



DEMENTIA AND BRAIN AGEING IN LMICs 2024

Evaluation Form Review

Abstract

A brief overview of the feedback forms submitted by those who attended the conference. From the data received, the goal is to review the positives of the conference as well as areas in which it can be improved.

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Introduction

The **Dementia and Brain Ageing in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) 2024 conference**, held recently in Nairobi, Kenya, brought together researchers, healthcare professionals, and patient advocates to address the challenges and advancements in dementia and brain health within LMICs. The event featured a co-produced session with academic researchers and representatives from East African patient advocacy groups, focusing on brain health research priorities and the co-design of future interventions. Discussions encompassed various topics, including the impact of HIV on brain health and ageing, with presentations highlighting the prevalence of dementia in regions like Northern Uganda and its association with central nervous system infections. The conference also facilitated networking opportunities, particularly for early career researchers, and included sessions on the International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment (ISTAART).

This conference reflects a shared commitment to advancing brain health research and addressing the unique challenges faced by LMICs in managing dementia and brain ageing. Understanding attendee feedback is essential for improving future events and ensuring that we continue to deliver the highest quality symposiums.

Conference Activities

Announcement of Symposium

An announcement to a symposium serves as the official communication to potential attendees, participants, and stakeholders, providing them with essential information about the event.

From the feedback received, 87.5% of respondents felt the announcement was either exceptional or good, with 12.5% marking it as neutral. No responses rated it as weak or poor, which is highly encouraging.

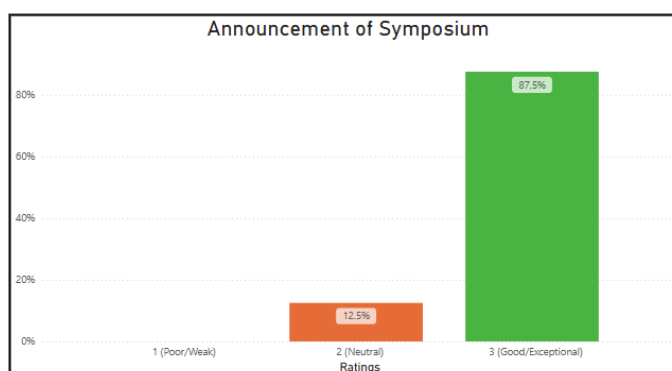


Figure 1 - Announcement of Symposium

Symposium Websites incl. Online Registration

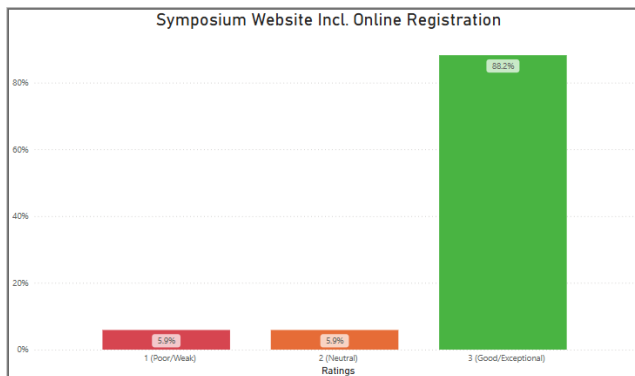


Figure 2 - Symposium Website Incl. Registration

A sleek, well-functioning symposium website reflects the professionalism of the event, while an easy-to-navigate registration system enhances the attendee experience. A complicated or confusing process could deter participants from registering.

According to feedback, 88.2% of responses felt the website and registration system were well-

executed. While most feedback was

positive, two respondents rated it differently—one marked it as neutral and another as very poor. While this is a minor concern, we should consider accessibility and user experience in future website development to address potential issues.

Pre-meeting Activities

Pre-meeting activities are essential for building anticipation, engaging attendees, and fostering networking opportunities before the event.

80% of respondents rated the pre-meeting activities as either exceptional or good, with 20% considering them satisfactory. There were no critical reviews, but there is an opportunity to improve engagement further and aim to move those who felt it was neutral into the "exceptional" category for future events.

