

African Regional Conference on Sustainable Development Strategies

CONFERENCE THEME

Contemporary Issues and Challenges in African Development Patterns:
Multi-disciplinary Assessment.

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CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

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African Regional Conference on Sustainable Development Strategies

Commonwealth Professional Research Scholarship & Fellowship

The conference affords participants the opportunity to benefit from the Commonwealth Professional Research Scholarship & Fellowships 2016. The three months fellowship affords researchers the opportunity to be trained and sponsored to join the Commonwealth Research Team to conduct empirical research on specific interest areas including Agriculture, Economics, Education, Management, Engineering/Science & Technology, Environment, Governance and Public Health. Participating scholars will also gain opportunities for research network with other African scholars, UNDP research funding and institutional grants.

Professional Research Training/ Accreditation

The conference features a research training and professional accreditation of participating researchers. The training is facilitated by the International Institute for Policy Review and Development Strategies, in collaboration with International Scientific Research Consortium, Coventry University, UK and the European Foundation for Management Development.

Conference Chairman/ Lead Speaker

Professor Fredrick Gravenir

Deputy Vice Chancellor

Research, Innovation and Outreach,

Kenyatta University, Nairobi-Kenya

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Maria Ramos

Chief Executive of Barclays Africa Group

SPECIAL GUESTS

Kofi Annan

Chairman, Africa Progress Panel (APP), Switzerland;
Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum on Africa;
World Economic Forum Foundation Board Member

Nahas Gideon Angula

Prime Minister of Namibia

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Babcock University, NG

Conference Programme

Day One: Tuesday, 1-12-15		
12:00am	– 2:00am	Arrival
2:00am	– 7:00am	Short rest from journey
7:00am	– 8:00am	Breakfast
8:00am	– 10:00am	Registration
10:00am	– 10:30am	Tea break
10:30am	– 12:45pm	Opening ceremony
12:45pm	– 1:00pm	Group photo
1:00pm	– 2:00pm	Lunch break
2:00pm	– 4:00pm	Plenary sessions
4:00pm	– 5:00pm	Tea break
5:00pm	– 7:00pm	Networking/ Electronic Plenary Session
7:00pm		Dinner
Day Two: Wednesday, 2-12-15		
7:00am	– 8:00am	Breakfast
8:00am	– 10:00am	Research writing training session
10:00am	– 10:30am	Tea break
10:30am	– 1:00pm	Research writing training session
1:00pm	– 2:00pm	Lunch break
2:00pm	– 4:00pm	KU facilities tour
4:00pm	– 5:00pm	Tea break
5:00pm	– 7:00pm	Networking /Electronic Plenary Session
7:00pm		Dinner
Day Three: Thursday, 3-12-15		
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8:00am	– 10:00am	Plenary sessions
10:00am	– 10:30am	Tea break
10:30am	– 1:00pm	Plenary sessions
1:00pm	– 2:00pm	Lunch break
2:00pm	– 4:00pm	Shopping at malls and Masai market
4:00pm	– 5:00pm	Tea break
5:00pm	– 7:00pm	Networking
7:00pm	– 9:00pm	Dinner night
12:00am	– 2:00am	Checkout

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

FOR POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

... Quality research begins here!

Introduction

The International Institute for Policy Review and Development Strategies (IIPRDS) is an independent international research and development Institute. It provides a platform for independent, collaborative and institutional evidence-based research work. Research endeavors in the Institute address specific policy and development challenges affecting developing economies of the world. It also partners with government and non-governmental agencies in advancing sustainable development initiatives.

Publications

Since incorporated, the Institute has pursued its mandate of being a leading international research and publishing institution by organizing International Research Conferences and Seminars and publishing findings in International Journals. The Institute has published over 50 International Multi-disciplinary Journals domiciled in international reputable Universities and indexed electronically. Other readings of the Institute include,

1. African Development Charter Series: UN Development Policy Document. 3 series have already been published
 - (i) Rethinking Sustainable Development in Africa
 - (ii) Infrastructure, Economic Development and Poverty Reduction in Africa
 - (iii) Achieving Development Goals in Africa: Inclusive & Integrated Strategies
2. Strategic Framework for Local Government Performance
3. Nigeria's Development Profile in Time Perspective
4. Executive Economic Reviews
5. Standards for Writing Research, etc

Institutional Collaborations

The Institute currently partners with University of Ghana- Accra, University of Education- Winneba, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Coventry University- United Kingdom, Weber State University- United States, University of California- Los Angeles, University of New South Wales- Sydney, Concordia University- Canada, University of Southern Australia, Universiti Teknologi- Malaysia and Cape Coast University.

Currently the Institute is partnering with the Centre for Advanced Entrepreneurship Research, Business School, University of Edinburgh, UCLA Anderson School of Management, and the Said Business School at Oxford University to publish an Institutional Policy Document on “Entrepreneurship and Management Technique”.

Research/Project Arms

The research unit of the Institute is known as the African Research Council on Sustainable Development (ARCSD) it functions with three frameworks,

- i. Centre for Renewable Energy Research and Development Strategies
- ii. Centre for Advanced Entrepreneurial Development Research
- iii. Centre for Quality & Analytical Research

Editorial Peer Review Policy/ Publications

The Institute has a seasoned and experienced Multi-disciplinary International Professional Editorial Peer Review Board. Members are drawn from about 7 Universities, within and outside Nigeria (See website for details). The board operates a blind peer reviewed system. Submitted manuscripts are reviewed initially by internal editorial process. Manuscripts are evaluated according to the following criteria: material is original and timely, writing is clear, study methods are appropriate, data are valid, conclusions are reasonable and supported by the data, information is important, and topic has social and empirical relevance.

Institutional Journals are published in hard print and e-version. Journals published are indexed online in international research repositories, some of which include, Google Scholar, OCLC WorldCat, United States, Bibliography of Asian Studies, ABS Academic Journal Quality Guide, PIAS International Fact Sheets/ Achieves, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, EBSCO Information Services, Canada, International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS), National Library of Nigeria cataloguing in publication data and Brilliant International Research Library, among others.

Institutional Electronic Library

The Institutional library is an institutional electronic repository established to manage, disseminate and preserve where appropriate, research materials and also provide access for purposes of advancing research studies and learning. It has a quiet area for studying, and also offers facilities to facilitate group study and collaboration. The library provides the open access to electronic resources through the Internet and offers assistance to librarians in navigating and analyzing very large amounts of information with a variety of digital tools.

Exchange of Idea Initiative (EII)

The Institute publishes International Registered Research Journals both online and in print. The Institute currently operates an Exchange of Idea Initiative (EII) with other International Research Organizations and Libraries to enhance wider researcher of its journals. With this initiative, Academic Journals are published in various Countries by reputable publishers and research organizations not minding where the conference is held. This dynamism has diversified and improved the quality of the Institute Journals, enhanced International acceptance by indexing research agencies, built confidence in conferees and enhanced their disciplinary relevance.

See the website for more details: www.internationalpolicybrief.org

Keynote:

What's the biggest challenge for Africa in 2015?

Dr. Maria Ramos

Chief Executive of Barclays Africa Group

Tellingly, this year's Survey on the Global Agenda 2015 revealed education and skills development as the biggest challenge facing Africa in 2015, followed by building sustainable governance systems and the delivery of hard infrastructure. Almost every stakeholder group ranked education as the most important issue; respondents also suggested that business is the stakeholder that will be most affected by Africa's educational challenges.

While UNESCO predicts that Africa will soon be home to 50% of the world's illiterate population, Maria Ramos, Chief Executive of Barclays Africa Group, points to the focus of governments and businesses on creating real improvements through training programmes and scholarships. We must make sure that governments remain focused on funding and investing in education and skills improvement and that they encourage partnerships with donors, business and local communities.

