

What Is Socially Accountable Research?

Mapping the landscape through a scoping review.

INTRODUCTION

- **Socially accountable research (SAR)** remains **inconsistently defined** and there is little evidence on how SAR is practised, governed, or evaluated.
- The **CREATE project**, at NOSM U, looks to develop an understanding of SAR and its networks.
- This scoping review represents **Phase 1** of the CREATE project.

METHODS

Step 1: Scoping review completed under PRISMA-ScR and JBI guidelines.

Step 2: Data coding and reflexive thematic analysis.

Step 3: Consultations with 15 researchers with expertise in SAR were conducted to validate each theme.



Research Questions

1. What characterizes SAR, and how is it expressed and experienced?

2. Locally and globally, what structures and considerations are necessary to support successful SAR?

Resulting Themes

‘SAR is an Evolving Concept’

- Aspects beyond the WHO definition
- Community-oriented and context-specific
- Researchers’ responsibility to the community

‘SAR Requires Resourcing’

- Sufficient time, capacity, support, tools, and funding
- Longitudinal resource-sharing pathways are needed

‘Training and Mentorship is Central to SAR’

- Participatory, barrier-reducing approach
- Ethical and cultural-sensitivity training

‘Structures Support SAR’

- Preference for locally defined, bottom-up structures
- Institutional support is required

‘Successful Examples of SAR’

- Capacity-building, group learning, and interdisciplinary collaboration
- Future-oriented planning with prioritization of processes over outcomes

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Develop an educational toolbox to teach SAR.
- Further explore SAR through arts-integrated approaches.
- Secondary analysis of scoping review articles to analyze the importance of Knowledge Translation in SAR.

