



# Doing Research about Research

What Local Analysis of Research Systems Can Tell Us About the State of Social Sciences in Developing Countries



Myanmar

Centre for Economic and Social Development

# DOING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

## Myanmar



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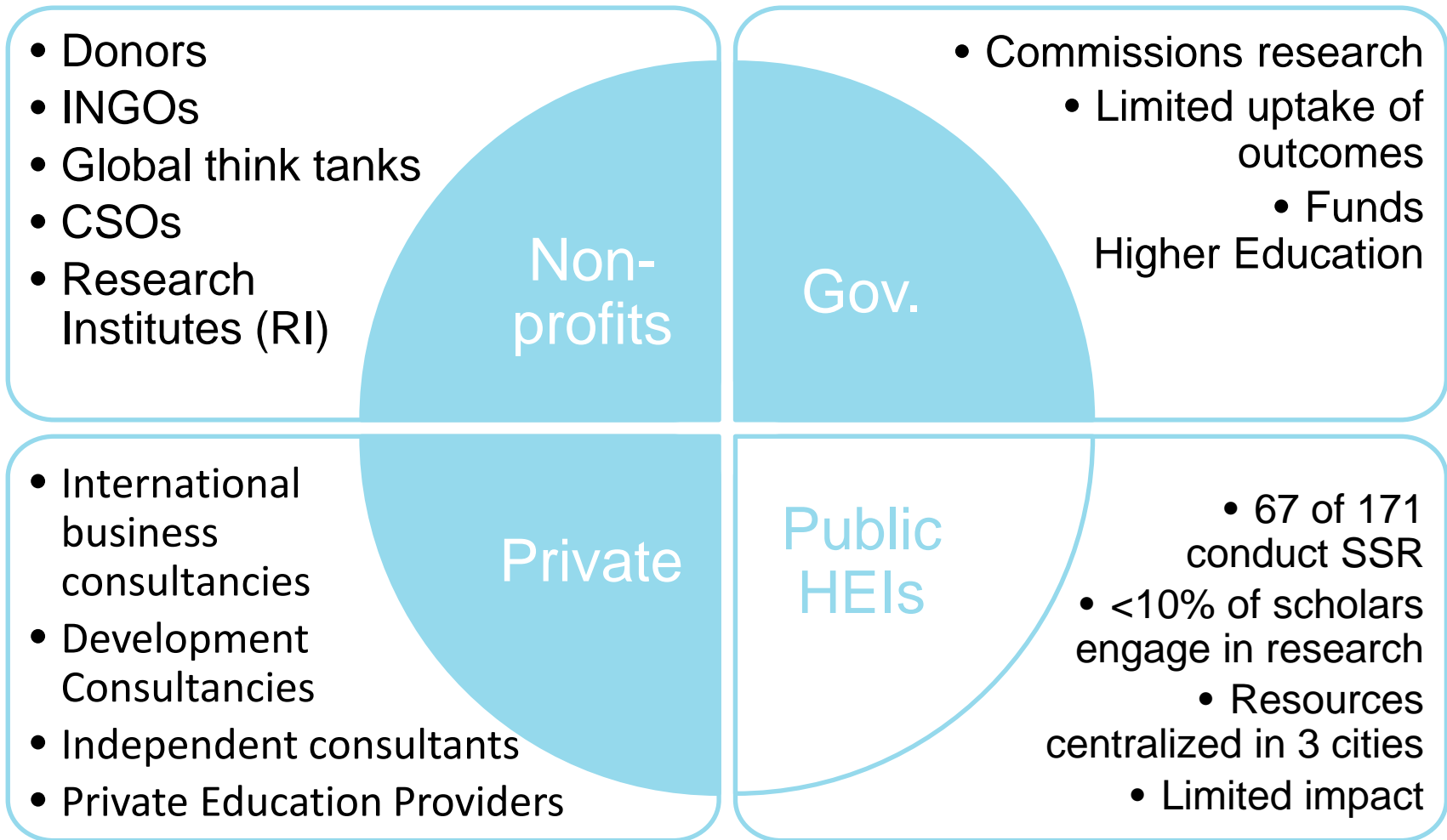
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# SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH SYSTEM