But given Africa's rapid increase in mobile phone users – 40-fold since 2000 – it is clear that technology will play a fundamental role. Ghana's Open Learning Exchange which looks at innovative teaching and learning models, as well as South African experiments with digitizing the curricula and making it available on tablets.

Apart from the fact that you take away a lot of logistics costs associated with it, mobile technology makes education accessible to young learners in remote parts of the country. It also addresses concerns about the quality of educators because you can upskill teachers quickly and provides them with ongoing support through a range of online platforms.

Education isn't the only area where African leaders must engage with their people, but an effort towards significant improvements in governance, fiscal management, macroeconomic management and greater accountability. Accountability remains the biggest obstacle to developing appropriate governance. When you limit democracy and you have a lack of accountability to citizens, you undermine the basic principles that facilitate economic development and ensure broad political stability.

While investment in human capital is critical, the need to address the infrastructure deficit is equally important. Africa is facing infrastructural challenges – not least with regards to the provision of energy – that have an impact on economic development. Countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa and Ethiopia have made significant progress in both the renewable and non-renewable energy sectors, but growth and development can only be sustainable with additional targeted investments. And yet the results of this year's Survey show pessimism around this issue. Almost 40% of respondents doubted that Africa's infrastructural problems would be dealt with in a meaningful way in the near to mid-term future.

More optimistic observers point to the fact that the build-up of infrastructure is supported through foreign direct investments and trade with other emerging economies – such as the record \$200 billion China-Africa trade flows – and agencies such as the African Development Bank and the World Bank. A significant development is that regional and local investors are starting to chip in. This also helps to shift from traditional investments based on the extraction of natural resources to more “strategic investments focused on a broader set of development opportunities and long term sustainability”.

As we look into a promising future, our research and policy direction should be towards advancing strategies for good governance. Governance that will provide the right environment for investment; investment has the capacity to create jobs, increase income and reduce dependence, otherwise known as poverty. Africa is blessed and has the capacity to overcome her challenges and lead the world.

African Regional Conference on Sustainable Development Strategies

THE DIRECTION OF AFRICA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

...Contribution from Leaders

“We must define our own Future”.

Nahas Gideon Angula
Prime Minister of Namibia

We need to work together as Africans to build a united Africa, but not a united Africa of weak states. To achieve this, leaders should not put themselves above the law.

Ali Bongo Ondimba
President of Gabon

The Africans of today would like to move from primary production to more sophisticated sectors. To do this we need leadership that is decisive, predictable, deliberate and consistent. We can leverage all people into growth. I am very optimistic as an African.

Monhla Hlahla
Chairperson, Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa (IDC), South Africa; Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum on Africa

We have made considerable progress [in governance and leadership]. We have had some setbacks, such as in Mali and Liberia. It is important for civil society to play a role – they can maintain the pressure on elected officials to deliver. Lessons can be learned from frustrated citizens in North Africa and the Middle East who want a say on how they are governed and who they are governed by.

Kofi Annan
Chairman, Africa Progress Panel (APP), Switzerland; Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum on Africa; World Economic Forum Foundation Board Member

Agriculture is another sector that is drawing new investment as multinational companies seek greater local content in their African operations through partnerships with smallholder farmers, and as investors seek large-scale commercial opportunities to grow food and energy crops for global markets. We need to modernize agriculture and make it more attractive to youth.

Jakaya Kikwete
President of Tanzania

Innovation is not something new to Africa. It has been a continent of innovation since time immemorial. In the post-industrial world... little emphasis has been placed on ideas from Africa and their place in the global structure of power. Ideas equal power and knowledge equals power.

Bright Simons
President, MPedigree Network, Ghana



Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

Commonwealth Scholarships for Developing Commonwealth Countries
Master's/PhD Degree
Study in: UK
Course(s) Offered: All fields

Brief description:

Commonwealth Scholarships for Master's and PhD study in the UK are offered for citizens of developing Commonwealth countries. These scholarships are funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

Host Institution(s):

You are requested to apply for a course of study at UK universities with which the CSC has a part funding agreement.

Level and Field(s) of study:

Masters (one-year courses only) or PhD Programmes in all subject areas at participating UK Universities. The CSC's selection criteria give priority to those applications that demonstrate strong relevance to development.

Application instructions:

The CSC cannot accept any applications direct from candidates for these scholarships. All applications must be made through your nominating agency (or university/university body, if applicable) in your home country. You must check with them in the first instance for their specific advice and rules for applying, and for their own closing date for applications.

You must make your application using the CSC's Electronic Application System (EAS). Your application must be submitted to and endorsed by one of the approved nominating bodies. It is important to read the 2016 Commonwealth Scholarship Prospectus and visit the official website (link found below) to access the EAS system and for detailed information on how to apply for this scholarship.

Website:

Official Scholarship Website:

<http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/apply/scholarships-developing-cw>.

Application should be forwarded to the nominating agencies. Log into:

<http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/apply/national-nominating-agencies/#ng>

Australian Government Awards in Africa (AAA) (3 Months) Short Term Courses

The Australia Awards in Africa (AAA) (*formerly* Australian Development Scholarships, ADS), an initiative of the Australian Government, is a pan-African program of development scholarships and fellowships that offers 1,000 postgraduate scholarships each year to eligible African professionals.

The Australia Awards currently comprise two types of scholarship: Australian Awards Scholarships (the Master Awards), to undertake higher degree studies in Australia at Masters level AND Australia Awards Short Courses, to undertake short-term, targeted professional training courses, in Australia and/or in Africa, in a range of development-focused sectors (the Africa Fellowships & the Australia Awards Fellowships).

Fields of study

Masters level, Doctoral level and Short term professional training courses in various fields specific for different countries. Sectors of focus for ADS are agreed with each participating Partner Government. The country specific information for applicants' home country will indicate what those priority sectors are (see 'country specific details' on official website via link below).

Short Course Awards available for studies in a range of priority sectors including Agriculture, Maternal and Child Health, Mining Governance and Public Policy. Studies are conducted at locations in Africa and in Australia for periods up to 3 months.

Method of Application

You need to obtain complete country-specific information, eligibility criteria and application process for the two types of awards. You can get this by going to your 'country page' on the official website.

Scholarship website: <http://www.studyandscholarships.com>

The Fulbright Program

This is the leading international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government. Its main objective is to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” Two grants under this program, aimed at students from developing countries, are:

a. Fulbright Foreign Student Program

The Foreign Student Program brings citizens of other countries to the United States for Master's degree or Ph.D. study at U.S. universities or other appropriate institutions. The program brings more than 1,800 foreign students from 144 countries to U.S. universities each year.

b. International Fulbright Science and Technology Awards

The International Fulbright Science and Technology (S&T) Award for outstanding foreign students is designed to be among the most prestigious international scholarships in science and technology.

Eligible groups

Citizens of more than 155 countries worldwide, including countries in Africa, East Asia and Pacific, Europe and Eurasia, Middle East and North Africa, The Americas, and South and Central Asia.

Participating Institution(s)

All accredited USA Universities and Academic Institutions.

Field(s) of study

The Fulbright program encourages applications from all fields, including interdisciplinary ones except medical degree program or clinical medical research.

Get full details: <http://www.studyandscholarships.com>

Scholarship and Research Grants for African Students and Scholars

Get details and apply:

<http://scholarship-positions.com/category/africa-scholarships>

<http://www.afterschoolafrica.com/2972/top-study-abroad-scholarships-africa-developing>

<http://www.scholarshipforafricans.com>

Submit an interest form with a research proposal of not more than 3pages to, projects@internationalpolicybrief.org

International Research Funding Opportunities and Grants

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) established the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) to provide financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods.

