


# Chapter 6

## Navigating Funding Constraints in Academic Research: Strategies, Tools, and Global Perspectives

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### ABSTRACT

*The chapter is the challenges and opportunities related to academic research funding are in focus in a continually changing global arena. It highlights the drawbacks in the antiquated fund models, (resource distribution inequalities - the shortages in the flow of resources), and the need for novel approaches that would ensure financial viability and academic relevance. Integrated topic areas include the utilization of these funding sources in projects, including public sector-backed, people-backed, and philanthropy-backed. This also underlines the significance of technology in the accrual of resources. The narrative further delves into the issues of the importance of merging social issues with research objectives, open innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration. The policy proposals are to be fair and transparent while also building capacity to ensure that research funding is distributed evenly and inclusive.*

### 6.1 INTRODUCTION

The paucity of funds has come out to be the biggest of all challenges in modern academic research, which crosses disciplines as well as regions. It obstructs researchers in their ability to keep up the quality, expand the scope, and realize the innovation potential of their research. Meanwhile, it restrains the social benefits that research can bring about. These confines are additionally overlaid by the economic

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disparities, thus making it impossible for some researchers, or those who are in the underfunded fields and locales, to use the resources equally. Solving this problem is a prerequisite to the continued contribution of academic research to innovation, solving global problems, and social progress. The aim of this chapter is to furnish a detailed examination of the problems that come with funding restrictions and also to propose some feasible courses of action to surmount these obstacles. Through the investigation of the connections between politics, performance-based funding policies, global challenges, and the systematic problems that prevent collaboration, it intends to give the researchers, institutions, and policymakers actionable insights. The main objective is to make sure that academic research still is the main source of innovation and equity even if there are financial constraints that exist.

### **6.1.1 The Interplay of Politics and Funding**

Politics are often key issues in academic sectors such as the allocation of resources. According to NWILE & BEFII-NWILE (2023), funding decisions are strongly linked to political agendas, thus, creating a situation in which resource distribution is imbalanced. For example, the research areas related to short-term political interests are more likely to receive financial support while in contrast, foundational fields such as the social sciences and environmental studies are less likely to get this support. The politicization of funding, therefore, worsens the situation by disproportionately reallocating funds to the departments that suffer much more than the other disciplines.

### **6.1.2 Performance-Based Policies and Their Impacts**

Performance-based funding policies have become a new significant factor in academic research. According to Mombou (2024), these policies attach financial support to measurable outputs (e.g., publications/patents). This method, even though it encourages more productivity in the research area, may add a false amount of pressure on researchers to produce more at the expense of quality. Also, the smaller schools and the early-career researchers at these schools are the ones receiving the least funding, since they struggle to match institutions that have been around longer and built a strong connection in the grant world.

### **6.1.3 Global Challenges and Their Influence on Funding**

Leading global challenges, for example, climate change, pandemics, and technological changes, respectively, are also driving the research landscape of the twenty-first century. As Judijanto et al., (2024) indicate, these challenges have resulted in a shift of priorities when it comes to funding with the governments and private entities concentrating mainly on immediate solutions to pressing problems. Even though some areas benefit from the shift, there are others who run out of resources and the research field thus becomes unequal.

### **6.1.4 Dynamics of Resource Constraints in Research**

According to Ross (2021), resource constraints in publicly funded research are significantly correlated with the supply networks and the ecosystem of commercialization. The university and the researchers experience additional stress in their attempt to keep the balance of academic goals with market driven

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