## ACTORS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



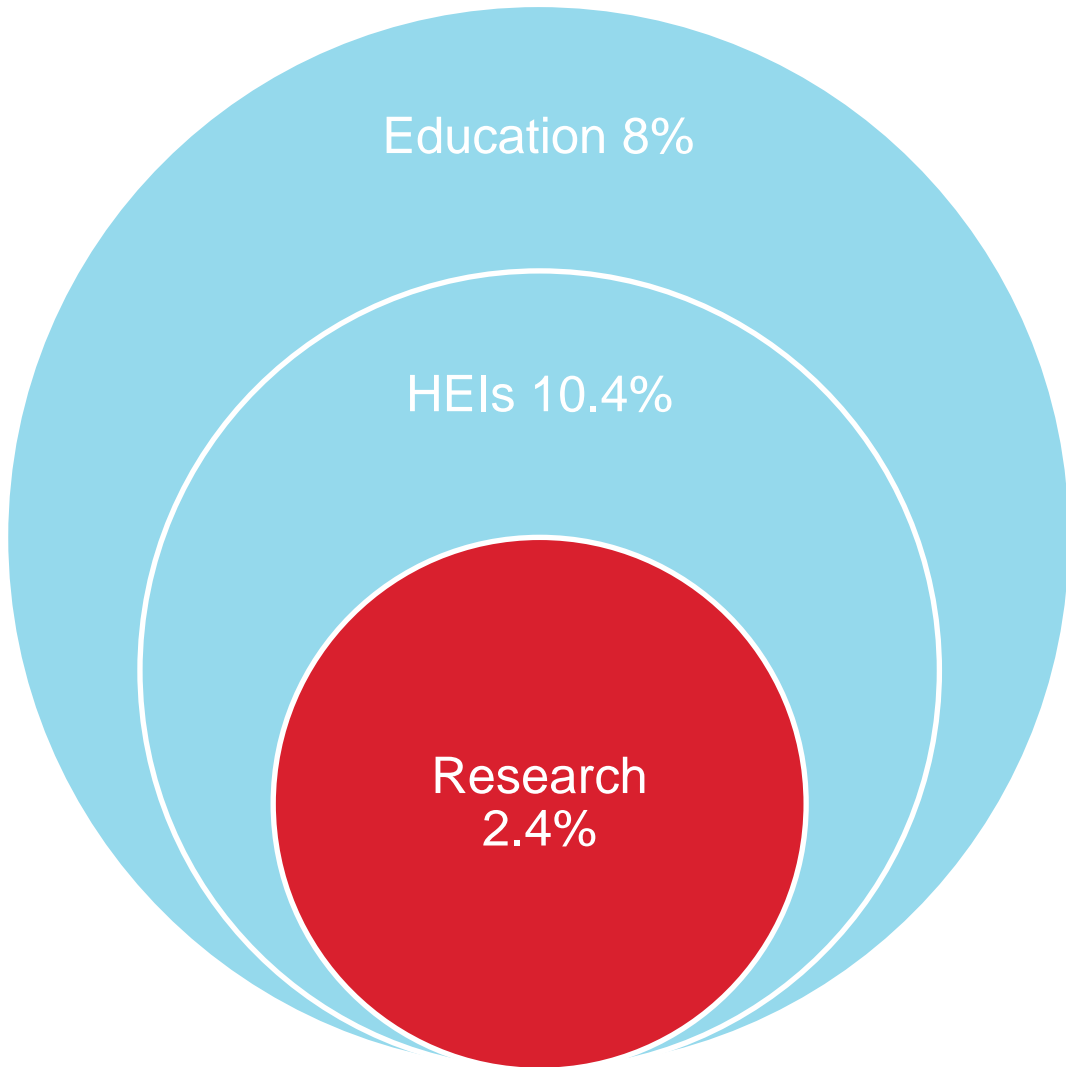
# PRODUCTION OF SSR

## IMPACT FACTORS

	Encouraging	Hindering
INGOs & Donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued interest in the country</li> <li>Main funders of SSR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Research is heavily influenced by their shifting interests</u></li> <li>Funding subject to project lifetime</li> <li>Call for proposals seek an answer, and give the premise</li> </ul>
CSOs & Research institutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy research allows closer engagement with policymakers</li> <li>Strong advocacy focus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Wholly dependent on donor funding</u></li> <li>Research projects are numerous but isolated</li> </ul>
Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly interested in the country</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focuses on marketable topics</li> </ul>
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Regional Governments increasingly relying on evidence-based research to tackle social issues</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>No nationwide research strategy or policy</u></li> <li>Low trust in researchers</li> <li><u>Emphasis on STEM, ignoring social sciences</u></li> </ul>
HEIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing research interest</li> <li><u>National Education Strategic Plan supports reform</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Insufficient research funding</u></li> <li><u>Absence of research culture</u></li> <li><u>Academic isolation</u></li> </ul>

# QUALITY OF SSR

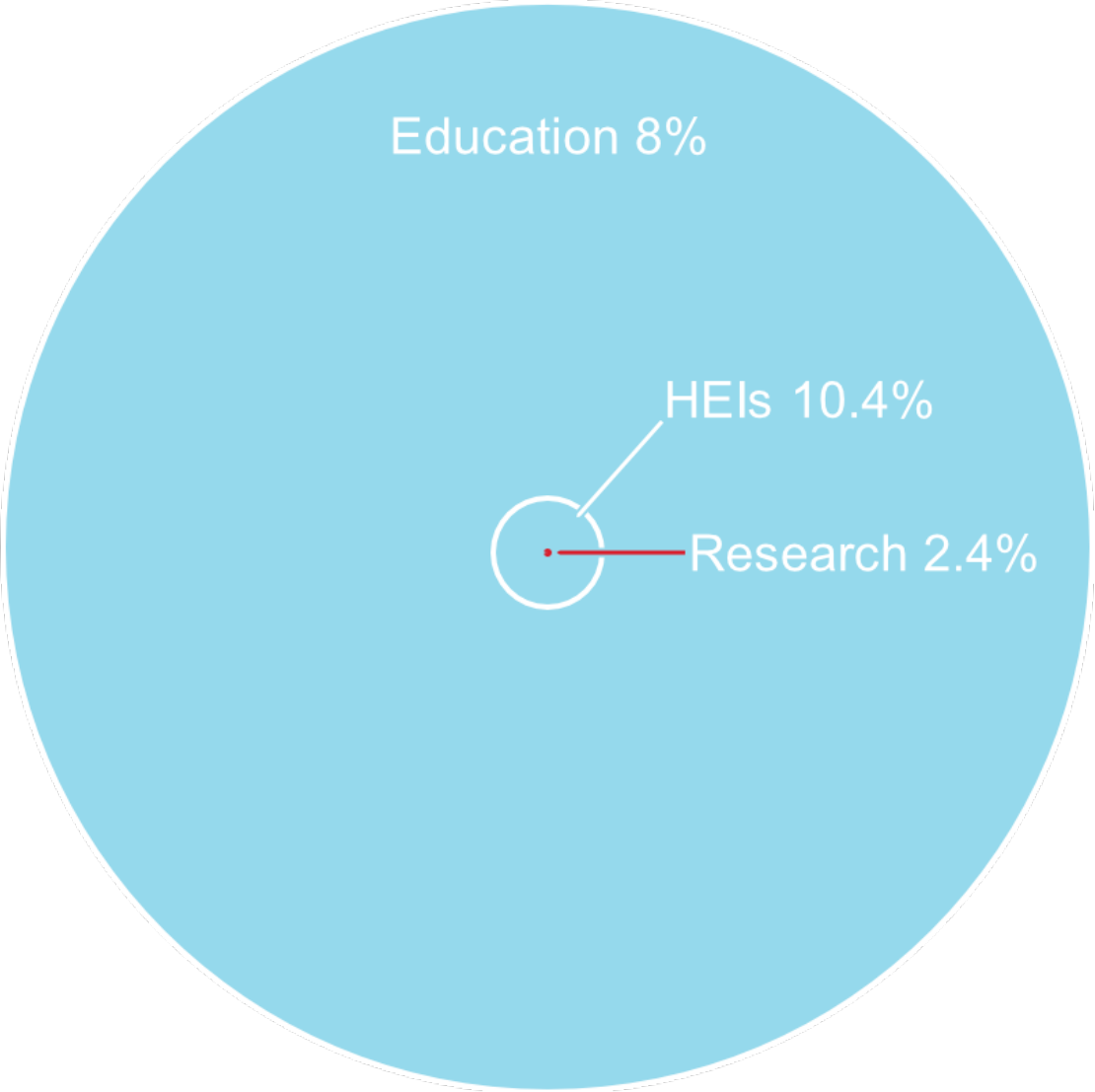
## BARRIERS ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS



