

Ndejje University

Directorate of Research

Entrepreneurial Research

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**STRUCTURE OF THE
WORKSHOP**

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STRUCTURE OF THE WORKSHOP

1. Contextual background

- a. Academics in Uganda; issues/challenges
- b. Institutional research: issues/challenges

2. Conceptualizing entrepreneurial research, projects and innovations

- a. University-based consultancy work
- b. Partnerships and collaborations
- c. Multidisciplinary team-building for research grants
- d. Technological innovations and diffusions

3. Strategic Directions (interactive sessions: group work and formation of clusters around 2 **a,b,c** and **d**)

ENTREPRENEURIAL RESEARCH FOR PERSONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Community
engagement;
Service-learning

Partnerships
and
collaborations

Social & Tech
innovations

Masters and
PhD
Scholarships

**Entrepreneurial
Research**

Managing
Research
Grants

University-
based
Consultancy

Personal &
Institutional
development

Multidisciplinary
team building

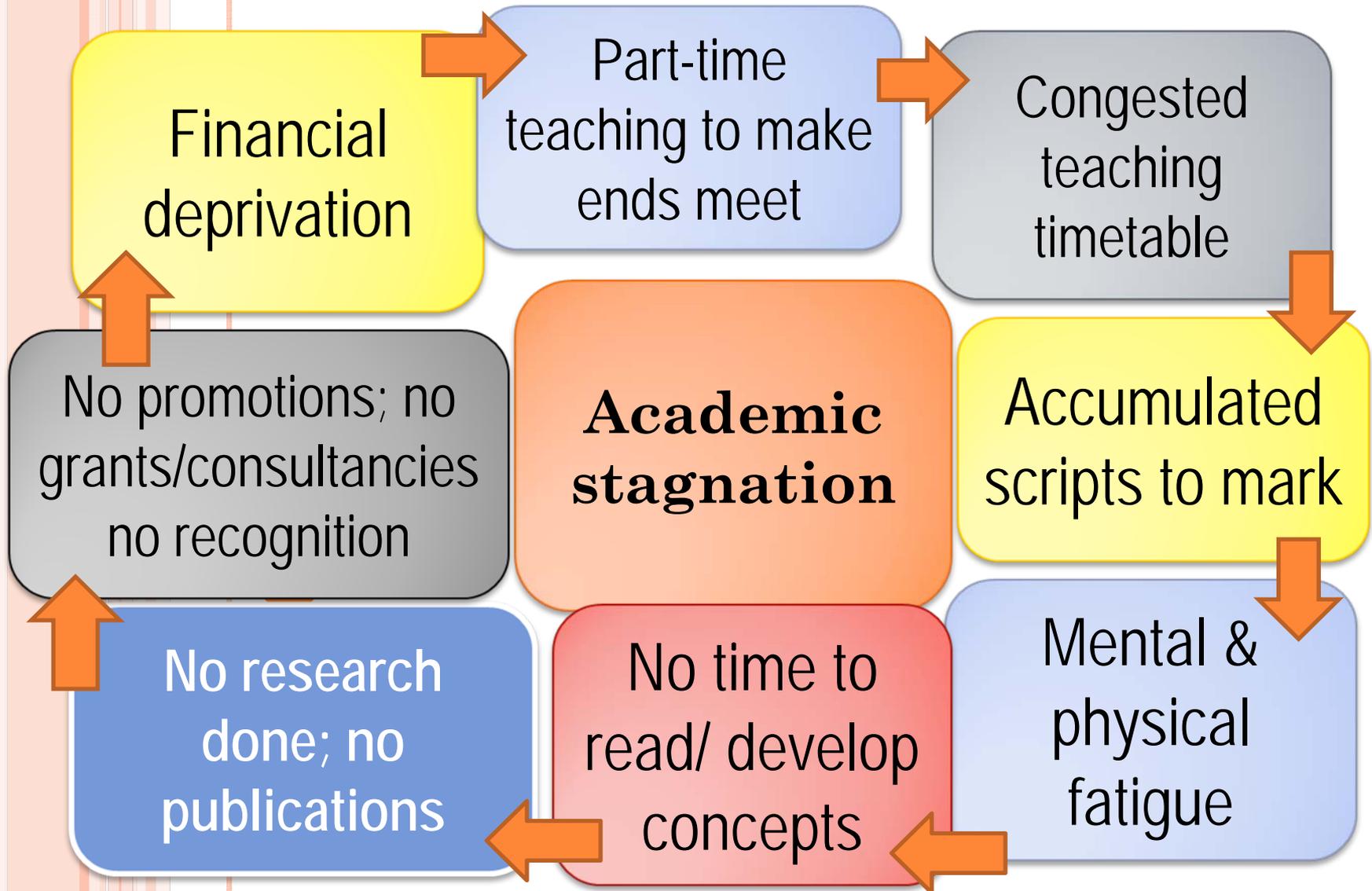
SALIENT FEATURES OF ACADEMICS IN UGANDA

- *Ideally*, they are specialists; holders of Masters/PhDs
- Invest immensely (time-wise and financially) to achieve qualifications
- Use less than 20% of this resource for personal dev't
- Some innovative graduates, using a *smaller fraction of this knowledge*, start projects and consultancies
- They hire offices in city outskirts, meet costs of rent, electricity, labor, telephone, transport, taxes and other over-heads
- The *credible university address* is not optimally utilized

PERSONAL ISSUES; *CONTINUED*

- Extra income only earned through part-time teaching;
- Not different from secondary school teachers (despite the highly specialized knowledge)
- A typical lecturer has not done any other research besides the masters/ PhD; not done any project or skills training course
- *Yellow pages*: Without research, where do lecturers get their teaching materials?
- Some of the taught disciplines are dynamic; business, economics, technology, agriculture, etc; they need regular updates

VICIOUS CIRCLE OF ACADEMIC STAGNATION



PERSONAL ISSUES; *CONTINUED*

- How do we resolve the paradox?
- How do you as a person break the vicious circle?

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH ISSUES

- Current structure of university-based research and scholarship promises limited improvement for people it is expected to serve.
- Universities have not generated solutions for the numerous challenges facing the country;