The programme provides grants of up to \$50,000 directly to local communities including indigenous people, community-based organizations and other NGO groups for projects in Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Land Degradation and Sustainable Forest Management, International Waters and Chemicals.

Ongoing Funding Projects

1. Joint UN Programme on Prevention of Violence against Women and Children
2. Advocacy on enhancing household capacity, especially female-headed households to respond to HIV and AIDS: Zambia
3. Promoting Gender Equality in Rural Communities through the Human Development Initiative in Myanmar
<http://scu.edu.au/research/index.php/90>

TIMELINE FOR MANUSCRIPT CORRECTIONS AND JOURNAL PUBLICATION

The timeline for manuscript assessment and publication is as outlined below:

1. The Plenary/Technical session is compulsory for all conferees. You are advised to note the comments pointed out by the Chairman of the Technical Session and other members of the plenary group. This will help you effect corrections as expected.
2. Corrections of manuscript(s) (full papers) must be effected and submitted within 2 weeks after the conference. All submissions must be made to: africanissues@rocketmail.com
3. The Conference Professional Peer Review Editorial Panel (CPPREP) will meet 2 weeks after the league conference to review papers. This usually takes one week, after which the papers are forwarded to Google Scholar International Standard Peer Review Research Council for professional and disciplinary blind peer review and plagiarism check. Usually this takes about 3 weeks.
4. Letter of Papers Acceptance and Journal Publication will be issued to author(s) on the 6th week after the conference. Acceptance will be in three forms:
 - a. After peer review, papers with less than 50% accuracy level will be rejected. Author(s) will be required to re-write the paper based on observations.
 - b. Secondly, papers with 51 – 80% accuracy level will be accepted for publication, but with minor corrections effected by the institute.
 - c. Finally, papers with 81 – 95% accuracy level will be accepted for publication with minor corrections effected by the institute.
5. On acceptance of paper for publication, author(s) will be required to make PAYMENT for paper publication/ pagination (hard print and online) and courier. Payment must be done within 2 weeks of notification of acceptance. Authors will receive their published journals within 10 weeks after the conference.
6. Accepted papers will be published in International Scientific Disciplinary Research Journals with high level Impact Factor (in hard print and e-version). Published journals will be indexed in Google Scholar and other online research directories.

GUIDELINES FOR MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

Important Notice

Submitting your manuscript for assessment and publication in any of the International Journal Series means that your work has not been published elsewhere in any other journal, book or in a book chapter, be it printed online (except in the form of an abstract or an academic thesis). The editor(s) of the journal(s) have the right to edit or to alter all contribution, but authors of the submitted work will receive proof before the publication of their work.

Submission of Manuscripts

Manuscript should be submitted to the Editor in Chief, typed in English with Times New Roman font size 12, doubled space with 1" margin at all sides of A4 paper. Manuscripts should not exceed 14 pages. Articles for publication should be sent to the Editor, International Standard Research Publishing through the journal.

E-mail: africanissues@rocketmail.com

Manuscript should be legibly written with clear symbols, drawings, photographs, chemical structures to ensure clarity and easy reproduction. Authors are urged to pay attentions to tables, figures and references which should be done in the correct format and appropriately cited in the main text.

Format of Paper

The paper should include: Title, author(s) name(s) (surname in full) and address (es), an abstract not exceeding 250 words, a few key words and the main paper. The main paper should have an Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion, Tables and Figures, Plates, Conclusion, Acknowledgment, References. If the paper has more than one author, the first on the list is the Correspondence author.

References

The reference style should be APA format.

Review Process

Articles for publication will be peer reviewed by 2 or 3 reviewers to ensure accuracy. Guided by the reviewer's comment on a paper, the decision of the Board is final.

Copyright

Upon acceptance of a paper by the journal, the author(s) have automatically transferred copyright of the paper to International Standard Research Publishing. The transfer will ensure widest possible dissemination of information.

Charges

Manuscript must be submitted along with a processing fee. Upon acceptance of a paper for publication, the corresponding author must submit the corrected paper and pay a publication fee of \$200 (USD) only. Corresponding authors shall receive one copy of Journal and could also download articles from the Journal's website.

Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement

Publication decisions: The editor is responsible for deciding which of the articles submitted to the journal should be published. The editor may be guided by the policies of the journal's editorial board and constrained by such legal requirements as shall then be in force regarding libel, copyright infringement and plagiarism. The editor may confer with other editors or reviewers in making this decisions.

Confidentiality: The editor and any editorial staff must not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher, as appropriate.

Institutional website: www.internationalpolicybrief.org

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School of Social Sciences



1.

Influence of Culture on Service Quality in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry: Case of North-Eastern Nigeria

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Abstract

Traveler's choice of any destination is a challenge to both the traveler and the destination provider of hospitality and tourism services due to cultural issues. Even though there have been researches on guest expectations and perceptions of service quality in many parts of the world, but very little has been conducted on the influence of culture on service quality in the hospitality and tourism industry in northern Nigeria as a destination which is culturally well-endowed. This paper seeks to report the findings on assessment of cultural issues on quality service in hospitality and tourism industry of Northern Nigeria. Some selected star rated hotels in the North-east will be used for the purpose of this study where 70 customers will be randomly sampled. The Five-Gap Model of Service Quality will be used to reveal the gaps in the hotel service. The study will concludes by discussing and recommending some strategic issues to be implemented in order to raise the level of quality service of the hospitality and tourism industry in Northern Nigeria behavior.

✧ *Keyword: Culture, Quality Service, Hospitality and Tourism, North-eastern*



The Evaluation of Food Security Status Of Farming Households in Atyap Chiefdom, Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study aimed at determining the socio-economic characteristics of the households determine if family farming is profitable and estimates the food security status and determinants of food security of the households in Atyap Chiefdom. Five (5) out of the sixteen (16) districts in the chiefdom were selected randomly for the study. Primary data was collected through a structured questionnaire. The following statistical tools were used to analyze the data namely; descriptive statistics, gross margin analysis, food security index and Logit regression analysis. The findings revealed that the gross margins of maize, sorghum and soya bean were N129,726.39, N96,631.84 and N559,679.78 per household respectively. 82 households (55%) and 67 households (45%) were food secure and food insecure respectively. The determinants of food security which were found to be significant at 1%, 5% and 10% level of significance were proportion of food sold (+0.000), number of male members of the household (+0.047), disposable income (-0.186), age of household head (+0.026), number of extension visits (-1.496), number of years of farming experience (+0.013), household size (+0.071), farm income (+0.000) and farm output (+0.000). We concluded that family farming in the chiefdom is profitable as the gross margin estimates for some of the selected crops were high. Also, the food security status of some of the households was high as 55% of the households were food secured. The major recommendation is that the Kaduna State Government and the Zangon Kataf LGA should support agricultural extension adequately to enable the farmers benefit from it as this will enhance farm productivity, farm profitability thus ensuring that more households become food secure.



