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An Early Morning Reflection From Manchester: Measuring the Impact of Universities

I have been reflecting on the impact of universities as they do more than just teach and publish research; they play an important role in the economy and society. The academic impact is usually measured through publications, citations, and other indicators. In this article, I'll explore the economic and social impact of universities. Many institutions worldwide have already begun to demonstrate the benefits they provide, including social, economic, and other types of impact. I am very familiar with the UK model used in the Research Excellence Framework to measure impact.

Universities impact the economy in several areas: graduate contributions by assessing how many graduates find jobs and their economic contributions; analyzing how much money universities allocate to teaching, research, staff training, and community engagement; job creation including spin out companies by counting jobs created directly at a university and those generated in local businesses and the opportunities created for university suppliers; new facilities by evaluating how building new infrastructure attracts more businesses like construction firms; student spending by considering how current students, especially international ones, contribute to the local economy; and finally, international faculty and staff by examining their impact on the local housing market and economy. In future articles, I will address the environmental impact of universities.

Universities can also make a positive social impact through community engagement by delivering programs that improve the lives of local residents and through workshops and partnerships with community groups; cultural activities by promoting cultural diversity and pride through events and public talks; health programs through initiatives that support the health and well-being of both students and the community; and social mobility by assisting students from diverse backgrounds in improving their lives through education and support.

ADU's economic impact will amount to hundreds of millions of American dollars yearly, as we have nearly 38,500 alumni, students, faculty and staff. The contributions of international faculty, staff, and students also significantly impact the local real estate market. The investing in our community initiative led by our VC, Dr **Hamad Odhabi**, is a good example of social impact as this is part of our corporate social responsibility in helping the local and global communities benefit from our knowledge and research findings.

In conclusion, measuring the impact of universities is essential for demonstrating how they benefit society and the economy. We need a clear way to assess their contributions, encompassing both social and economic indicators.

#Impact #SocialImpact #EconomicImpact #ADU #Universities #Manchester #THE #Communities

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