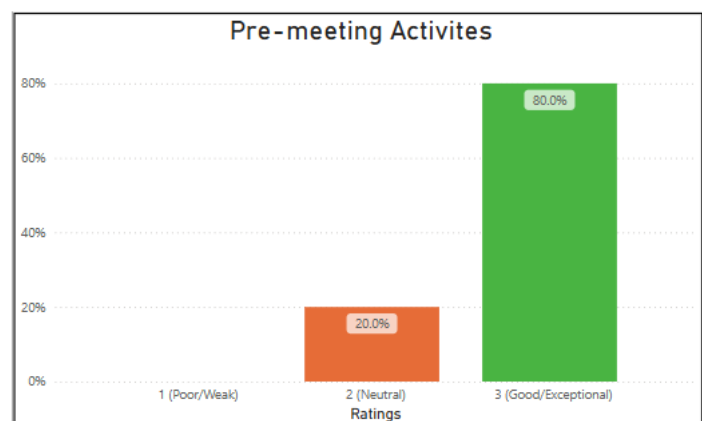


Figure 3 - Pre-meeting Activities

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony sets the tone for the symposium, introduces the event's theme, and fosters a sense of community among attendees. It also provides logistical

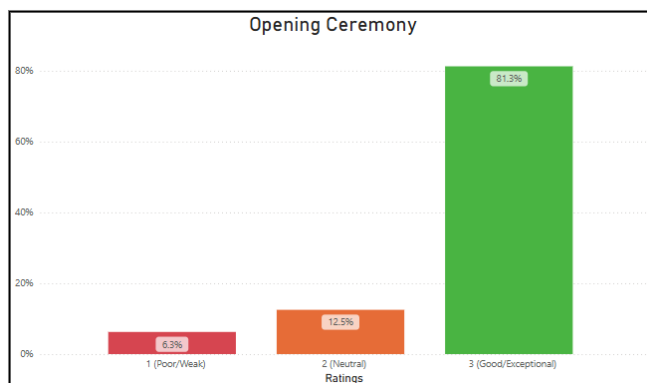


Figure 4 - Opening Ceremony

guidance, ensuring participants are informed and prepared.

From the feedback, 81.3% of attendees felt the opening ceremony was exceptional, while 12.5% marked it as neutral and 6.3% felt it was poor. The technical issues with AV setup during the opening ceremony may have contributed to the less favorable feedback. This is a manageable issue

and can be easily addressed in future conferences by ensuring all technical aspects are fully set up in advance.

Scientific Sessions

Scientific sessions are the heart of the conference, providing researchers, experts, and professionals a platform to share their latest findings and engage in meaningful discussions.

Feedback indicates that these sessions were a highlight of the conference, with several respondents specifically mentioning them as the most valuable part of the event. The success of the scientific sessions reflects the hard work of the presenters and organisers, and these sessions will remain a core component in future events.

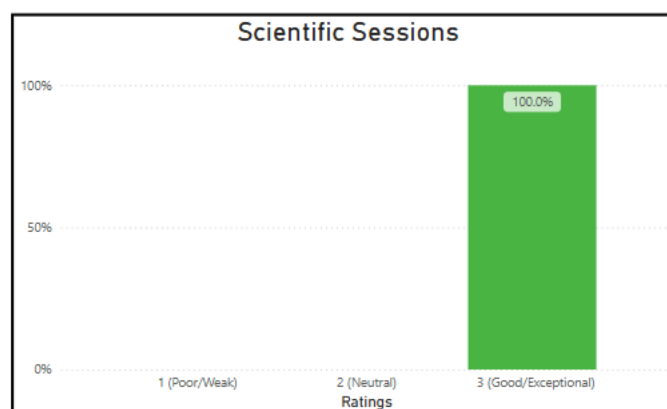


Figure 5 - Scientific Sessions

Poster Presentation and Blitz Sessions

The poster presentations and blitz sessions encouraged active participation from attendees, allowing them to showcase their work in an interactive and engaging format.

