



**International Science Partnerships Fund**

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# **Measuring social value in research**

**Topic: Research Translation Baseline Study**

**Malaysia**

14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

# International Science Partnership Funds (ISPF)



Department for  
Science, Innovation,  
& Technology



ISPF



The International Science Partnerships Fund was set up by the UK's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology to support strategic research partnerships between the UK and other countries. Through the fund, UK research and innovation bodies can apply for calls and opportunities around four major global themes: planet, health, technology and talent.



# Four themes under ISPF

## Resilient Planet



*“Leading the green industrial revolution to protect the planet”*

- Clean energy
- Extreme weather and climate
- Agritech
- Environmental resilience

## Transformative Technologies



*“Developing responsible technologies to secure our place in tomorrow’s world”*

- AI
- Quantum
- Engineering biology
- Semiconductors
- Future telecommunications

## Healthy People, Animals & Plants



*“Researching and Innovating to ensure secure and healthy populations”*

- Biosecurity & Pathogen Detection
- Global Health & Pandemics
- Genomics & Digital health
- AMR
- Social determinants of health

## Tomorrow’s Talent



*“Nurturing talent to drive inclusion, research and innovation”*

- Research capacity
- Research systems
- Research pipeline

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# About the International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF)

“Research and innovation at the heart of our international relationships.”

## What was the task

The British Council East Asia tasked us with developing a credible, replicable, and recognizable **methodology** to articulate **the social value of research translation activities** in Malaysia and Indonesia.



Planet



Health



Tech



Talent

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# What is Research Translation

Research translation refers to the **process of converting knowledge generated from research studies into practical applications in the real world.**

A model of research translation should prioritise the effective application of research findings across **public policy, organisational systems, set of practices, and commercialization, ultimately improving individual and population, resilience, and prosperity.**

## **What Research Translation is NOT**

- **RT is not impact**
- **RT is not publishing papers**
- **RT is not commercialisation of research**

*“We are the subject of  
research, not the object!”*

Lakoat.Kujawas - Collective Social Enterprise based in Mollo,  
Indonesia

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# The team



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# Outline of the RT baseline report

1. The report includes the **first Research Translation model and associated survey** to track research translation targets.
2. The report presents **main results for Malaysia** on the Research Translation Survey
3. The report introduces a **methodological tool (SoVaR)**: a social value model developed to estimate the tangible value of research translation services.
4. It includes **final recommendations** for application of social value to research translation.



Baseline study Research Translation - Malaysia

# Research Translation model and survey

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# Research Translation model

A model of research translation should prioritise the **effective application of research findings across public policy, organisational systems, set of practices, and commercialization**, ultimately improving individual and population, resilience, and prosperity.

Key strategies include fostering genuine collaboration between researchers and end users, promoting the integration of research evidence into high-quality guidelines, and pushing the involvement of community in research.

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# Research Translation model

Our proposed model for developing a research translation informed action for the ISPF focuses on three main priorities in translational research:

- **Priority 1** - Encourage partnerships between researchers and end-users.
- **Priority 2** - Build capacity and capability in research translation.
- **Priority 3**- Maximise the use of high-quality research evidence for public benefit.

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# Baseline study Research Translation - Malaysia

## The baseline study

A research translation **survey** was designed on the basis of the research translation model developed. The survey targets officers involved in the management of research and innovation activities across universities, businesses, and other organisations.

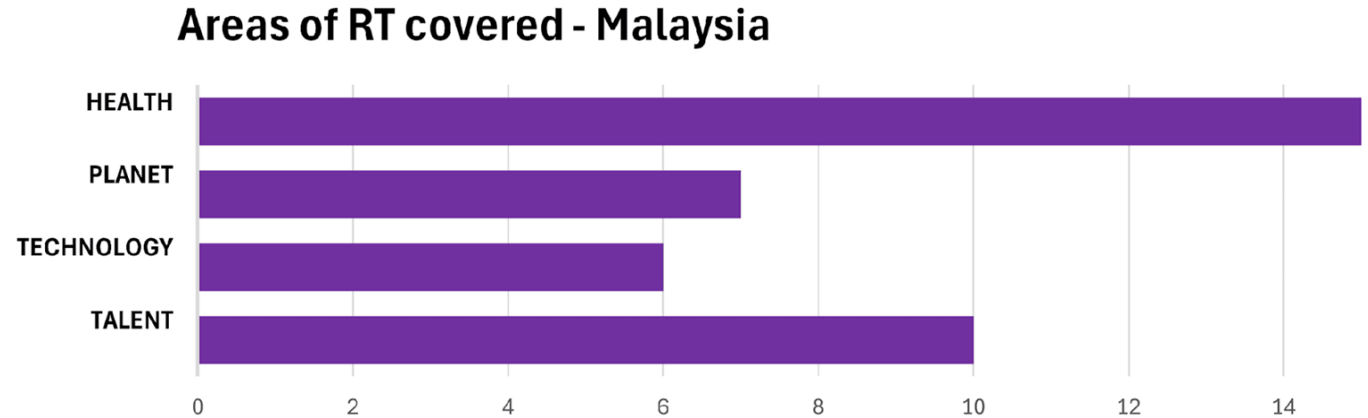
- **SECTION 1:** Demographic data of the participants.
- **SECTION 2:** Previous knowledge of research translation.
- **SECTION 3:** Research translation practices.

