

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICES

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Socially Responsible Educational Research in Pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals: Bridging Scholarship, Society, and Global Commitments

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Abstract

Educational research today is situated within a world marked by rapid technological change, persistent inequalities, and an escalating urgency to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Against this backdrop, socially responsible research emerges as both a moral imperative and a scholarly necessity. This chapter examines how responsibility is conceptualised, practiced, and institutionalised within educational research, drawing on diverse theoretical, methodological, and policy-oriented perspectives. It argues that socially responsible research is anchored in values of equity, reflexivity, participation, and responsiveness to societal needs. Foundational scholarship highlights how responsibility extends beyond technical rigour, requiring researchers to remain critically aware of their positionalities, ethical commitments, and the broader socio-cultural contexts that shape knowledge production.

Building on this foundation, the chapter explores the growing alignment between educational research and the SDGs, particularly through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), institutional policies, and curriculum reforms. These developments illustrate how higher education systems are increasingly expected to foster sustainability, global citizenship, and community engagement. The chapter also examines how leadership education, citizenship frameworks, and teacher professional development