Keywords: Family Farming, Gross Margin, Livelihoods, Food Security Status and Food Security Determinants



The “Brain Drain” of Health Care Professionals: a Challenge to Nigeria's Health Care Delivery System

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Abstract

It is an acknowledged fact that Nigeria's health sector is in shambles. A number of factors have been attributed to the failure of the health care system in the country. Inadequate and poor health institutions, lack of technical and operational equipments as well as drugs and above all shortage of skilled health workers are some of the major reasons for the Nigeria's health care crisis. However, Nigeria ranks one of the major health professional exporting countries in Africa. For instance, it had been estimated that between 1988 and 1989 about 1000 Nigerian medical doctors left the country. This exodus of the country's health personnel continued unabated due to the persistent poor conditions of Nigeria's health care system as well as lack of good packages for medical and allied personnel. A quite number of Nigerian medical experts continue to leave the country for USA, Western Europe and some Asian countries for the betterment of their services. For instance, by 2014, there were over 250,000 consultant medical doctors from Nigeria working in the USA. This problem of brain-drain was worsened by the flight of wealthy Nigerians to the USA, Western Europe and India for medical treatment and check up. Nigeria is today one of the major contributors to the global medical tourism. This paper intends to examine the exodus of Nigerian health professionals to the USA, Western Europe and Asian countries. The paper considers both the brain-drain of health workers and the flight of Nigerians for medical treatment and check up as a serious challenge to the country's health care delivery system.

 *Keywords: Brain Drain, Health Care Professional, Nigeria and Health Care Delivery System*



Youth Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria

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Abstract

The Paper x-rays the level of youth empowerment in the Niger Delta region. It delves into the peculiar circumstances and challenges confronting the youth of the oil rich but conflict prone region against the backdrop of poverty alleviation programme by government since the return to civilian rule in 1999. With the return to a democratic dispensation, successive governments have expressed serious concerns about the poverty situation in the country, in general and in the Niger Delta in particular. For most part, poverty alleviation is seen as a measure to address the problems of rising unemployment and criminality, particularly among youths. The focus on the youth also derive from two popular view(1) that they are the best measure of the extent that a country can reproduce as well as sustain itself .In cumulative ,the vitality, conduct and roles of youth in society are positively correlated with the development of their country. In the light of the above, the proposed paper shall address the following research questions among others. First, what is the status of youth vis-à-vis the challenges livelihoods and survival in the Niger Delta? What are the key poverty alleviation issues in the region and how are the youth affected? How are the youth responding to poverty alleviation challenges and what are the implications of their repertoire of responses for peace and stability in the Niger Delta? What alternative policy options face the government (and other stakeholders) in the quest to address the challenges of poverty in the Niger Delta? What are the immediate, medium-and long-term implications of not effectively addressing the poverty (and broader developmental) challenges facing Niger Delta for youth in the region? Finally, what are the implications of government interventions in the Niger Delta for similar engagements across the country?



Keywords: Youth, Empowerment, Poverty, Niger Delta



5.

Rural-Urban Migration, Urban Unemployment and Underemployment, and Job-Search Activity in LDCS

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Abstract

This paper analyzes unemployment and underemployment in LDCs within a quantity adjustment framework. Four extensions of the Harris-Todaro model are made, including allowances for more generalized job-search behavior, an urban traditional sector, preferential hiring by educational level, and labor turnover considerations. The result of these modifications is a much lower predicted unemployment rate, which accords more closely with actual observations. Some additional policy implications deriving from the analysis are noted.

✱ *Keywords: Rural Urban Migration, Unemployment, Underemployment, Job Search*



6.

The Monetary & Fiscal Policies in Support of Economic Transformation and Inclusive Growth in Nigeria

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Abstract

There is a plethora of literature on Monetary/Fiscal Policies - economic development nexus. This has prompted renewed interest in inclusive Growth. This probably explains why governments and policy makers are now tinkering with ways to situate and develop a permanent solution to the widened gap in broad range of

financial services which of course are necessary for inclusive growth. Financial inclusion otherwise known as “inclusive growth” can be seen as the delivery of financial services at affordable costs to sections of disadvantaged and low-income segments of society. Due to incessant desire to incorporate disadvantaged segment of the society into financial net, both monetary and fiscal authorities have embarked upon a robust strategy toward addressing the gap. The former (monetary authority) had set out a visible road map necessary for direct effect on savings, investment, rate of interest, pension and general form of financial services. While the later (fiscal authority) have been making a remarkable effort toward achieving sustained economic growth especially in rural areas. These would translate accelerated and friendly society necessary for effective implementation of Financial Inclusion Strategy and thus would stimulate economic development generally, more new jobs would be created, society would also be empowered to generate more wealth and making the economy competitive. Inclusive growth is thus arguably popular with most governments on the global development priorities presently, and Nigeria is not left out of the milieu. This paper attempts to establish a synergy between monetary/fiscal policies and that of strategy toward achieving inclusive growth in Nigeria. Hypothesis would be tested to determine the degree of effectiveness of the policies on financial inclusion. It is expected that the research findings will show high degree of effectiveness of government policies on financial exclusion rate in the country. It should however be noted that, the Nigerian monetary and fiscal policy stance has been the attainment of price stability and sustainable economic growth and thus, this would assist the actualization of inclusive growth in Nigeria. However, the financial inclusion strategy embarked on by government in Nigeria seems not to be yielding desired results; hence this study uses some selected case studies to find out what is wrong with the Nigeria's NFIS. It was found among others that: infrastructure deficit play the major role in discouraging the full implementation of the scheme. Moreover, insecurity in major commercially viable cities, especially in the northern region is also hindering the market potential of these locations to be recognized by potential investors to showcase their broad range of product and services in those areas/location.

✧ *Keywords: Financial Inclusion, Monetary Policy, Fiscal Policy, Rural Societies, Growth*



Does Corruption and Inequality of Income Causes Economic Growth in Nigeria?

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Abstract

This study examined whether corruption and inequality of income causes economic growth in Nigeria, with special emphasis to understand the interaction between corruption, inequality of income and economic growth relationship. To examine the integration and co- integration of the data, unit root test and ARDL bound testing are utilized. To determine the causal relationship Toda and Yamamoto non causality test is applied. Evidence indicates that there is a long run relationship among Corruption, inequality of income and economic growth in Nigeria. However, the influence of economic growth on corruption, suggested that fighting corruption require substantial amount of economic growth in Nigeria. Evidence also indicates that economic growth causes inequality of income, this suggest that higher investment that drive growth may be associated with more unequal distribution of income. It also established corruption influence on inequality of income, suggesting that as corruption deepened, the inequality increased further. The results could not establish a direct relationship between corruption and economic growth which implies that the impact of corruption on economic growth is not direct one. Therefore, it is recommended that for Nigeria to achieve faster and sustainable economic growth it must pay more emphasis on the development of growth critical enhancing sectors as a means of fighting damaging corruption in the short and medium term.

✱ *Keywords: Corruption, Economic Growth, Co-integration, Inequality of Income*



Assessment of the Impact of Economic and Financial Crimes on the Nigerian Economy

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Abstract

This study examined the impact of economic and financial crime on the Nigeria economic growth. In order to bring out empirical result, data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. 80 staff of Economic and financial Crime Commission were filled correctly and returned. Data collected were analyzed using simple tables percentages. Analysis of data and the test of hypotheses were done using the chi-square(x²) statistics. Findings from the study revealed advanced information communication technology (ICT) provides opportunity for the perpetrators of economic and financial crimes to prevail these act. Lastly, the fight against Economic and financial crimes by the Nigeria government has yielded a positive outcome, though, more efforts is required to eradicate financial crimes. Based on the findings, the researchers suggested that the government through the agencies concerned should ensure wider and aggressive initiative to make the public aware of the adverse impact of economic and financial crimes on the Nigerian economic growth. Moreover, section 308 of the Nigeria constitution should be removed as it harbor some public officers involved in criminal acts. Adequate funding of the Anti- Economic and financial Crime Commission should be provided to install more sophisticated and advance computer system capable of detecting information, banking network and advance free fraud. Finally, the civil societies should join hands with the Nigerian government to fight against economic and financial crimes in adherence strictly to the rule of law.