# Baseline study Research Translation - Malaysia

## Participants

Recruited from ASM, MABIC, NIBM, MiGHT, MOSTI, MoHE.

- 33 participants (17 F)
- From a variety of ages (<30 to +60)
- Mainly working in urban areas
- Covering all areas of ISPF (Fig. 1)



**Figure 1.** Barplot of responses to the question “Which areas of RT do you cover ?”

The survey script has been approved by the UEA University Ethic Committee (Identification code, ETH2324-3083)



# Baseline study Research Translation - Malaysia

## Familiarity with RT

The term Research Translation was **NOT** familiar to >45% of participants (Fig. 2).

FAMILIAR WITH THE TERM RESEARCH TRANSLATION - MALAYSIA

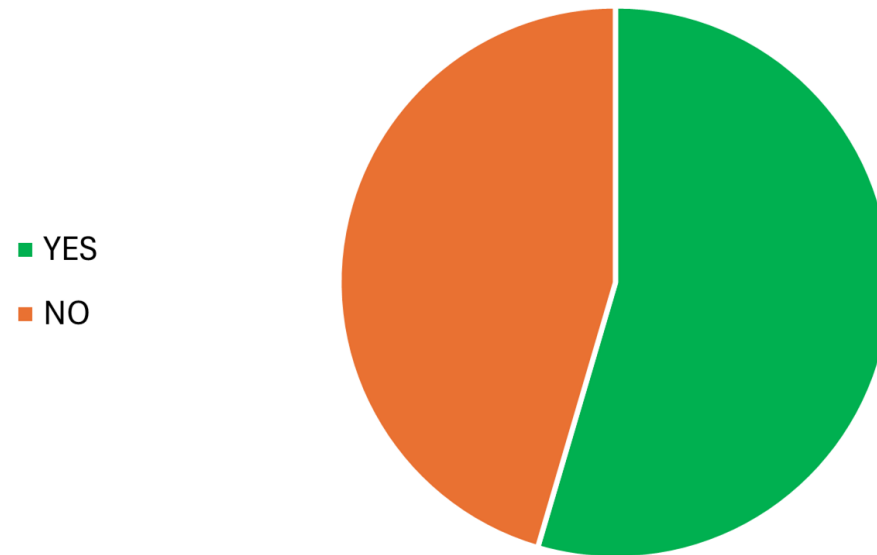
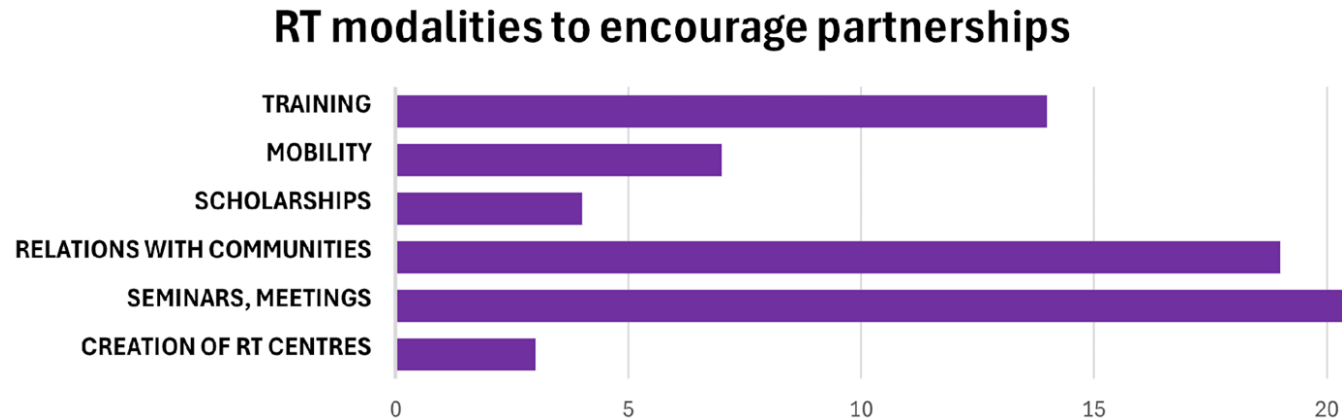


