

THE ROLE PLAYED BY IPRC MUSANZE AS A HLI IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS SURROUNDING COMMUNITY IN MUSANZE DISTRICT

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Abstract: This study sought to determine the role of HLIs in development of surrounding community in Rwanda. A case study of IPRC MUSANZE in Musanze District. The Questionnaires and interviews were the main instruments of data collection. There were questionnaires distributed to the IPRC Musanze staff and interviews with IPRC Musanze senior Managers, Local authorities IPRC Musanze and as well people residing around IPRC Musanze were conducted. The study yielded both quantitative data and qualitative data. Findings from the study have established that IPRC Musanze as a higher learning institution has made an effort in the development of its surrounding community in Musanze District as the study for example discovered that 96.67 % of the respondents agree that they participate in community outreach, 73.33 % participate in research and innovation and 63.33% confirmed that there is a provision of mentoring and coaching services to the surrounding community among others The Ministry of Education should allocate budget line for community outreach as well as research and innovation in HLIs. The Higher Education Council (HEC) should consider effective teaching and learning/education ,research and innovation and community outreach as major criteria of any best higher learning institution thus reinforcing them to put more effort in the above three mentioned roles.

Keywords: community, community development, higher learning institutions.

1. INTRODUCTION

Background to the study

The present research delivers insightful empirical and theoretical accounts of the various aspects associated with the role of HLIs towards community development. Therefore, after realizing that HLIS can play a big role in development of their surrounding communities, researcher was interested in analyzing the role played by HLIs in community development and finding out challenges faced by HLIs in the development of their surrounding community as far as solutions for overcoming those challenges will be suggested.

Statement of the Problem

The researcher realized that the community has a problem of not being developed socially, economically and culturally through the intervention of HLIs. Actually HLIs, apart from teaching and learning activities should engage themselves in conducting research and innovation as well as well as community outreach activities thus promoting the socio-economic and cultural development of their surrounding community. However this not done like that in most of the HLIs elsewhere in the world and most importantly in Rwanda. The research was interested by this top because none of the studies focused on the role played by IPRC Musanze as a HLI in development of its surrounding community particularly in Musanze District.

Objectives of study

To identify the role played by IPRC Musanze as HLI in the development of its surrounding community.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The role of HLIs in development of community

According to Siegfried (2007), it is very hard to determine what local area would be like without the existence of an institution of higher learning. Therefore, HLIs can greatly affect their surrounding communities and many universities and colleges will undergo studies to state this economic impact. The most obvious manner in which universities and colleges affect their local economy is through employment and through the direct purchase of goods and services. However they are some who are facing challenges which were not addressed by any research, whose solutions need a research for deeper understanding of the issue concerned, hence the motivations of the researcher to carry out this research.

Universities and colleges also act on their neighborhoods in indirect ways, such as by developing real estate. However, many of these economic impact studies exaggerate or incorrectly state the economic impact of their universities. To correct this, several other studies should be performed to identify these problems in order to allow individuals to judge objectively the role these HLIs play in their communities.

Many of studies attempt to determine the degree to which an area is better with an institution of higher learning than it would be without it (Siegfried 2007). However, establishing this counterfactual can be difficult. Institutions of higher learning do not appear and disappear quickly and their expansions and contractions occur slowly. Unfortunately, it is not always easy to say whether an effect is positive and negative. For example, a population that increases due to the new hiring of faculty can be both a good thing and a bad thing. On the one hand, there is the benefit of an expanding economy, but on the other hand there can be an increase in congestion and pollution. Some of the new faculty may bring spouses with them who will take the existing jobs of local residents.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Both qualitative (in words description) research design and quantitative (in numbers) will be employed because the research findings will include both narrative and numerical descriptions. Research deals with the role played by HLIs in the development of surrounding community, it uses both qualitative and quantitative research designs as there will be description and interpretation of data collected by using questionnaires administration, observation and personal interviews to collect data on the role played by IPRC Musanze as HLIs in development of surrounding community.

The researcher employed purposive sampling technique in selecting the participants during the data collection process. Bryman (2008) indicates that the goal of purposive sampling is to sample cases/participants in a strategic way so that those sampled are relevant to the research questions that are being posed. In this view, the researcher needed to select respondents strategically from surrounding community and different units within the university that will provide relevant information on the study topic. According to Kothari (2004:15), this sampling method involves purposive or deliberate selection of particular participants in the universe for constituting a sample which represent universe. The sample size of this study is 69 IPRC Musanze Staff and its surrounding community.

4. DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

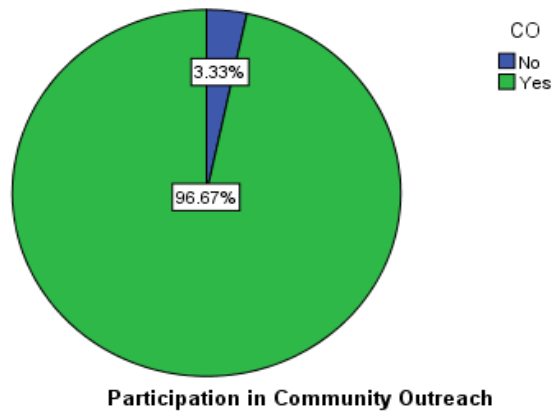
Role played by IPRC Musanze as a Higher Learning Institution in the development of its surrounding community.

This section presents, analyses and interprets findings from the data collected through questionnaires submitted to the respondents on the role played by IPRC Musanze as a higher learning institution in the development of its surrounding community. All questions asked were analyzed and interpreted basing on objectives of the study.

Participation in community outreach

Respondents were asked whether they participate in community outreach. Figure 4.1 below presents their views.

Figure 4.1: Respondents views on whether they participate in community outreach

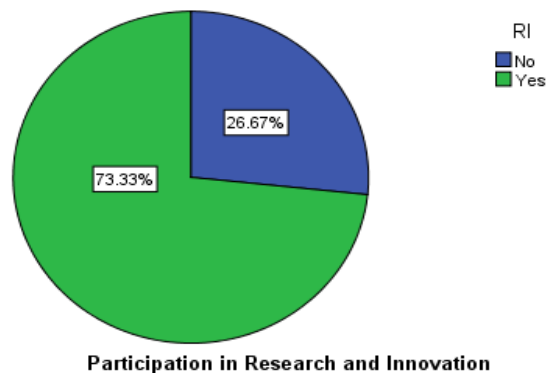


The figure 4.1 shows that 96.67 % of the respondents agree that they participate in community outreach. So, this means that IPRC Musanze do participate in development of its surrounding community through community outreach.

Respondents' views on whether they participation in Research and innovation

Respondents were asked whether they participate in research and innovation.

Figure 4.2: Respondents' views on whether they participation in Research and innovation



The figure 4.2 shows that 73.33 % of the respondents agree that they participate in research and innovation. So, this means that IPRC Musanze actively participate in development of its surrounding community as result of the research and innovation conducted.

Responses on number of research papers published

When respondents asked on the number of research papers published, their answers are presented in the figure 4.3 below.

Figure 4.3: Responses on number of research papers published

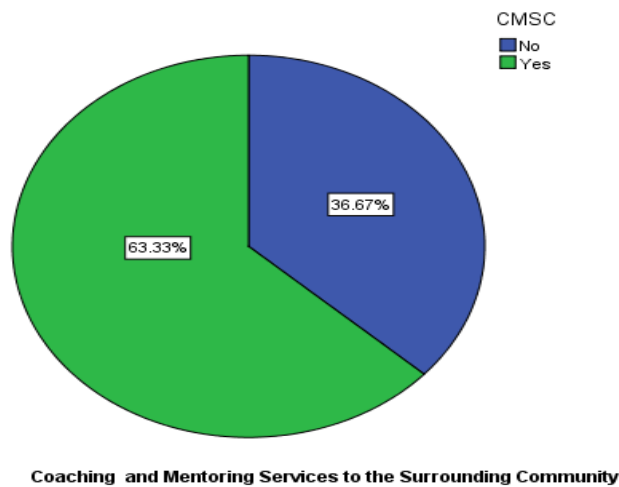


From figure 4.3 the greater number of respondents when asked the number of reach paper published confirmed they have published between one and three research papers as indicated by its percentage of 68.97% however 31.03 % of the respondents confirmed that they have never published any research paper whereas figure 4.2 shows that only 73.33 % involve in research and innovation. So, this means 4.36 % of the respondents involve in research and innovation but they never make any publication. Finally if the publication is not made it could be difficult to trace the impact of the research conducted on the society.

Conducting mentoring and coaching to the surrounding community

Respondents were asked whether they participate in mentoring and coaching to the surrounding community and their answers are presented in the figure 4.4 below

Figure 4.4. Respondents answers on whether they provide coaching and mentoring to the surrounding community.