✧ *Keywords: Economics, Financial Crimes, Fraud, Money Laundering.*



Challenges and Shortcomings of Economic Diversification in Africa: Shortfall in Solid Mineral Exploitation in Contemporary Nigeria

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Abstract

The economy of most African nations is to a very large extent only sectorally planned and managed, and henceforth plundered later. Many African countries depend on exploitation of minerals as their main source of foreign Exchange, like South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, DRC and Algeria. But the principles of spatial planning and policy of the development of solid minerals have not been strongly reflected in the planned periodic programmes since in the pre-independence periods, especially at the implementation level. Nigeria is one of those countries that possess vast reserves of solid mineral resources, which face serious challenges. The country continued to earn poor revenue from the solid mineral development that abound. Out of the wide range of energy and mineral resources only petroleum has been substantially developed to finance the solid mineral sector. The best way to tackle these challenges is by formulating effective legislation, sustainable Exploitation, adequate funding, deter public officers from practicing capital flight, and many more. This paper discusses the present situation of undue emphasis on this sectoral growth strategy and the serious relegation of spatial dimension of mineral development efforts. The Methodology used for the study includes primary data, which was mainly field interviews, visits, photographs and questionnaire administration. The secondary data gathered were past related literatures. It is found that, although there are many mineral commodities in almost about 450 Local Governments in Nigeria that are viable and are in economic quantity but not many of them are currently exploited. It is recommended that an official mineral policy be enacted to give the deposits more attention towards their development for using them as raw materials in industries and for export with some level of value addition.



*Keywords: Solid Minerals, Nigeria, Government, Legislation and policy, Economic
Diversification.*



Sign Language and Tourism: a Visual Therapy and the Modern Way of Arresting Executive Stress (a Study of Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana and International Model School for the Deaf, Macgreggor, Afikpo, Ebonyi State)

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Abstract

Stress is a silent killer. Every individual faces stress in the course of daily life endeavours. Stress has serious psychological, sociological, physical and economic consequences. Sign language and leisure in tourism are counterpoint to stress and it is described as a visual therapy for hearing people and a modern way of arresting and managing executive stress. This paper x-rays the sources and consequences of stress, cheap and natural techniques for coping with stress via visiting deaf communities. It concludes that if one turns to a tourism professional and signer, start interaction with deaf communities, he/she will greatly improve the quality of life through visual therapy and recreation of body and soul. It also concludes that deaf and hard of hearing people are always eager to communicate and interact with hearing ones, especially those that willingly want to learn the sign language. The paper recommends that sign language should be included in both primary and secondary school curriculum, and government should create public awareness through information dissemination by the Ministry of Information and, Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The authorities should include sign language in the curriculum content of Tourism and highlight the refreshing, educational, research and health benefits of visiting deaf communities and interacting with deaf communities, and how interacting with deaf persons in the society hand-cuffs stress.



Keyword: Sign Language, Tourist, Therapy



Tourism in the Wake of Security Challenges in the North Eastern Nigeria: the Contemporary Issues.

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Abstract

Tourism is known for sightseeing, traveling moment of relaxation, recreation of body and soul and recuperation from stress. It thrives in an environment that is warm, friendly and receptive to strangers, visitors and tourists, but today the trend has shifted in the north eastern Nigeria. Terrorism is increasing at an increasing rate in the recent times and has affected the tourism industry adversely in the north east of Nigeria comprises of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states. Bombing, maiming, vandalism amongst others, are all indices of insecurity causing by the insurgents ravaging the tourism business in north-east of Nigeria. This paper will examine the contemporary issue of insecurity in Nigeria's tourism industry. It reveals the causative factors of insecurities in the industry, the concepts of tourism, effect of insurgency on tourism industry. etc.



Keywords: Insurgency, Tourism, Insecurity, Terrorism.



Evaluation of Milt Quality in *Clarias Gariepinus* (Burchell, 1822) Broodstock Fed Varying Inclusion Level of *Azanza Garckeana* (Goron Tula) Pulp

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Abstract

A feeding trial was carried out in the farm for 56 days to evaluate the sperm quality of *Clarias gariepinus* (Burchell, 1822) brood stock fed varying inclusion level of *Azanza garckeana* (Goron Tula) Pulp, (mean weight 450g) was randomly distributed in the concrete tanks (2x2 x 1.2m) at nine fish / tank in triplicates. Five diets designated D1 to D5 40% crude protein, containing 0, 50, 100, 150, and 200g/kg of *A. garckeana* pulp powder were included in the formulated feeds and fed to *C. gariepinus* brood stock at 3% body weight. The result showed that dietary *A. garckeana* significantly ($P>0.05$) improved the milt quality of *C. gariepinus* male brood stock, the brood fish fed 20% *Azanza garckeana* had significantly higher ($P = 0.05$) milt volume, sperm motility duration, milt lobe length, and whole sperm count and lowest in the fish fed 0% *Azanza garckeana*. The findings showed that *Azanza garckeana* pulp improved the sperm quality of *C. gariepinus* and can be utilized enhance the fertility of fish.

✱ *Keywords: Azanza Garckeana, Clarias Gariepinus*



Evaluation of Local Government Performances: a Study of Bauchi State

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Abstract

The paper intended to measure performance of local government councils in Bauchi State. There is a growing need for holding government entities accountable to public in this democratic dispensation. People need change in the ways and manners government operated over the years. The study found out that, despite billions of naira allocated to local government areas in the state through State/Local government Joint Account, they were not able to harness and channel these resources to grass-root development due to state government undue interference. All the six local government areas so far studied were able to spend less than 50% of their capital allocations. The researcher utilized Multi-stage sampling technique: Cluster sampling was used to divide the state in to three (3) clusters while purposive sampling technique was used to select two Local Governments; one rural one urban from each cluster (senatorial district). The study utilized secondary source of data and ratio was used to analyse the data. The researcher recommended the scrap of the State/Local Government Joint Account to ensure sovereignty and financial autonomy of local government areas. Also Local governments' performance rating institution should be created to evaluate and measure performance of Local Government across the nation.

✧ *Keyword: Local Government, Performance Measurement and Statutory Allocation.*




Socio-Economic Implications of Environmental Degradation: Examples from Christie Watson's *Tiny Sunbirds Far Away*

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Abstract

The environment is very important to mankind, animals etc. It constitutes the hallmark of living and man's existence on planet earth. Conducive environment is therefore prerequisite in any given milieu. The flora and fauna provide beautiful vegetation, clean streams, rivers, lakes, and land for cultivation and habitation as well as fresh air for growth of humanity. However, these issues are negated in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria due to the activities of multinational oil companies and greed as well as corruption of government officials. The pollution caused by oil spillage, blow-outs, gas flares etc. have destroyed the ecosystem and damaged the aquatic life in the Niger Delta. These environmental factors have pitched the people of the region against the Federal Government and the multinational oil companies who exploit oil without developing the region. The onus of literature is to provide the mode of addressing these grievances. The paper explores the socio economic implications of environmental degradation in the Niger Delta. The paper also identified abject poverty, unemployment and underemployment, youth restiveness, ill-health as some of the social and economic problems associated with oil extractions activities in the Niger Delta with specific examples from Christie Watson's novel *Tiny Sunbirds Far away*.