Figure 2. Responses to the question “Were you familiar with the term RT before this survey?”

# Baseline study Research Translation - Malaysia

## Priority 1 – Encourage partnerships between researchers and end-users

Implemented RT modalities to encourage partnerships include traditional training and networking opportunities, but also relations with communities. A **need to diversify** modalities to include RT centres and mobility.

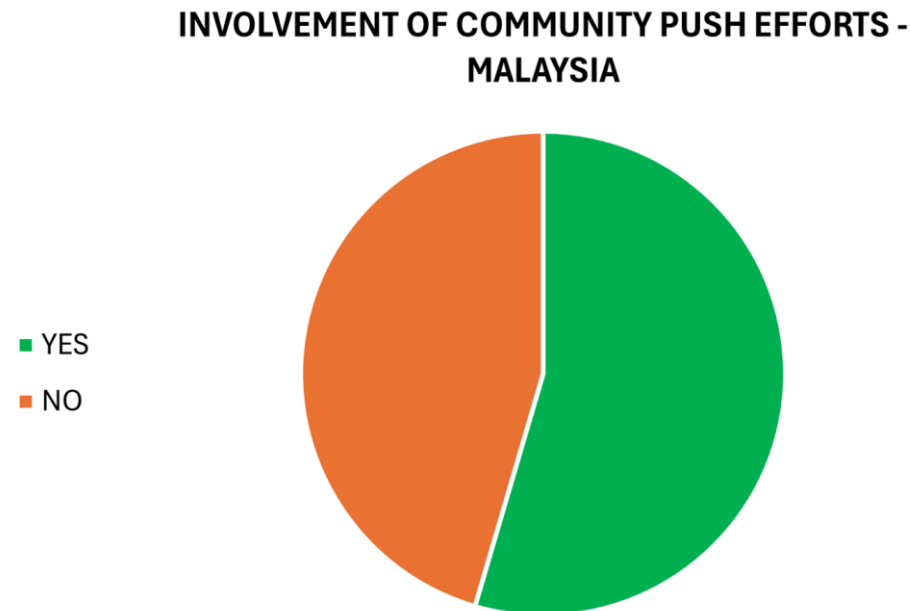


**Figure 3.** Responses to the question “How does your organisation encourage partnerships between researchers and end-users?”

# Baseline study Research Translation - Malaysia

## Priority 1 – Encourage partnerships between researchers and end-users

The **involvement of the community in research**, for example via the promotion of dedicated resources, research centres, etc. is **NOT** consistently pushed (Fig.4).

