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Challenge for Angolan Professionals to Participate in International and Scientific Activities

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There is evidence of an increase in the number of professionals regularly participating in academic and scientific activities at an international level over the last 9 years. But Angola is excluded from this increase through the challenges that we will demonstrate in this study. This study aims to identify the challenges that Angolan professionals face in participating in international academic and scientific activities. Participating in international activities is an opportunity to get to know new academic and scientific cultures, new people, technologies, and languages. Among the most requested countries we have: England, USA and Canada. The author carried out a qualitative study using semi-structured interviews with 24 participants from different sectors in Luanda-Angola. Data were analysed thematically using codes. The investigator used the following data bases search as Science Direct, Science Online, and Sage Premier, Sage research Online, Social Theory, PubMed, Medline and Google School. 24 professionals participated in the study, men predominated with 13 (54.2%) and women with 11 (45.8%). Sixteen (66.7%) were health professionals, 3 (12.5%) police offices, 2 (8.3%) Forensic psychologist, 2 (8.3%) Pastors and 1 (4.2%) Mechanical Engineer. The challenges identified in the study are: Lack of command of international languages such as English and French, lack of financial conditions, lack of interest, and lack of knowledge of the importance of participating in academic and scientific activities. Participating in international activities is an opportunity to get to know new academic and scientific cultures, new people, technologies, and languages that will influence your professional path.

1. Introduction

Angola, a nation rich in natural resources and cultural diversity, faces the challenge of promoting the active participation of its professionals in international and scientific activities. Participation in international and scientific activities is crucial for professional and academic development (Carvalho, P, 2011).

Participating in international activities is an opportunity to get to know new academic and scientific cultures, new people, technologies and languages that will influence your professional path. In the Angolan context, however, many professionals are limited in their ability to seek opportunities beyond national borders (Goncalves, M and Smith, G.E, 2017).

Therefore, this article explores the specific challenges faced by these professionals and suggests ways to promote more active and effective participation. There is evidence of an increase in the number of professionals participating regularly in academic and scientific activities at an international level in the last 9 years. But Angola is excluded from this increase, through the challenges that we will demonstrate in this study (Who, 2021).

The main obstacles identified for international participation are (Goncalves, M and Smith, G. E, 2017):

- Limitations on financial resources and access to resources: many Angolan professionals face financial restrictions that prevent their participation in international events. Lack of funding for travel, registration fees and related costs is a significant barrier.
- Language barriers: linguistic diversity in Angola can become an obstacle to accessing international opportunities. Most scientific events take place in English, French or Spanish, and proficiency in these languages is essential for effective participation.
- Lack of Information about opportunities: many Angolan professionals are not aware of the opportunities available on the international scene. Lack of information about conferences, scholarships and exchange programs prevents active participation in these events.

2. Methodology

The authors carried out a qualitative study using semi-structured interviews with 24 participants from different sectors in Luanda-Angola. The investigator used the following data bases to collect information for search as Science Direct, Science Online, and Sage Premier, Sage research Online, Social Theory, PubMed, Medline and Google School.

Inclusion criteria. The inclusion criteria used are:

- All the participate were Angolan;
- Professionals who had a job;
- People who got salary weekly and monthly.

Exclusion criteria. The exclusion criteria used are:

- Professionals who are not Angolan;
- People who do not work in public sector;
- Professionals who were working as voluntary.

Data collection. The purpose of the study was clearly informed to the participants and all of them signed the informed consent. The interviews consisted of three open questions:

- What are challenge that Angolan professional face to participate in international activities?
- What does happen when they failure to participate in international activities?
- What are your recommendations to improve the adherence in international activities?

Interviews were digitally recorded and transcribed verbatim. Written notes were also captured. The audio recorded data was transcribed, translated into English and manually coded. Participants were guaranteed anonymity so that they could speak freely without concern for professional or personal consequences. No participants dropped out of the study. The interviews were performed in Portuguese which is the official language of Angola. Each interview lasted on average 45 minutes. Interviews were performed

until the researchers considered that no additional data were being found (data saturation).