 *Keywords: Social, Economic, Environment. Degradation.*



Irrigation Agriculture and Sustainable Development in Sudansahelian Regions of Africa: a Case Study of Sokoto State Nigeria

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Abstract

Sudan Sahalian Region of Africa characterizes with arid and semi arid climatic condition and yet blessed with abundance supply of water from Rivers, Lakes, Oasis and underground aquifers, has called for Irrigation Agriculture to absorb the food shortage cause by scarcity of rainfall in the said sub-region. Indeed irrigation agriculture is the only alternative source to boost the socio economic status of the people in the region if sustainable development is to be achieved. Its base on this background this paper is intended to investigate and evaluate the contribution of irrigation Agriculture on sustainable development of this region. Also challenges facing irrigation agriculture and their possible solution will be discuss. In the paper the researcher will use purposeful sampling technique in selecting the specific sample areas for this study. The relevant data collected will be analyzed using descriptive statistic test with the help of SSPS. Finally, possible suggestions and recommendation will be made.

 *Keyword: Regions, Irrigation, Agriculture, and Sustainable Development*



Participatory Equity and Economic Development: Policy Implications for a Globalized World

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Abstract:

The role of a person's identity and sense of integration into society as instruments of economic development has been vastly underestimated in the literature in economics. We talk of policies to subsidize the poor and give direct support to alleviate poverty. But in the long run, what is critical is that we instill in people a sense of belonging and having certain basic rights as citizens. What the poor and the marginalized in society lack is a sense of "participatory equity." This paper tries to advance this perspective by building a new model where a person's community identity matters, ex post, in determining if he or she will be poor, even though (unlike in the Spence model) all persons are identical ex ante. The paper also draws on data collected from an NGO-run school in Calcuttato illustrate the role of a school child's sense of 'belonging' in determining how the child performs academically. The theory and the empirical work are inputs into the larger, more general idea that when people feel marginalized in a society, tend to 'give up'. A substantial part of the paper is devoted to the policy implications of these analytical ideas and empirical results in the context of national policies and globalization.



*Keywords: Social Integration, Poverty, Participatory Equity,
Community Identity*



The Challenges of Forestry Management in Nigeria: a Review

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Abstract

This paper reviews the Challenges of Forestry management in Nigeria. It was undertaken to determine the constraints to effective management of the forest estates, agencies involved in Forest management as well as inadequate allocation of funds and manpower, among others. The methodology adopted was the use of content analysis mainly derived from secondary sources. The study reveals that there are inadequate data on the status of biodiversity, uncoordinated forestry policy and reduction in management practices. Furthermore, there is the unwise use of the land and its resources which consequently leads to negative impacts on the environment. Also massive deforestation, desertification, over population and all kinds of pollution and large-scale erosion continue in various parts of the country with negative impacts on the environment. It is therefore concluded that community-based Forestry management system be embraced as a better option to create a sustainable conservation system.

 *Keywords: Forests, Forestry Management, Conservation, Policies, challenges*



Participatory Rural Development Strategies and Effective Poverty Reduction in Rural Communities in Nigeria

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Abstract

All around the world, local governments, the private sector and even the civil society are exploring better ways to achieve poverty reduction and rural development through local economic development strategies, the corner stone of sustainable national development. This is sequel to the fact that local governments, particularly in Nigeria face increased challenges of poor qualitative leadership, financial indiscipline, almost absolute reliance on allocation from the federated account / low internally generated revenues, pervasive poverty, income inequality, long-term ethnic conflict and civil unrest, political instability and corruption among others. Meanwhile, massive transformations are taking place in the global economy resulting from trade liberalization, privatization and enhanced telecommunications. The significance of this paradox to Nigeria is that citizens and local governments now face formidable challenges, greater opportunity and growing responsibility to work together to address the dehumanizing socio-economic conditions of their local citizens, most of whom are under employed or out rightly unemployed and living in absolute poverty. This paper postulates local economic development strategies, a participating process in which local people from all sectors work together to help create decent jobs and improve the quality of life for everyone, including the poor and marginalized as the most potent tool for achieving sustainable poverty reduction and rural transformation in Nigeria.

✧ *Keywords: Poverty Reduction, Rural Development, Local Economic Development, Sustainable Development*



Socio-Contextual Challenges of Health Policy on Reproductive Health Among Vulnerable Women in Nigeria

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Abstract

Healthy population is a germane variable in human development; relatively, no one could be said to be absolutely healthy, except when all parameters of sound health are holistically satisfied. Hence, among all health challenges across the world, reproductive health seem most critical and gradually becoming insurmountable in Nigeria. Apparently, what could be fathomed from these inadequacies are rather, some fundamental socio-contextual elements of health policy imperfections, which relatively account for higher infertility and mortality among women. With this development, arguments by scholars are polarized into two dimensions, while some adduce perfection and relative adequacy of Nigeria's reproductive health policy to recognition of social determinants, the other deduce a critical deficiency in the implementation of the so-called policies. Against this background, this paper argues that unless political will are intensified, through implicating and collective pragmatic actions, where pro-poor policy, that is influenced by vulnerability target and bottom-top approach schemes adopted, the state of reproductive health in Nigeria could remain continually defective, inefficient, unaffordable and practically unsustainable.

✧ *Keywords: Healthy Population, Sound Health, Socio-Contextual, Reproductive Health, Pro-poor Policy*




Entrepreneurship Education in Nigeria: Implications for National Development

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Abstract

It is no longer a gainsaying that Nigeria is the most populous country among black race world over, dominated majorly by youths who are energetic and willing to work. However, the intensity of unemployment in Nigeria has become worrisome and a concern to Government and other stakeholders in the country. One of the reasons for this ever-increasing unemployment rate is a result of over dependence on white collar jobs which are scanty in the country in comparison to the high number of job seekers. Thus, the need for entrepreneurship education, including entrepreneurship education in the school curriculum will assist in enabling youths to be self -creative and independent in terms of acquisition of vocational skills that will enable to shy away from white collar jobs. This therefore will enhance national development in general. The paper thus examined factors affecting entrepreneurship education in Nigeria and its implications for national development. It also examined factors affecting entrepreneurial development generally in Nigeria. It recommends that tertiary institutions should embrace and include entrepreneurship education in their curriculum and intensify efforts towards making it more effective, thereby bringing solution to the problem of unemployment in Nigeria.

 *Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Education, National Development*



Voter Authentication with Card Reader and the Empowerment of Returning/Collation Officers in the 2015 Nigeria General Elections

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Abstract

Returning/Collation Officers (RO/COs) played a major role in the electoral process of the 2015-Nigeria-General-Elections. Their performance largely ensured that duly registered citizens who casted their votes heard of election results accurately reflecting their choices. RO/COs collated (tabulated and summed up) votes casts, and announced votes scored by candidates in the elections. Evidence prevail to show that RO/COs were in the past confronted with the dilemma of being terrified to act in situations where they have to decide on questions arising from, or relating to unmarked ballots, rejected ballots, and where total votes cast at a Polling Unit exceed the number of registered voters. Violent conflicts have arisen from these sorts of situation in past elections. Adopting a Political Settlement Analysis consisting of dynamics-of-change mapping in Charanchi Local Government Area, Katsina State, Nigeria, this paper discusses how the introduction of Card Reader enhanced voters' authentication and further empowered RO/COs to assure transparency and credibility in the 2015-Nigeria-General-Elections. With this, RO/COs assertively cancelled election results where any discrepancy exists between the accredited figure and the total votes cast with little or no resistance from Polling or Party Agents, Contestants and other election officials/stakeholders. Consequently, the use of Card Readers in the 2015-Nigeria-General-Elections enhanced electoral officials' competence to ensure credible and transparent elections, thereby safeguarding the freedom of choice of Nigerians, rather than encumbering the exercise of their franchise. Thus, the balance or distribution of power among electoral officials in the 2015-General-Elections should be maintained in subsequent general elections in Nigeria.