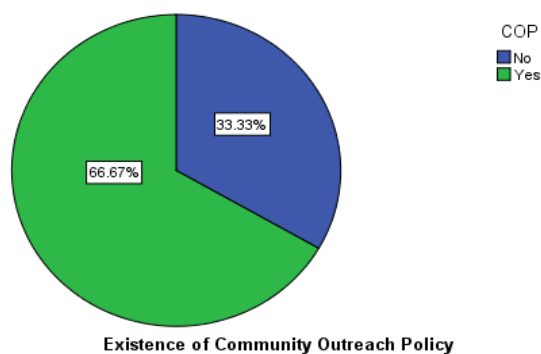


From figure 4.4 it is clear that 63.33% of the respondents confirmed that there is a provision of mentoring and coaching services to the surrounding community. This helps the surrounding community to be socially, economically and culturally developed through the improvements of their current ways of doing things

Existence of Community outreach policy and its implantation status

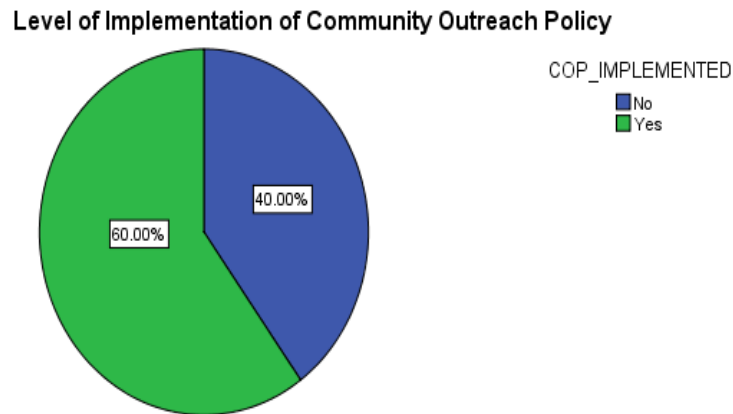
The researcher also sought to know from the respondents whether there exist community outreach policy as well as its implementation level. The findings are presented in figure 4.5 and 4.6 below

Figure 4.5: Existence of community outreach policy



The study's outcome tells that majority of the respondents confirmed the existence of community outreach policy by the rate 66.67 % as shown on the figure 4.5. It is obvious that the presence of a policy indicates the procedures and guidelines for the implementation of community outreach. The figure 4.6 below indicates the level of implementation of community outreach policy.