- Not even participated in evidence-based policy making.
- University faculty and students are isolated from reality;
- Do not seem to understand the challenges of community within their localities.
- A typical University-based research is elitist not relevant to local production processes.

INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

- Consequently, research and scholarship rarely attract attention, support and funding from local agencies (local government, industry, business entities, NGO/CBOs etc
- No link between university, business and industry
- Consequently, there is lack of adequate funding support for university research/innovations;
- To be relevant, the society needs should be at the centre university's activities.
- Shrinking budgets, low staff allowances, inadequate facilities
- *Can we broaden scope of research/scholarship?*

WHAT WE NEED TO APPRECIATE

1. University growth depends on multidisciplinary projects, research and partnerships with private sector, business community, local government and the civil society.
2. The university could execute its *Community Engagement Programs* without necessarily using funds generated from tuition.
3. There are abundant opportunities for *service-learning* for students; though extending networks with Civil society, Government agencies, business communities private sector; etc

WHAT WE NEED TO APPRECIATE

4. Needs of society present opportunities for first-class research; which increases the relevancy of the university programs to the community

5. Departments of Natural-Sciences, social sciences, humanities and business could continue generating innovative solutions to address the biting needs of society, particularly in areas of *Agriculture, behavioral change, communications, Education, Energy, enterprise development, Health, Water/environment*, etc

GETTING OFF THE GROUND

NDU has hosted numerous research-based workshops

- High time to get off the ground; *engage in an activity*.
- Develop concrete action plans/implementation strategies.
- Establish infrastructure for the following;
 1. Multidisciplinary groups of staff/senior students
 2. Innovative entrepreneurial projects at DOR, faculty, department
 3. University based Consultancy
 4. Partnership/collaborations
 5. Student-based service learning

REFLECTIONS

Write down what you consider to be the 5 major barriers/obstacles in developing research and innovations in Ndejje University?

Barriers/obstacles could be

- 1) Personal or
- 2) Institutional or
- 3) both

GIVEN A CHALLENGE, RISE TO THE OCCASION