✱ *Keywords: Democracy, Returning Officers, Dynamic of change, Card Reader, General Elections*



Political - Economy and Consequences of Participation and Apathy in Nigerian Politics

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Abstract

Nigerian politics is currently characterized by negative perceptions, poor/low participation and or apathy among the citizens. This is indeed a negative development to any political system and not only to Nigerian political development but to Nigeria's entire socio-economic, security and national interests. This paper examined the political economy and consequences of political participation or apathy among Nigerians. The study used secondary sources of data. It is found that Nigerians' participation or apathy in politics is largely influenced by political economy, lack of confidence in the system, low level of socio-economic development, nature, character and misconception of politics and failure of the state to discharge its basic obligations to the citizenry, lack of confidence in leaders, political instability and an unstable polity associated with apathy. The extent of apathy among Nigerians is alarmingly increasing due to these several factors; there are several negative consequences as irresponsibility in governance. The paper recommends proper and extensive civic education, inculcation and institutionalization of good governance, de-emphasizing materialism in Nigerian politics and general improvement in socio-economic well being of Nigerian citizens to improve and ensure proper participation optimal participation



Keywords: Apathy, Citizen, Economy, Politics and Participation



Nigerians Investing in Africa

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Abstract

The economic linkage between African countries has for the past two decades grown in intensity. Foreign Direct Investment generally regarded as the engine of economic growth has been on the increase especially between Nigeria and other African countries. This has drawn scrutiny from within raising questions of whether this intra-African alliance is beneficial to the country and its developmental goals. This paper investigates the dynamics that influences this growth in intra-African investments using relevant data from several Nigerian multinational companies for analyses. Due to relative scarcity of data on intra African FDI flows and the limited number of host countries, this study analyses variables such as: stock of FDI, jobs create and share of Nigerian owned firms as indicators. The study revealed that the effect of Nigeria's investments in Africa is bi-directional with the MNC's growth indicating a significant contribution to economic growth of both countries. It therefore recommends that Nigeria firms should upgrade their production and operational facilities in order to be internationally competitive and engender a positive attitude toward African investments. Government should enhance clement atmosphere for investment by repositioning the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission its "one-stop shop" for promotion, cultivation and ongoing support of firms looking to invest, to improve its effectiveness.

✱ *Keywords: Intra-African Investments, Nigeria's Foreign Direct Investments, Economic Growth, Economic Linkage.*



Democracy: the Electoral System and Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Democracy, as Black (1979:388) put it, is “that form of government in which the sovereign power resides in and is exercised by the whole body of free citizens directly or indirectly through a system of representation as distinguished from a monarchy, aristocracy or oligarchy.” Thus the central issue in democracy is the promotion of the interest of all the members of a politically organized community as opposed to advancing the interests of, in most cases, some irresponsible, deceitful and self seeking minority groups. In Nigeria, however, democracy has come to mean oligarchy, decorated with beautiful flowers of democracy seen at a distance. All politically democratic structures are beautifully put in place but consciously or unconsciously, they are not allowed to function normally. Thus, the business of government keeps on circulating among a few click of political maneuvers who almost totally neglect the interest of the populace for their own selfish gain. Nigeria, as such, ends up with the ironical situation of being the 'Giant of Africa', very rich but the citizens are poor. The paper intends to identify and analyze the causes and consequences of abuse of democracy in the country through the electoral system and the impact on national development. As a phenomenological, qualitative study, the research shall be much more concerned with how the electoral system is used to turn democracy into oligarchy and how political actions and inactions constitute a barrier to national development and deter the realization of the dividends of democracy in the country. A combination of both focus group discussion (FGD) and random interview shall be conducted in the six geo-political zones in the country. The FGD shall involve electorates in, at least, two capital cities in each of the six geo-political zones while the interview shall involve the electorates in selected rural local governments in each zone where the true picture of development can be assessed. The data gathered shall be subjected to content analysis to establish causality among the relevant variables. The discussions are expected to come out with the real actors behind the political scene in Nigeria from independence of 1960 to 2014. Concrete recommendations shall be made as to the way forward to complement the efforts of the present regime of President Muhammadu Buhari.

 *Keywords: Democracy, Nigeria, Electoral System, Development, Oligarchy.*



Women's Status and Desired Family Size

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Abstract

The desire for large family size is one of the factors influencing fertility in Nigeria. Thus understanding the factor that influence the fertility intentions of women that is being reflected by her socio-economic and demographic data, and serves as an importance for family planning program purposes and population policy. The objective is to determine the effect of women's status on desired family size, factors that modifies desired family size, and investigate the prevailing factor of women's status on desired family size. A quantitative questionnaire was constructed employing 250 respondents of women of reproductive age, and of which regression analysis was used to make the analysis. From findings, a greater intention to limit childbearing is associated with exposure to media promoting family planning, current use of contraceptives, as well as future use of contraceptives, household decision making. In conclusion, a moderate proportion of women desired to limit or reduce their desired family size but there was a low connection for education of the women in question, their age at marriage, as well as the husband's occupation, thus improving access to family planning services to women who have achieved their fertility goals would be greatly important, as well as boosting the age at marriage, increasing awareness, and enhancing husband's occupation, would greatly make an impact.

✧ *Keywords: Women Status, Desired Family Size, Family Planning*



Towards the Sustainable Return of West African Transnational Migrants—what are the Options?

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Abstract

Return migration is not an end in itself and changes with the expansion and deepening of the globalisation process. As further understanding of the process develops, focus is shifting from the migrant's presence at origin to include the returnee's social networks and his or her contribution to the development process at origin. Remittances from transnational migrants have the potential to impact on the development of sending households, local communities and countries of origin. However in order to maximize this potential in a sustainable manner appropriate policies must be formulated, implemented and assessed. Using existing data this paper explores the sustainable return of transnational migrants originating from West Africa and the impact of their remittances on the development process, further analysing the data for implications for policy.

✧ *Keywords: Migration, Return Migration, Social Networks, Remittances, Development Impacts, West Africa*



Terrorism and Africa's Development in the 21st Century: the Experience in North-East Nigeria Since 2000

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Abstract

The paper interrogates terrorism as a global challenge to development in the 21st Century with focus on Africa but with particularism on the North-East region of Nigeria between 2000 to date. It found out that terrorism evolved hydra-headed trends such as forced population displacement, insecurity and militarization as well as the problem of refugee among others which undermined not only the quest for sustainable development of the region and Nigeria but Africa at large. It suggests that the fight against terrorism should be taken seriously by all and sundry-every Nigerian /African and well wishers of Africa should contribute in their individual or collective capacities in the fight against terrorism. It shouldn't be a fight of Nigeria's North-East and Africa alone. Again, the paper suggests that the government in Nigeria at all levels should be more proactive in the fight against terrorism among others. Information and data for the paper was gathered from oral sources, archives of development administration organizations some of which include the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and the Red Cross Society (RCS) etc. The oral sources involved granting of face-to-face interviews with relevant stake holders who were asked relevant questions on the subject matter. Data and information was also drawn from participation and experience as well as from written and internet sources. There has been high-level corroboration between the sources which have paved way for the facts being presented in the paper.

 *Keywords: Terrorism, Development, Experience, Africa, and, 21st Century*



Perspectives on Terrorism in Central Nigeria Area Since 2001

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Abstract

One of the greatest challenges to development across the globe in the 21st Century has being terrorism. This paper has brought to fore an entirely new perspective on terrorism, different from the popular yet unpopular Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria. It has determined and examined the trends in Fulani herdsmen terrorism in the Central Nigeria Area since 2001”, one of which is guerilla tact. The paper posits that Fulani herdsmen terrorism in the area negatively impacted on the people as well as the sum total of sustainable development processes; their nefarious acts as well militarized and heightened insecurity in the area even as it has being in a democratic arena. It has among other suggestions advocated for more proactive measures by the government at all levels in Nigeria in the fight against Fulani herdsmen terrorism. One of such measures entails identifying both the remote and immediate causes of the herdsmen actions then formulate and apply the most appropriate strategy in solving the problem. The paper is both empirical and theoretical hence information and data for it were drawn from experience and participation, oral informants, written and internet sources. There has been great deal of corroboration of the information and data gathered from the various sources in order to ascertain the authenticity of the facts being presented.

