

## SUCCESSFUL GRANTSMANSHIP AMONG AFRICAN RESEARCHERS – THE EFFECT OF PREVIOUS MANDATORY RESEARCH METHODOLOGY COURSES

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**Objective:** To determine the impact of previous research methodology training on research grant success among African researchers.

**Methodology:** African Science Frontiers Initiatives, using an online survey which is still ongoing, collected data from African scholars. At the time of analysis, 170 had participated. Descriptive analyses and logistic regression were performed using SPSS.

**Results:** Most participants (58.8%) were males, 40 years and above (63.5%), without doctoral degree (55.9%), from the field of medicine/health, (45.9%), and employed by public institutions (82.4%). Of the respondents, 52.4% had ever applied for a grant and of these, 46.1% had ever won a grant. Of those who had ever won a grant, 48.8% were principal investigators (PIs), 41.5% co-PIs, and 9.8% mentees. Only 19.6% of those who had ever won a grant had received  $\geq$ 50,000. About 86% of respondents had ever had a mandatory research methodology training: 47.6% at both postgraduate and undergraduate levels, 29.4% at only postgraduate level, and 9.4% at only undergraduate level. There was no statistically significant difference between those with any past training and those without regarding winning a grant (44.9% vs. 54.5%,  $p=0.547$ ). But those with past training at both postgraduate and undergraduate levels (60.9%) were more likely to win a grant than those with training at only postgraduate (16%) and undergraduate (42.9%) levels ( $p=0.001$ ). In adjusted logistic regression model, compared to those with past training at both postgraduate and undergraduate levels, those with training at only postgraduate (AOR 0.10, 95%CI 0.02-0.38) and those at only undergraduate (AOR 0.34, 95%CI 0.06-2.04) levels were less likely to ever win a grant.

**Conclusion:** Exposure to research methodology training at both undergraduate and postgraduate studies increases the chance of future grant success.

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