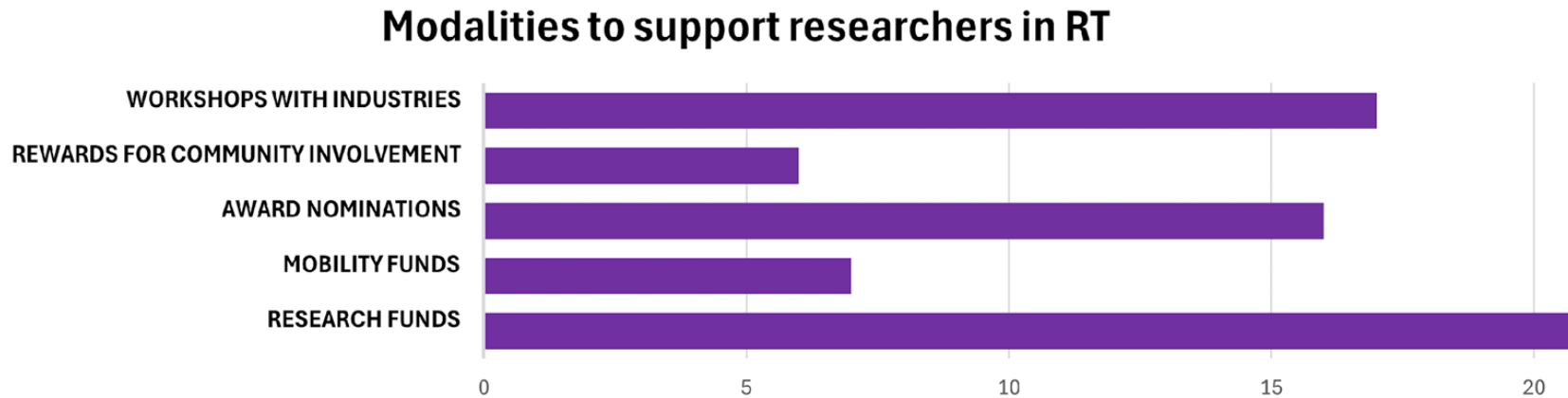


**Figure 4.** Responses to the question: “Does your organisation provide **push efforts** or the involvement of the community in research?”

# Baseline study Research Translation - Malaysia

## Priority 2 - Build capacity and capability in research translation

Support for researchers is high for **research impact**. Towards **research translation**, it is mostly in the form of one-off activities such as research projects and workshops (Fig. 5). Little support of mobility.

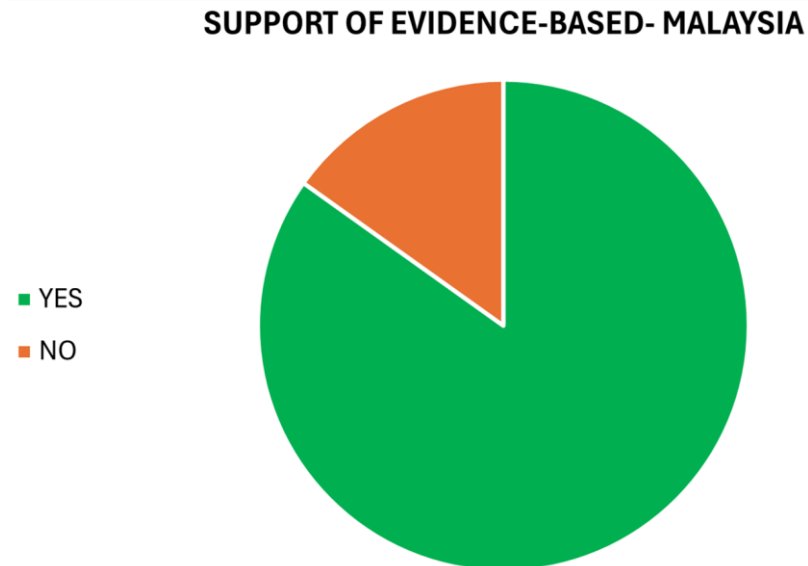


**Figure 5.** Bar plot of responses to the question “how does your organisation support researchers to undertake research translation activities?”

# Baseline study Research Translation - Malaysia

## Priority 3- Maximise the use of high-quality research evidence for public benefit.

The **support and development of evidence-based guidelines** is implemented in most organisations as a criterion of RT (Fig. 6), suggesting that a strong relationship with policy-making should be encouraged.



**Figure 6.** Responses to the question: “Does your organisation support the use of evidence-based practices?”

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# Final comments from baseline study - Malaysia

## **PRIORITY 1: Supporting partnerships**

- The modalities are mostly limited to traditional training and networking opportunities, highlighting a **need to diversify modalities**, particularly to include **mobility**.
- The **involvement of community in research** is NOT consistently pushed by organisations, highlighting a missed opportunity to capitalise on existing resources.

## **PRIORITY 2: Building capacity and capability**

- Specific **funds for researchers for RT activities** exist, but they are mostly directed towards one-off activities (research projects, workshops). A long-term vision of impact relies on the support of mobility and community involvement.

## **PRIORITY 3: Use of evidence-based research for the community**

- **Evidence-Based** is known and implemented. A stronger relationship with the community should be encouraged.