Figure 4.6 : Level of implementation of community outreach policy

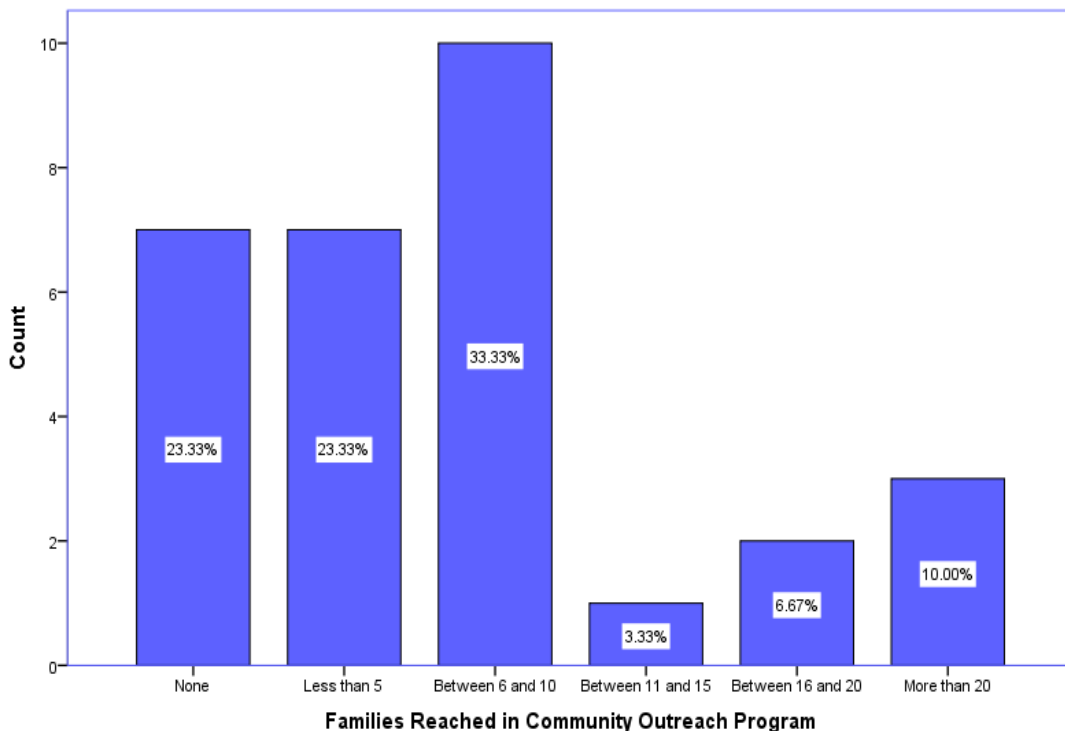


The study findings reveal that majority of the respondents agree that community outreach is implemented with the rate of 60.00%. These findings have an implication on the role of a higher learning institution in development of its surrounding community. This is because the more the community outreach policy is implemented the more the institution is actively involved in development of its surrounding community.

Number of families reached in community outreach program

The researcher also sought to know from the respondents the number of families reached in community outreach program. The findings are presented in figure 4.7

Figure 4.7: Number of families reached in community outreach program



As presented in figure 4.7 above, the study findings show that there is between six and ten families reached in community outreach policy as indicated by the percentage rate of 33.33% of the respondents confirmed that number of families reached. Despite the few number of families reached individually, the study findings show that there exist corporate social responsibilities done like Umuganda and health insurance provision among others to help the community at large according to IPRC Musanze annual report (2018). Moreover higher learning institutions are called upon to contribute to the development of their surrounding community through research and innovation and community outreach among others.

Presence of research and innovation report

The researcher also sought to know from the respondents where there exist Existence of research and innovation report. The findings are presented in figure 4.8

Figure 4.8: Existence of research and innovation report

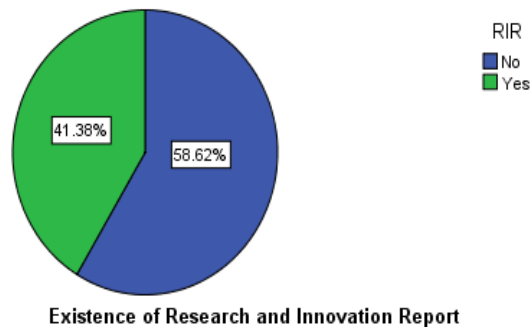


Figure 4.8 shows that 58.62% of the respondents confirmed the presence of research and innovation report. This means that research and innovation is done however reporting is still a challenge as this has been verified by figure 4.2 indicating that 73.33% conduct research and innovation.

5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

SUMMARY

The objective of this study aimed at to identify the role played by IPRC Musanze as HLI in the development of its surrounding community in Musanze District. The results from the survey revealed that 96.67 % of the respondents agree that they participate in community outreach, 73.33 % participate in research and innovation, 63.33% confirmed that there is a provision of mentoring and coaching services to the surrounding community, 60% of the respondents accept that there exist created projects that benefits the surrounding community, 56.67% accept that there is a provision of short course trainings to the surrounding community, 96.67% approve that IPRC Musanze staff have a good social interaction with the surrounding community and finally 93.10% of the respondents accept that the socio-economic and cultural development of the surrounding community has been improved since the establishment of IPRC Musanze in that community indicating clearly the role of IPRC Musanze as a higher learning institution in development of its surrounding. Actually. IPRC Musanze as a higher learning institution has greatly contributed to the surrounding community through the above mentioned ways.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, the study concluded that IPRC Musanze as a HLI has greatly contributed to the development of its surrounding community through community outreach, research and innovation, provision of coaching and mentoring, creation of projects that benefits the surrounding community good social interaction with the surrounding community, socio-economic and cultural development of the surrounding community has been improved since the establishment of IPRC Musanze in that community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the objectives coupled with the findings of the study, the following recommendations have been provided.

- i) The Government of Rwanda should ensure that at least each district has an HLI thus promoting fast socio-economic and cultural development of the citizens.
- ii) The Ministry of Education should allocate budget line for community outreach as well as research and innovation in HLIs.
- iii) The Higher Education Council should consider effective teaching and learning/education ,research and innovation and community outreach as major criteria of any best higher learning institution thus reinforcing them to put more effort in the above three mentioned roles.

iv) HLIs are encouraged to find ways for income generation through for examples hiring school facilities like cars/vehicles, school gardens, play grounds and halls among others, installation of production units, creating various income generating projects like livestock farming etc.

v) Academic workshops/seminars should be regularly conducted in HLIs because the rise people's awareness on various alarming issues in the society.

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