

Case Study: The Goodness Web

Exploration of the Global Youth Mental
Health Research Landscape



The Goodness Web, an independent 501(c)(3) organization, connects a diverse community of results-oriented donors and partners who pool their resources and expertise to fund and accelerate the most promising mental health initiatives to improve lives. Our mission is to create a new alternative to traditional philanthropy aimed at radically changing the trajectory, timeline, and impact in the mental health arena, with an initial focus on youth.



“The data from Elsevier on global research provide a view of how society tackles problems and can provide insight into what is being done to effect change where there is lack of data from other sources.”

—Nancy Caruso, Chief Operating Officer, The Goodness Web



Introduction

In partnership with Elsevier, through their Analytical Services team, The Goodness Web aimed to holistically profile and understand the youth mental health research landscape, in the hopes that we could ultimately piece together major global trends to determine the most effective, highly translational places — whether discrete ideas, established institutions, or innovative individuals — with which to partner and champion. We were excited to shape our overall strategy using an evidence-based approach enhanced with bibliometric data and data science.

Youth Mental Health research landscape analysis informs organizational strategy

Although the team at The Goodness Web understood the great value of translational research, such that it directly and beneficially impacts humans outside of the “lab”, we came at this work with great humility, too, recognizing our diverse professional experiences were not analogous in the realm of global research. Additionally, as a new organization in a highly fragmented landscape, we wanted to ensure that from the onset, we were understanding the field objectively in order to accurately assess trends and gaps, and therefore determine a highly leveraged strategy for our organization.

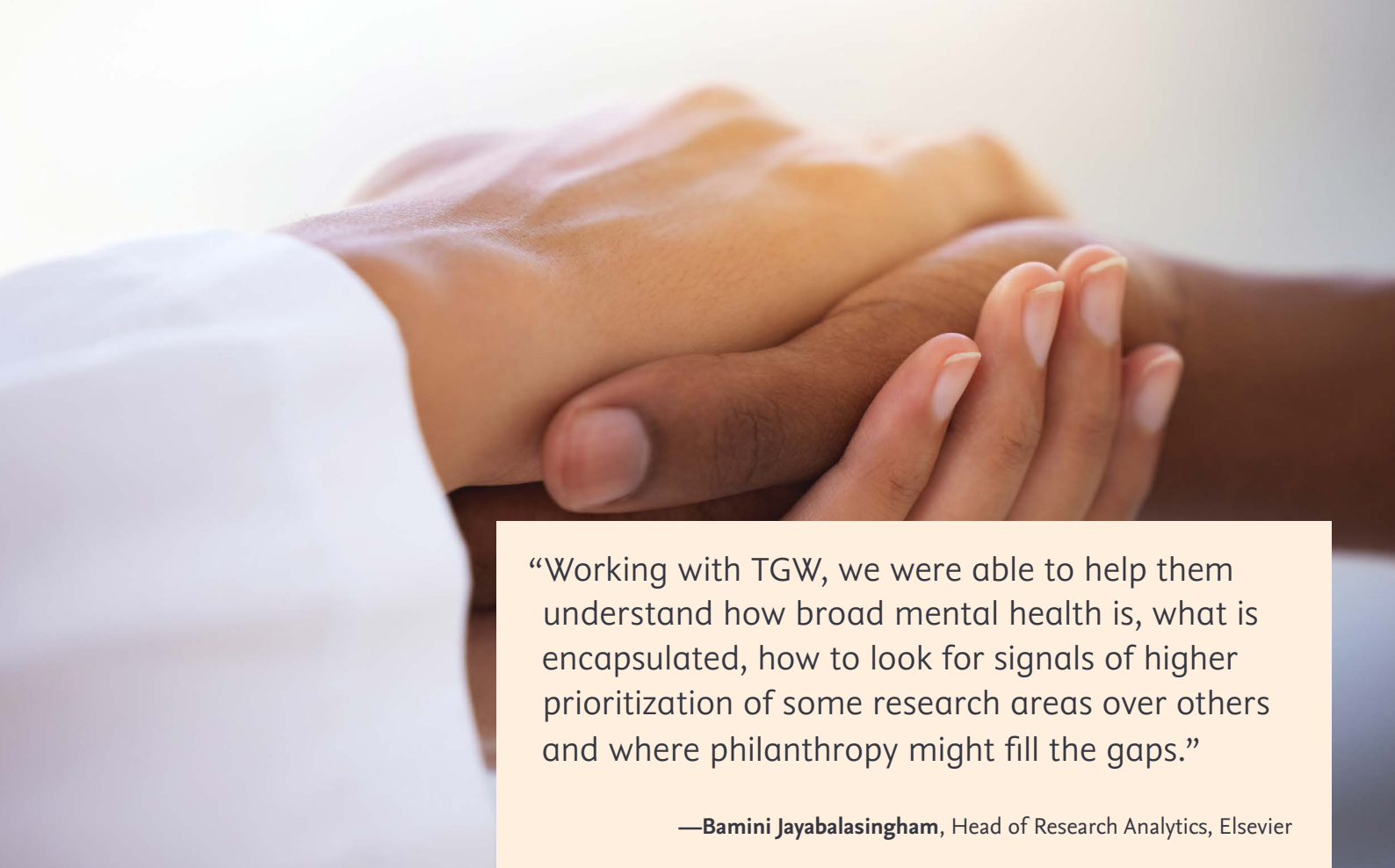
At the suggestion of the Elsevier team, we set out to create a taxonomy by which to “level set” the youth mental health research landscape and develop a series of metrics to not only understand what research has the greatest momentum, but also create a mechanism by which to evaluate and identify research which was influential and actionable. We hoped to determine whether we could use publication output as a proxy for prioritization, or at the very least, to evaluate the cultural priorities within each country of interest.

