

Contribution of Academic Staff to Promote Open Innovation in Sri Lanka, With Reference to Management Faculties of Selected State Universities in Sri Lanka

07 Nov.

BE36

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University itself has an open environment by nature in which universities make its scientific output freely available with the aim that it would be picked up by the researcher for further development or industry for application. Further, in an open innovative environment industrial issues should be addressed by university researches, in which research output may be a form of new product, service or business process improvement that can be commercialized through patent and licensing. In this knowledge exchange process, academics who are deemed as a strategic group of this innovation process should take the lead. Hence, the study was directed to identify the contribution of academic staff to promote open innovation in the Sri Lankan economy. The contribution of academic staff to promote open innovation was measured through the scientific contribution of university staff. Here, research partnership and research service, commercialization intellectual property, informal knowledge transfer, and productivity publication were important dimensions of academic's scientific contribution. The study was limited to the academic staff of Management Faculties in state universities and 300 academics were selected randomly for the study. A self-administrated questionnaire was utilized for this purpose. Descriptive statistics, correlation and regression tests were conducted on purified data set for testing hypotheses. The results on correlation analysis showed that there are four statistically significant correlations between all independent variables and the dependent variable, however, regression analysis rejected the impact of the research partnership and productivity of publications on the open innovation in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, commercialization of intellectual property and informal knowledge transfer promote open innovation of the Sri Lankan economy. Hence, the university should develop a mechanism to commercialized its-scientific findings and facilitate for informal knowledge transfer process between university and industry to boost the national innovative ecosystem.

Keywords: Open innovation, commercialization of intellectual property, informal knowledge transfer, research partnership, productivity publication