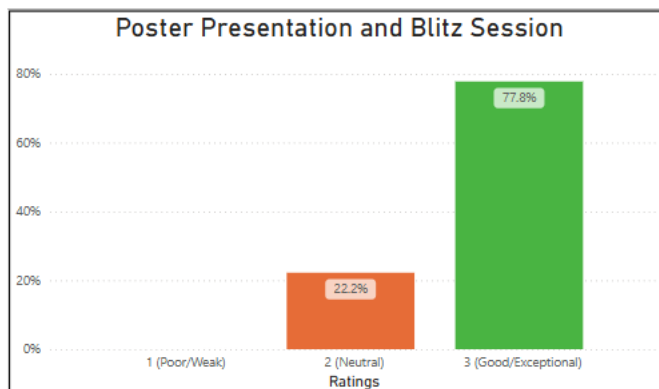


Figure 6 - Poster Presentations & Blitz Session

77.8% of respondents rated these sessions as exceptional or good, while 22.2% felt they were satisfactory. While there were no negative comments, one potential improvement is to better structure the blitz sessions to minimise chaos and create a more organised experience for both presenters and attendees.

Networking Opportunities

Networking opportunities are key to fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and professional growth. 77.8% of attendees felt the networking opportunities were effective, with ample chances to connect. However, 22.2% suggested that more time could have been allocated to these sessions. Moving forward, we will look into optimising networking time to maximise its potential.

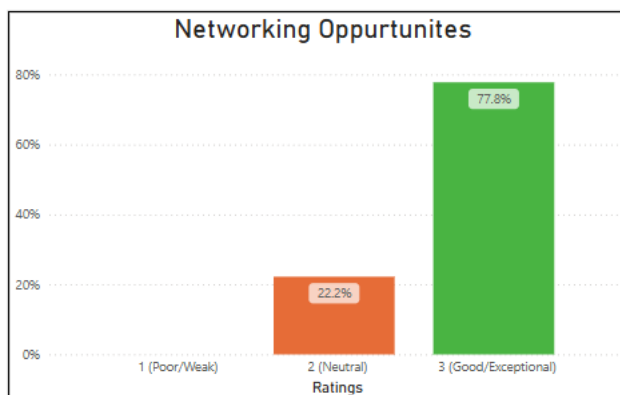


Figure 7 - Networking Opportunities

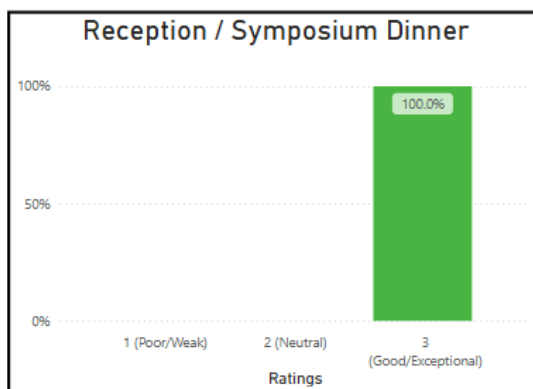


Figure 8 - Reception/Symposium Dinner

Reception/Symposium Dinner

The reception was held on the Tuesday night and was designed to be a night of food, drinks and fun. We wanted to make sure the attendees knew there were going to be looked after and enjoy themselves. I think the feedback speaks for itself when we see that all of respondents loved the Symposium dinner.

Venue and Catering Services

The Safari Hotel Park and Casino provided excellent catering services and a welcoming venue for the conference. Attendees appreciated the attentive staff and high-quality food provided throughout the event. Many respondents expressed their preference to hold future events at the same venue, reflecting the positive experience and the venue's contribution to the overall success of the conference.

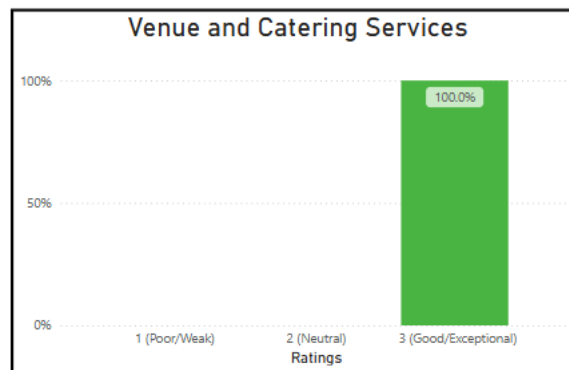


Figure 9 - Venue and Catering Services

Key Statements

The conference Was Well-Run and Organised



Figure 10 - Organised

A well-organised conference enhances participant engagement and knowledge exchange. Based on the feedback received, all respondents agreed that the conference was well-run, with many expressing gratitude for the efforts of the organising team. Despite occasional challenges behind the scenes, the event's smooth execution was apparent to participants.