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# Recommendations

- Review marketing, signage and online access for social value initiatives
- Develop liaison and sharing best practice between RT services and other partners
- Co-create with community and industry partners
- Institutional recognition and flexible workloads
- Formal mechanisms for community involvement and mobility
- Prioritise long-term vision and provide stable funding streams

Garraffa, M., Smith, G, Chu, S. Y. and Hamzah, D.A. (2025). RESEARCH TRANSLATION BASELINE STUDY - MALAYSIA & INDONESIA. A methodology for measuring social value in research translation . University of East Anglia, Norwich.

Our Social value model for research translation

SoVaR

Creating Indicators for ISPF



# Why we need a Social Value Model ?



Government  
Commercial  
Function



**Policy Note**  
**Procurement 06/20:**  
**social value in any**  
**public procurement**



GCF Social Value Model  
comprises **5 Themes**:

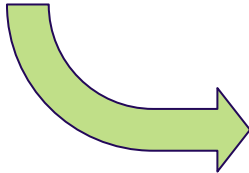
- COVID-19 recovery
- Tackling Economic inequality
- Fighting climate change
- Equal opportunities
- Wellbeing

SoVaR

# SoVaR model for Research translation

SoVaR

Areas of intersection between GCF themes and ISPF main themes were mapped to indicate **expected outcomes for social value in ISPF research.**



SoVaR is comprised of **a questionnaire with quantitative and qualitative measures** and a detailed **scoring system** to evaluate the social value of ISPF activities.

		ISPF main themes			
		Resilient planet	Healthy people, animal, and plants	Transformative technology	Tomorrow's talent
GCF themes	COVID-19 Recovery		X		X
	Tackling Economic Inequality	X	X	X	X
	Fighting climate Change	X	X		
	Equal Opportunities	X	X	X	X
	Wellbeing	X	X	X	X

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## An example of the SOVAR questionnaire

What percentage of your project involves initiatives specifically aimed at supporting environmental well-being (e.g., reducing carbon footprint, improving waste management)?

■ 0-10% (1) ■ 11-25% (2) ■ 26-50% (3) ■ 51-75% (4) ■ More than 75% (5)



# Malaysian Parkinson's Disease Association



**TOGETHER WE BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY!**



# Thematic Case Study: Health, communities, and independent living

- First Parkinson's support group in Malaysia, based in Kuala Lumpur, serving the Klang Valley region -1994
- MPDA focuses on improving health, well-being, and independent living for individuals with Parkinson's disease

## MPDA's Comprehensive Support for Parkinson's

### Educational Outreach

Offering information and resources to raise awareness and knowledge.

### Healthcare Access

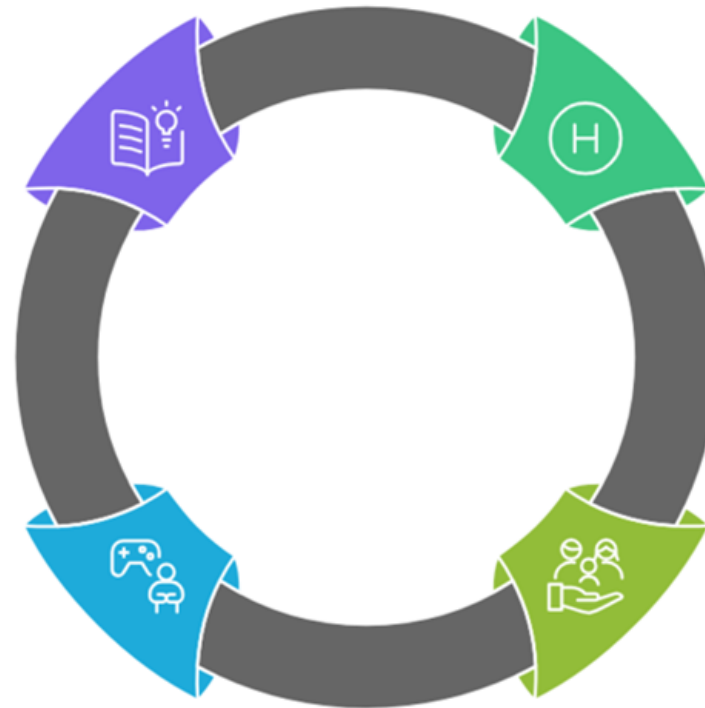
Facilitating medical care and resources for individuals with Parkinson's.

### Community Building

Fostering connections and support networks among individuals and families.

### Recreational Therapy

Providing engaging activities to enhance physical and mental well-being.



