesia Ilomo to Everyone:

Co-creation is ideal but it may need a guideline. Sometimes the two (practitioners vs researchers) may view each other as rivals.

10:31:53 From Vinayagum Chinapah to Everyone:

Collaboration- Will Capacity Development better suits your purpose? Emeritus Professor. Vinayagum Chinapah, Stockholm University

10:35:25 From Gunnel Axelsson Nycander Act CoS to Everyone:

Link to the research on humanitarian practice that I talked about:

<https://www.local2global.info/>

10:42:19 From Teklehaymanot Weldemichel, Dep't of Geography, NTNU, Norway to Everyone:

Talking of Humanitarian assistance, I feel I don't see Swedish researchers engaging on the ongoing crisis in Tigray (Ethiopia).

24/11 2021

10:44:38 From Anna Ioannou to Everyone:

Per Trulsson: Thank you for sharing your experiences on research-policy linkages, very interesting. You mentioned that researchers could be more relevant and included in processes such as developing region/country strategies. Do you have any suggestions for how researchers could make themselves relevant/included in such processes?

10:51:14 From Gunnel Axelsson Nycander Act CoS to Everyone:

Great to hear that Swedev is very inclusive in what is "development research". A lot has also happened, today e.g. research at SLU on social protection in South Africa. But my point is that research on social policy in Sweden/high income countries is very relevant also in "developing countries". So the country where research is made is not defining whether it is relevant for development policy and practice.

10:51:34 From Per Trulsson to Everyone:

Anna - that depends a bit on whether we're talking about geographical or thematic strategies..

10:54:47 From Pádraig McGurl to Everyone:

Time is a massive factor. How can CSO partners prioritise research when donors prioritise compliance. Research is way down the list for partners not because of choice/prioritising, it's because what donors prioritise and the demands placed on CSO partners.

10:55:14 From Enrique Mendizabal (On Think Tanks) to Everyone:

The problem with systematic approaches is that they end up being very "linear" (even if they do not want it). DFID (FCDO) has tried it in different formats. But in the end what works best is to have close (informal and frequent) connections to research communities both in Sweden (in your case) and in the countries where you work. And the easiest way to do this is to fund local policy research centres directly or via global south or regional networks (long list: Southern Voice, PEP, ACBF, AERC, etc.)

10:55:34 From Vinayagum Chinapah to Everyone:

Researchers are usually not well trained to write policy briefs as they are neither required nor considered as scientific contributions.

10:56:56 From Enrique Mendizabal (On Think Tanks) to Everyone:

Vinayagum that is true, They can get better at it (checkout ott.school) but they should also work with others: think tanks, NGOs, activists, political parties, media, even social movements, who are much better at it.

10:57:28 From ivar Virgin. SEI to Everyone:

Question to Per. How can co-creation with policy makers/scientists be designed in practice? Per talked about that science information/knowledge needs to be targeted to specific information demands that the Government would need, for example in the development of a bilateral country strategies ... How could such science information demands from the government be expressed in a way that scientists can respond? How to practically organize this?

10:58:27 From Per Trulsson to Everyone:

Ivan - that's the million dollar question.

11:03:11 From Vinayagum Chinapah to Everyone:

I suggest that a desk-study be carried out at SIDA to examine the extent to which Swedish researchers are called upon by SIDA for their research, innovation and capacity development purposes.

11:03:54 From Linda Engström to Everyone:

I think that even if researchers and policy makers ask different questions, the research produced can still contribute to the design of development policy.

11:04:56 From Christina Hartler, Sida (Head of TEMA) to Everyone:

We should not underestimate the importance of making the results of research easily accessible to organisations such as Sida through user-friendly databases and e-libraries. Access to such a tool would greatly promote the use of research.

11:05:27 From Christina Hartler, Sida (Head of TEMA) to Everyone:

The creation of EBA meant a strong increase and improvement in aid-relevant research in Sweden, such as in the area of democracy and human rights. EBA works much more closely with the aid community, including Sida, than previous Swedish analysis and evaluation institutions have done. A continued and perhaps also increased investment in EBA is a step towards both increased exchange and increased relevance.