The Format and Length of the Event Were Appropriate

The format and length of the symposium are crucial for maintaining engagement and facilitating meaningful discussions. Many respondents felt the format and length were appropriate, although 11.1% felt it was only okay and 5.6% marked it as poor. Some feedback mentioned that sessions occasionally overran, leaving insufficient time for Q&A. We will address this in future planning to ensure that adequate discussion time is incorporated.

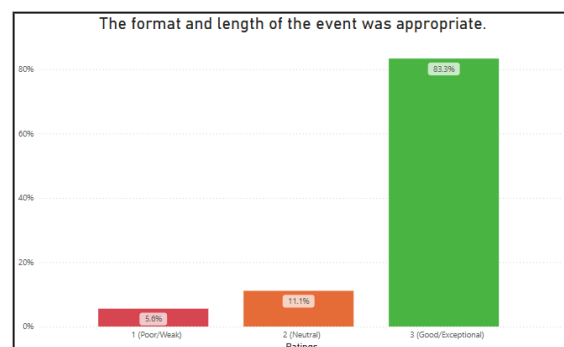


Figure 11 - Format & Length

The Conference Was Worthwhile Attending

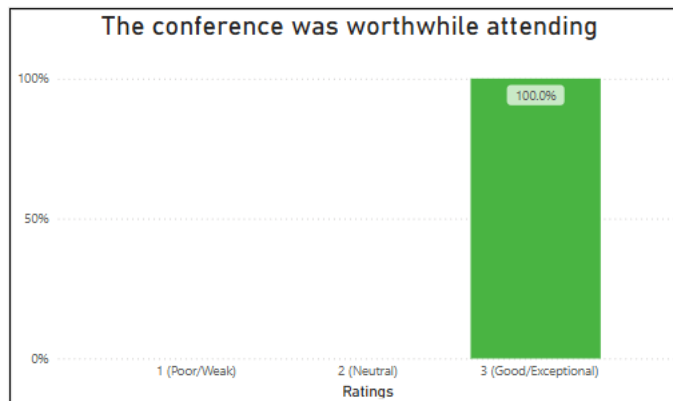


Figure 12 - Worthwhile attending

It is incredibly rewarding to know that feedback confirms attendees felt the conference was worthwhile. The valuable sessions, networking opportunities, and discussions provided attendees with real insights and professional development. This positive response reaffirms our commitment to continuous

improvement and motivates us to deliver even more impactful events in the future.

The Conference Helped Me Grow as a Researcher

We are pleased to know that attendees felt the conference contributed to their growth as researchers. The sessions, discussions, and networking opportunities provided fresh ideas, inspiration, and enhanced perspectives, making the event a success in advancing professional development.

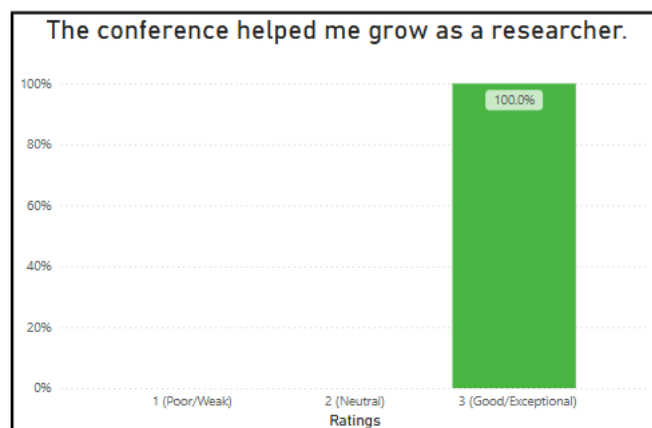


Figure 13 - Helped me grow as a researcher

The Conference Exposed Me to Research in LMICs

Feedback indicates that the conference successfully exposed participants to important research topics in LMICs. This highlights our role in broadening perspectives, fostering collaboration, and raising awareness of research challenges and innovations in these regions.