Data analysis. To analyze findings from interviews, the authors used a thematic analysis approach that helped to find out relevant points which contribute significantly to the study. The codes captured differences and similarities in the perceptions of participants and concepts that occurred. Emerging themes and sub themes were identified.

Ethical considerations. Participation in the research was voluntary and written informed consent was provided by all participants.

3. Results and Discussion

Twenty-four professionals participated in the study, among of them (54.2%) men, (45.8%) female, (66.7%) health professionals, (12.5%) police offices, (8.3%) Forensic psychologist, (8.3%) Pastors and (4.2%) were Mechanical Engineer.

Table 1. What are they reason for Angolan professionals does not participate in international activities.

Challenges	Number of professionals stated
Language	18
Finance	12
Lack of interest	19
Lack of information	13
Lack of content to be present	6
Lack of institution support	8
Country bureaucracies	4

Table 1 shows that seventy five (75%) of participate stated that Angolan professional they do not participate to international activities due to the language barrier, 50% said that finance situation is a challenge to participate in international activities, 79.2% pointed that lack of interest, to participate in international activities, 25% argued that lack of content to present, 33.3% demonstrated that lack of institution support and 16.7% reviled country bureaucracies are issues that affect professional for attending international activities outside of country.

Table 2. Failure to participate in international activities cause

Failure to participate in activities	Number of professional stated
Professionals will not have great vision	13
The country will not have advanced technology	19
Professional will not have creativity	8
Professional will develop spirit of limitation	13
The country will not have international academic and scientific acceptance	7

Table 2 reveal that failure to participate in international activities the country will not have advanced technology and professional they will lack creativity vision and country will not have international academic and scientific acceptance.

Table 3. How to improve the situation

How to improve the situation	Number of Professionals stated
Teachers from primary and secondary school should teach the importance of participating to international activities	18
Leaders should encourage professionals to participate in international academic activities	15
Institutions must apply academic and scientific rigor	7

Table 3 demonstrated that to improve the situation of Angolan professionals to start participating to international conference, teacher from primary and secondary school should state demonstrating the impact of attending international activities.

Among of the 24 people who participated to the study majority of them revealed that language barrier, finance matter, lack of interest are the challenges that affect people to do not attend in international activities. This statement is in agreement many African countries such as Mozambique, Sao Tome, DRC, Guinea Bissau and others (Cannon, p. 1997). According to Brock (2007) majority of countries face the same situation. This point of view is not in agreement with

the study conducted by Cannon. This may be due to the different method that cannon used to his study and also the research is old compare to Brock.

Lack of attending international activities make professionals to continue depending to colleagues who are updated. One of the ways that help professional to update is participating to academic, scientific conference in international level (Carvalho, 2011).

Some people in the word they do not where Angola is located but participating in international activities will contribute Angola to be recognized and gain international reputation. Many countries in Africa got accreditation when their professionals stated attending international activities (Who, 2021).

To overcome the challenges in discussion in Angola, teachers in primary and secondary schools need to inform students about the impact of internationalization. Countries such as England, Canada and United State of America, in primary schools the always apply strategy that such as school trip, visiting museum, football stadium and others (Brock et al, 2006).

4. Conclusion

This study concludes that Angolan professionals face the following challenges:

- Language and Cultural Barriers: Language and cultural barriers can present obstacles for Angolan professionals when engaging in international activities, including participation in conferences and collaborations with researchers from other countries;
- The implementation of government and institutional policies that encourage and facilitate participation in international and scientific activities can be fundamental to overcoming the identified challenges;
- Lack of international recognition: The lack of international recognition of Angolan institutions and professionals may limit their opportunities to participate in international scientific activities and research collaborations;
- Limited Access to Resources and Opportunities: The limitation of academic and scientific resources in Angola can make it difficult for professionals to access international opportunities, such as conferences, collaborations and research programs;
- Limited Research Infrastructure: Limited research infrastructure in some areas can make it difficult to effectively participate in international projects that require advanced resources and specialized facilities;
- Despite the challenges, support initiatives, such as scholarship programs, international partnerships and collaborations between institutions, can be implemented to facilitate the participation of Angolan professionals in international and scientific activities.

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