11:05:28 From Elisabeth Simelton to Everyone:

Agree with Per. Researchers need writers translate research to match others' needs. (We seem to think researchers need to do/write everything themselves)

11:05:31 From Rune Andersson to Everyone:

It was in my view a mistake to close the research department SAREK at SIDA. Can it be re-established?

11:06:03 From Vinayagum Chinapah to Everyone:

Strongly agree with the proposal made by Christina of SIDA.

11:07:59 From Per Trulsson to Everyone:

Absolutely Linda - but research needs to "translated" to come through...

11:09:27 From Alice Castensson to Everyone:

Some suggestions from the Mentimeter:

- Strategic communication, don't focus on scientific papers only
- Joint funding

- Participate in networks, forums and hubs for knowledge sharing such as SweDev
- Integrate research in strategies and goals of practice...
- ...and integrate practice in early stages of research
- Communicate research in a more accessible manner
- Use existing hubs such as the Sida help desk

11:09:57 From Per Trulsson to Everyone:

Christina - agree on EBA. Lots of potential.

11:11:19 From Kristina Roing de Nowina to Everyone:

Is the value of research fully understood and leveraged, in terms of RoI?

11:13:23 From Sarah Thomsen, Sida to Everyone:

Our Health and SRHR colleagues at the MfA are invited to all of our network meetings, BBLs, and other webinars where we bring in researchers, which is at least once a month (at Sida).

11:14:43 From Enrique Mendizabal (On Think Tanks) to Everyone:

Disciplinary networks are interesting. most are very hard to manage. Health and economics networks seem to do better than others. In the case of economics it is because there are economists working everywhere (in academia, in gov, in NGOs, in the private sector, etc.) Other disciplines do not often lend themselves to this and their members are concentrated in academia (e.g. anthropology or sociology) or government (e.g. law).

11:18:19 From Niall O'Connor SEI Asia to Everyone:

As we do in Asia we need to develop solid relationships with many development NGOs from local to global levels. This helps research become a foundation of long term development work in a Co creation and CO production manner. We need more of this. And require research to write policy briefs or papers not vast reports that take all the time. More focus on outputs that can be used by the key audiences we work with. But of course we need to integrate all stakeholders in the process from ideas conception to



outputs so there is buy in from all, without impacting the integrity and objectivity of research questions!

11:19:53 From Cristina de Carvalho, Sida/INTEM to Everyone:

Swedish research institutions are still important partners and implementers of Sida supported research capacity building in partner countries, so the link is there.

11:21:41 From Cristina de Carvalho, Sida/INTEM to Everyone:

As part of the research capacity building research communication has been an important part for local researchers to influence policy in their countries.

11:22:39 From Magnus Walan to Everyone:

With a time perspective with the SDG not to fund an institution like Fair Finance Guide research and report as a tool for change is highly questionable.

11:24:59 From Gunilla Eitrem SSNC to Everyone:

The SSNC try to include Universities in various countries in the Agricultural field work our partners do, the field work together with the research could increase the quality of policy input to national processes from the participating civic society. However, often, including local resarchers usually drain the budget. We need additional funds to include research institutions in ongoing acitivities.

11:25:20 From John Young INASP to Everyone:

There have been lots of excellent mechanisms in multilateral, bilateral, and southern national development and research bringing research, policy and practice together, but they have waxed and waned, and sometimes disappeared completely - largely due to the degree of political support and funding. The real question is not how to do this, but how to strengthen the commitment of all stakeholders to do this. On the government side the main drivers are political, and on the research side the incentives within academia. New technology and an increasingly globalised knowledge ecology provides both a great opportunity to explore new approaches and a huge threat from populist mis-information.

11:25:24 From David Isaksson to Everyone:



For me, as a journalist, one advantage with working with and being in contact with researchers is exactly this long-term thinking. I times where all the rest of us are just thinking of the next Twitter message but still complete fail to understand processes such as this in Afghanistan, research is often very valuable, especially when it runs contrary to what decision-makers think is the right at this very Twitter-moment (and often not is). In our writing about how donors have propped up the regimen in Tanzania we have been in contact with researchers.