Mapping mental health research and providing context with bibliometric analyses

The Elsevier team approached the challenge first through a search of the literature to understand how mental health research is commonly categorized. They then employed the Emtree life science thesaurus which underpins the comprehensive biomedical research database, Embase® to identify and further define the broad scope of research related to each category. Once each mental health category was defined, we turned to the expertly curated and structured Scopus® database to generate metrics to better understand the youth mental health research landscape. In addition, classifications of research drawing upon SciVal Topics of Prominence permitted a more granular perspective of what was being studied. Together, the efforts resulted in the creation of a bespoke methodology to map global research to mental health research categories as well as bibliometric analyses to provide context and meaningful insights into global research within the field. In addition to quantifying the different research areas in the mental health research landscape based on the absolute count of publications, we also set out to analyze metrics that could help with evaluating the level of prioritization that each research area had in regions across the globe. We anticipated that these indicators would provide perspective on potential gaps in the research that could potentially be filled by philanthropic efforts.



ELSEVIER



“Working with TGW, we were able to help them understand how broad mental health is, what is encapsulated, how to look for signals of higher prioritization of some research areas over others and where philanthropy might fill the gaps.”

—**Bamini Jayabalasingham**, Head of Research Analytics, Elsevier

Impact for the organization

Through the work with the Elsevier Analytical Services team, we are confident in our increased understanding of the fragmented research landscape and the emerging trends therein. The insights provided have highlighted the scarcity of research on mental health and adolescent development, increasing the urgency for organizations like ours to focus our research efforts to expand the knowledge base around youth mental health, and accelerate work to develop interventions and treatments. Youth are underserved in the mental health space, and these insightful conclusions have provided us evidence to support the continued centering of our research and funding in this area. We are inspired to bring together diverse voices in the scientific community, such that we can have an expansive conversation, and benefit in gaining perspective from researchers across disciplines.

The future and broader impact

We are humbled by the great success of our partnership with Elsevier. Constituents and stakeholders alike have been very impressed with our collaboration as being the first evaluation of its kind. We have garnered great momentum as we move toward initiating our first set of grants in the first half of 2022, and plan to incorporate this information in myriad ways, such as presentations at global convenings, infographics on our emerging website, or a publicly available report. We are also pleased to be able to use this work as a sourcing tool to cultivate members of our Advisory Board, as well as a method to enhance the vetting of grantees and their proven approaches. We hope to continue to benefit from the guidance of the Analytical Services team and the expertise of Bamini Jayabalasingham, Celina Sprague, Peter Darroch, and Elsevier at large.



Nancy Caruso,
Chief Operating Officer



Jessie Shaw,
Senior Associate for Operations & Research

Analytical Services

Elsevier's Analytical Services provide accurate, unbiased analysis on research impact and performance by applying our industry-leading technical and research metrics expertise to our unique, high-quality data sources and models.

Interested in learning more about Analytical Services?

Visit elsevier.com/solutions/analytical-services

Elsevier offices

ASIA AND AUSTRALIA

Tel: + 65 6349 0222

JAPAN

Tel: + 81 3 5561 5034

KOREA AND TAIWAN

Tel: +82 2 6714 3000

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Tel: +31 20 485 3767

NORTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA AND CANADA

Tel: +1 888 615 4500

SOUTH AMERICA

Tel: +55 21 3970 9300

CHINA

Tel: +86 1085 2087 65



ELSEVIER

Copyright © 2022 Elsevier B.V.
March 2022