

An ideal match?

Elements of the discussion

Clarifications for presentation 1:

1. **Who did you work with in the MOH?** (Planification department)
2. **What was your reason for targeting the young age group?** (high adolescent pregnancy was the reason, but not only the young were targeted and benefitted)
3. **Who is your funder?** (research and programme are both supported by one funder)

Comment after presentation 2:

Other Northern institutions use southern ones as PhD “feeders”... = exploitation

Questions after for presentations 2:

1. **Ethical approval: How do you deal with the ethical aspects of entering your subjects into a study?**
2. **Do people choose not to access your service because they are “subjects” being “practiced on”?**
3. **Is there something you’re not telling us? Because this kind of collaboration often doesn’t work! More critical thinking is required.**
4. **How do you deal with the issue of failure in a grant environment?**

Answers to questions:

Criel: The issue of ethics needs to be flagged. It is very important.

Did the population wonder if they were lab rats? De Vries: as an NGO we need permission for everything. Baseline delayed due to clearance.

Criel: Something we’re not telling you? We have to fight for this type of collaboration due to time constraints within our own institution. This kind of collaboration falls outside our main area of work. You can’t expand as much as you want to. Personal relationships facilitate this. Capacity development has been an initiative by ITM. The 2nd step = partner takes the initiative. ITM has served as a source of funds. Such a collaboration gives ITM the opportunity to access the field. Congo: try project--- this collaboration brings funds to the project.

De Vries: SRH is a new area but our project is based on years of pre-existing projects (10-20yrs)

Van Belle: Too good to be true? We need to look at sustainability. The initiative does usually come from our side, but how can we encourage them? It depends too much on personal relationships.. but the risk is that without institutional backup such collaborations may not exist anymore in the future.

Notes by Alexandra Horlberger