OPEN SCIENCE: THE WAY FORWARD FOR INDIA

Consultation on the Draft 5th National STI Policy

Organized by Department of Science & Technology – Centre for Policy Research at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Session 1

24th January, 2021

Recommendations

The session 1 of the consultation on the way forward with regard to the Draft 5th National Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Policy involved a stimulating discussion by participants and some critical suggestions were put forth by the end of the session. Panelists included Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Founder-President, PRIA and UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education; Prof. Amitabh Joshi, Professor, JNCASR, Bangalore; Prof Sudeshna Sarkar, Head, Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence, IIT Kharagpur. The participants had an engaging discussion and some of the ideas and recommendations that emerged included:

- **Open Access** to all publicly- funded research
- Open Access not to be conflated with profit-based "Pay-to-Publish" models. The latter is a purely market-driven industry based on the "knowledge for profit" model, contrary to the basic tenets of Open Science which sees knowledge as a public good.
- The "One Nation One Platform" model perpetuates the control exercised by profit-based journals over the research collected on the platform, leading to "platform profiteering". This model also reduces flexibility of knowledge production and dissemination
- Strenghthening Indian journals to ensure digital access to research and knowledge resources
- South-South cooperation of journals to create public knowledge-sharing platforms
- Incentivising researchers and scientists to publish on Open Access platforms
- Delinking academic ranking from international publication industry
- **Openness to society**- Science to be open and accessible to practitioners, civil society organisations, service-delivery organisations and the common people.
- Designing models that allow co-production of knowledge with heterogeneous societal actors
- Including citizen and participatory science as integral part of Open Science policies and practices

- Epistemic pluralism of diverse research communities, scholars, knowledge holders and social actors requires multilinguism
- Youth groups must have access to science, scientific discoveries and must be incentivised to develop capacities in scientific research and practice.
- **Openness to local languages**- Knowledge production and sharing has to be done outside mainstream languages to include local and regional dialects
- **Openness to knowledges**- Local and indigenous knowledges must be considered at par with "modern" science. Those knowledges must be harvested and shared in mainstream science journals in local languages
- Ethical protocols based on equity, equality and inclusiveness must be the foundation on which Open Science is implemented in practice. Knowledge sharing must not be an exploitative practice for the communities from whom such knowledges have been taken; rather such communities must be treated as equal stakeholders in the production and distribution of that knowledge
- Investing in digital capacities of indigenous people should take place at the same pace as making their knowledge accessible to others. Systematising their knowledge to digital tools so that both self-organisation and public access capacities move at same pace
- Scientific data must be made interoperable, beyond state, language and other boundaries
- **Investment in good quality data** must be incentivised; scientists must get credit for the same through promotions and positive assessment results.