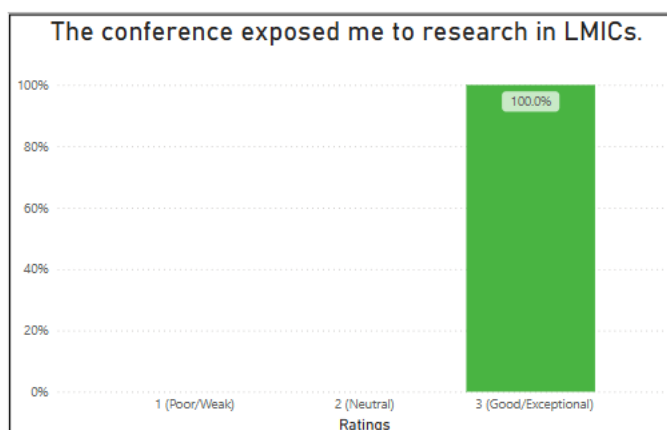


Figure 14 - Exposed me to research

The Conference Showed Me Opportunities at LMICs

We are delighted that the conference also highlighted research opportunities in LMICs. Attendees gained valuable insights into research collaborations, funding, and career prospects, reinforcing our goal of promoting global scientific engagement.

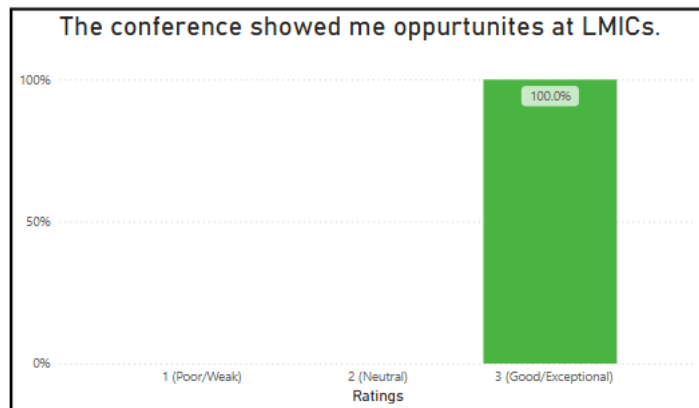


Figure 15 - Exposed me to opportunities

I would recommend this conference to my peers

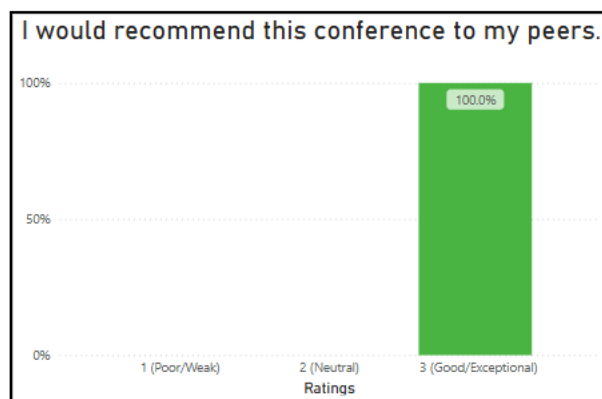


Figure 16 - Recommend to peers

It's a great satisfaction to know that all respondents would recommend the conference to their peers. This demonstrates the event's success in delivering high-quality content, networking opportunities, and a positive experience, reinforcing our commitment to organising impactful symposiums.

Conclusion

The **Dementia and Brain Ageing in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) 2024** conference was a resounding success, as reflected in the overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees. From the well-structured scientific sessions to the invaluable networking opportunities, participants found the event to be both informative and engaging. The conference not only facilitated knowledge exchange and collaboration but also reinforced the importance of research in LMICs, shedding light on crucial challenges and opportunities in the field.

While most aspects of the event were highly praised, areas for improvement—such as enhancing accessibility, refining session structures, and optimising networking time—have been noted and will be addressed in future planning. The strong recommendation from attendees further highlights the impact and value of this conference. Moving forward, we remain committed to enhancing the symposium experience, fostering meaningful discussions, and continuing to support researchers in advancing brain health research globally.