

## **Abstract**

### **Title: Framework for open data practices in health research institutions**

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The study is about developing a framework for Open Data Practices in Health Research Institutions aimed to assess the requirement for data, availability, access, sharing and reuse practices in health research institutions in Uganda to enhance the quality of research output. Its objective include to; explore the state of Health research data practices in Uganda; analyze the potential for health research data accessibility within existing ethical frameworks; understand researchers' attitudes towards data share and reuse practices in health research in Uganda; explore the legal requirement for health research data availability, access, sharing and reuse in Uganda; and propose a framework for open data practices in health research institutions in Uganda.

The study adopted pragmatism interpretive framework with an exploratory sequential mixed method intended for collecting diverse types of data. Proceeded with a bibliometric study of health research in Uganda for the last 20years. Identifying major health research trends, contribution and impact over the years, journals used and level of institutional/individual contribution. The population shall include persons involved in Health research working in established research institutions, estimated to be about 700 (defined from Masters, PhD and Post Doc levels). A sample of 200 respondents shall purposively be selected and data shall be collected using focus group discussion and interviews.

Findings show diverse data handling practices across health research institutions some of which are influenced by the international collaborative research. Access to health research data is a challenge due to lack of uniform policy guidelines, privacy and confidentiality issues that require redress to facility access and enhance sharing and reuse of data. Researchers' fears persist hindering participation in open data activities. There is need to develop; data governance structures, capacity of researchers, provision of supportive environment and necessary infrastructure for adoption of open data practices in health research