Academia, Research and Civil Society

By

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Civil Society

- Arena outside family, state, and market
  - Where people associate to advance common interests
  - Movers and shakers of public opinion

- Requires reliable and valid information for
  - Health education
  - Advocacy
  - Communicating messages to constituents
  - Programme development
• A community of students and scholars engaged in higher education and research

• The intellectual class

• Use of the word ‘academia’ has its roots in ancient Greece and North Africa
Research

• Descriptive, observational or experimental

• Helps to provide answers and solutions to hypothetical problems

• Complex in design

• Methodical and structured in its approach

• Strives for excellence and recognition

• Well-suited to academia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academia</th>
<th>Civil Society</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More concerned with detail, excellence and examination on specific public health areas</td>
<td>More concerned with the greater good for society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specific solutions to abstract problems</td>
<td>Real life solutions to public health problems</td>
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<td>Publishing and dissemination to a limited audience</td>
<td>Getting the message to the widest possible audience</td>
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<td>Structure and process</td>
<td>Outcomes</td>
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• Needs civil society to harness public opinion on areas of public health concern

• To motivate individuals and groups to participate in research, enable them to take part and reward them for their efforts

• To fund specific areas of research and explore financial support through their access to higher tiered organizations
• Stewardship, co-ordination and leadership

• Programmatic approach vs project response

• For support
  – Field work, administration, lobbying governmental agencies
Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

- Collaborative approach to research
- Equitably involves all partners in the process
- Recognizes unique strengths
- Uses qualitative and quantitative methods to understand complex public health issues
- Vehicle and opportunity for more effective translation of research into action re: NCDs
Diabetes foot amputations in Barbados
Hennis et al Case Control Study 2004
Diabetics with LEA (205)/ Diabetics without LEA (104)
Inadequate footwear independently triples the risk for LEA
Have there been effective communication of results to governmental agencies and civil society?
The “Get the Message” Campaign

- CDRC assisted with writing and review of health tips (PSA)
- Attended meeting in an advisory capacity
- Co authored an editorial in the West Indian Medical Journal targeting the medical community
- CDRC will continue to engage the HCC with documentation and data collection that will allow for publications
How to Narrow the Gap?

- Collaboration
- Co-operation
- Partnership and alliances
- Sensitivity
- Reciprocity
- Understanding public health issues of greatest concern
- Ability to understand each other’s strengths and weaknesses
Thank You

ANY QUESTIONS?