- Restrictions to academic freedom
- Sensitive research is scrutinized
- Lack of resources
- Low research capacity
- No national research body/policy
- Low funding for HEIs

# QUALITY OF SSR

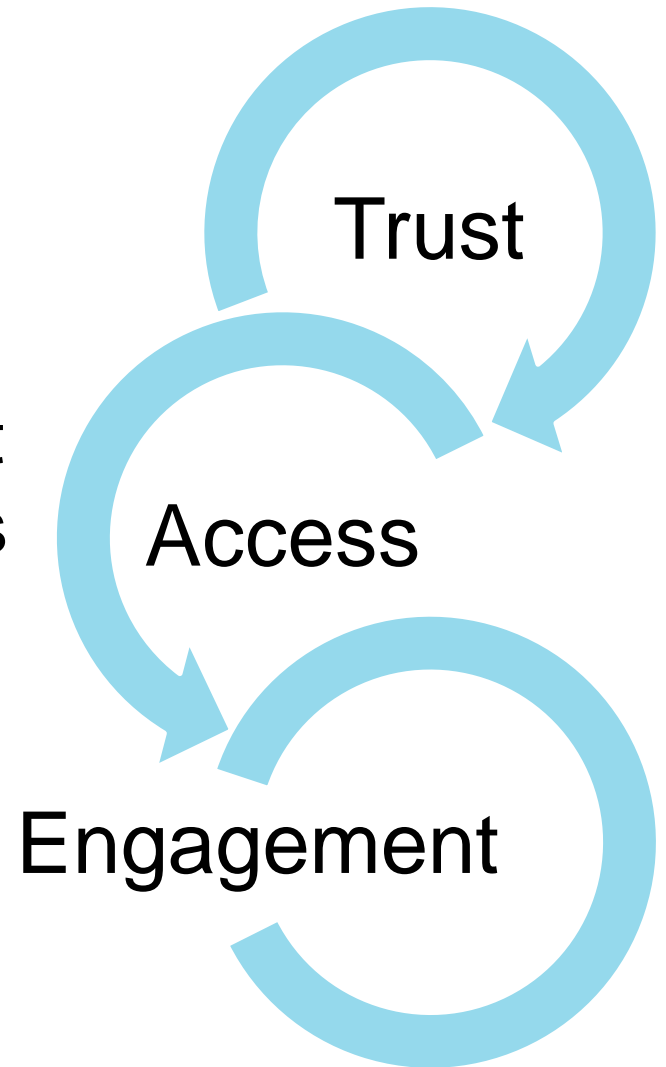
## BARRIERS ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS



# ENGAGEMENT OF SSR KEYPLAYERS

## PROCEDURES AND ACTIONS

- 90% of non-academic researchers reported frequent interactions with policymakers (vs 50% academics)
- Informal channels
- Social media reliance



# DOING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

## CONCLUSION

Donor

- Funding shapes agenda
- Over-research of *hot topics*
- Uncoordinated

Gov

- STEM focus
- Low uptake
- HEIs underfunded

Academic Researchers

- Low capacity & exchange
- Academic Isolation
- Poor career prospects

Non-academic Researchers

- CSO/RIs are donor dependent
- Private sector: donor-funded products not accessible



## COOPERATION OF SSR KEYPLAYERS

### ACTIONS FOR SSR IMPROVEMENT

#### Gov

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- Increase HEI funding for SSR
- Promote culture of academic research
- Establish research body/policy

#### Donors

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- Allocate operational funds for RIs
- Coordinate research projects among donors thematically
- Allow for solution-oriented projects

Thank you

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