# Activities

- Dancing
- Physiotherapy
- Speech Therapy



[www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

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## Eco-Friendly Waste Management Practices

### Composting Dead Plants

Process of  
composting organic  
waste from gardens

### Coffee Grounds Recycling

Reusing coffee  
grounds from local  
shops for  
composting

### Environmental Impact Reduction

Efforts to minimize  
environmental  
footprint

### Community Engagement

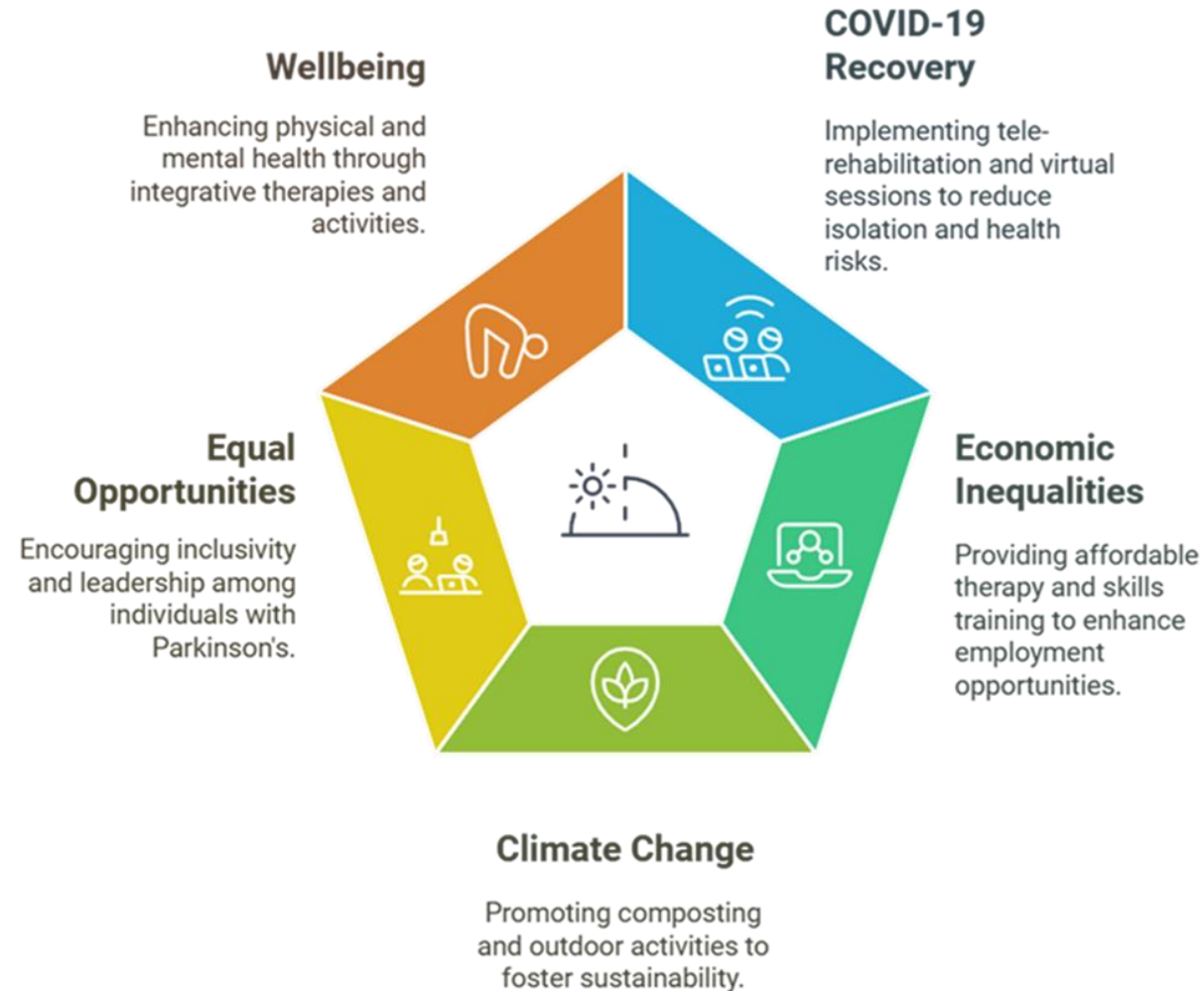
Encouraging  
sustainable  
practices among  
community  
members





# MPDA's key contributions on Social Value Model

Empowering Lives Through Inclusive and Sustainable Community Initiatives





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# Thank you

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