✧ *Keywords: Terrorism, Fulani herdsmen, Central Nigeria Area, and Development*



Issues and Challenges Influencing the Growth Pattern of Infants (0-6Months): a Case Study in Igbere Bende Local Government Area of Abia State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) practice remains a challenge in developing countries such as Nigeria (17%) and other African countries. The study determined factors influencing the growth pattern of infants (0-6months). A prospective cohort study was carried out in the five health centres in the study area. The period of the study was from May 2014 to October 2014. A total of one hundred and seventy-five (175) mothers and infants were recruited for the study and infants growth were monitored for a period of 6 months. Information obtained from questionnaire were individual and socioeconomic characteristics and infant feeding practices of the mothers. Anthropometric measurement (weight, length and head circumference) was carried out on the infants and monitored at each visit for the study period. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics, t-test and regression analysis. The result revealed that less than half (40.6%) of the mothers had secondary school uncompleted compared to 29.1% of their husbands while 49.1% of their husbands completed secondary school compared to 33.7% of the mothers. Majority (78.3%) of the mothers initiated breastfeeding immediately after birth for the index child. Very few (2.3% and 1.7% respectively) of the mothers exclusively breastfed for 5-6 months and 6 months and above. At 4th month, majority (86.3% and 85.7% respectively) of the male and female infants were wasted, while almost all (100%) the infants had normal length-for-age throughout the study period. Being a housewife significantly influenced ($P<0.05$) the weight-for-length (WHZ), and BMI-for-age (BAZ) of the infants. It contributed to 14.3% to the variability in the mean (WHZ) and 13.3% (BAZ) of the infants. Low income of mothers significantly influenced ($P<0.05$) the WHZ, weight-for-age (WAZ), and BAZ of the infants, with 20.4% (WHZ), 11.6% (WAZ), and 20.6% (BAZ) of the infants. Breastfeeding immediately after birth significantly influenced ($P<0.05$) length-for-age (HAZ) of the infants. Exclusive breastfeeding and timely introduction of complementary food should be advocated especially in the rural areas where the knowledge of proper infant feeding practices is still low.

✧ *Keywords: Infant Feeding Practices, Weight-for-Length, Weight-for-Age, BMI-for-Age*




Moringa: an Under-Exploited Potential for Food Security and Nutrition

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Abstract

This paper exposes that *Moringa oleifera* is one of the underutilized crop that has great potentials. It also pointed out that underutilized species such as *Moringa oleifera* represent an enormous wealth of agro biodiversity and has great under-exploited potential for contributing to food security and nutrition and for combating the hidden hunger caused by micronutrient deficiencies. They often have medicinal properties and other multiple uses. They also provide options for improved environmental services to the global community. This paper then concludes that it is pertinent to promote the utilization and consumption of some under-utilized species particularly *Moringa* and it is hoped that this will promote agricultural biodiversity through increased *Moringa* cultivation, utilization and consumption. Agricultural biodiversity helps to increase food availability in food insecure communities and improves household food choices thus ensuring dietary diversity, better nutrition and health.

 *Keywords: Moringa, Food Security, Nutrition and Agricultural Biodiversity.*



Regulatory Efforts in Preventing Banking Failures in Nigeria: the Role of the Depositor

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Abstract

Over the years the number of bank failures has been on the increased in both developed and developing economies. Bank failures occur when a bank is unable to meet its obligation to its depositors or other creditors because it has become insolvent or too illiquid to meet its liabilities. Banking failures generate losses to stakeholders by disturbing the settlement system, and even has a systematic effect on the entire economy. An Industry's regulatory framework can have a major impact on the efficiency and direction in which the Industry evolves. Regulation of banks in Nigeria is largely the remit of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). Regulation is all encompassing in that all key players must be taken into consideration, and must play their roles effectively for regulation to succeed. Unfortunately, depositors' (being key stakeholders) role(s) in preventing/minimizing banking failures have been neglected, such that depositors play little or no role(s) to complement the CBN. The purpose of the study is to find out why depositors play insignificant role(s) in preventing/minimizing bank failures. Questionnaire survey method and interview method were used for this study. Questionnaires were administered on bank customers and interview as well conducted in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria comprising. The result showed that 93 percent of customers never care to know the activities of their banks, thus could not in any way influence the activities of their banks. The fact is that customer's knowledge of banks activities is itself a check on how banks undertake their activities. Therefore, financial literacy, the information disclosure and customer awareness campaign must be undertaken by the CBN to aggressively encourage depositors to develop interest in the activities of their banks, and will in turn act as an additional check on banks. This is apparently important in Nigeria where banks failure has overtime become one too many.

✧ *Keywords: Bank; Central Bank; Depositors; Failures; Insolvent; Regulation.*



Institutions, Voice and Accountability: a Comparative Study of Poverty and Access to Relevant Agricultural Advisory Services in East Africa

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Abstract

The gaps in social policy between what is needed, what can be afforded and what is provided are today as wide as ever in rural areas of East Africa, where the majority of the poor live in rural areas. International debate on social policy in poor developing countries is arguing for a change in the focus and scope. Citizen-centered welfare pluralism relies on good governance, which in a social policy sense refers to how responsive a political regime is to the needs and wishes of its people. The study examines patterns of social exclusion and marginalization from institutions that provide agricultural advisory services in East Africa. Based on selected case studies, the study analyzes the characteristics of rural poverty and reviews underlying causes of marginalization and poverty reduction. The study further analyzes experiences with demand-driven advisory services and explains contrasting results in terms of farmer empowerment and institutional transformation of local government extension staff. The study concludes that (i) farmer empowerment through participation in farmer field schools and (ii) institutional transformation of local government staff have a positive effect on the social inclusiveness and effectiveness of demand-driven advisory services. Social policy perspectives of these findings are discussed.

✱ *Keywords: Citizen-centered Social Policy, Rural Poverty, Demand Driven Advisory Services, Farmer Empowerment, Farmer field schools, Africa*



Regional Concept and the Contemporary Challenges of Regional Development Institutions in the Niger Delta of Nigeria

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Abstract

The ideology of regional policy, planning and development remains an early concept attempting to create spatial balance in the allocation and distribution of developmental resources and to reduce inequality within and among regions. Several countries of high developmental esteem, like France, Germany, Britain and USA adopted different regional policies to address their challenges at various periods. In Nigeria, regional institutions were first established in 1962 sequel to the recommendations of Sir Willink's Commission in 1958 to create sustainable economic and environmental friendliness and to reduce deplorable social conditions in the Niger Delta. This paper examines the challenges faced by the regional institutions like, Niger Delta Boards, Niger Delta River Basin Authority and Niger Delta Development Commission among others in the oil rich region. Findings reveal confronting challenges of administrative inconsistency, poor funding, increasing corruption, political marginalization, and confusion in the spatial delineation of the region. Institutions are reduced to address duplication of functions, while regional projects should be people oriented and participatory.

 *Keywords: Region, Institution, Niger Delta, Challenges*



Animal Farm: a True Replica of Contemporary/Post-Colonial Africa

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Abstract

Although Orwell was said to have written the fable prose fictional piece *Animal Farm* to portray the Russian or (Bolshevik) revolution of 1917 as one that resulted in a government more oppressive, totalitarian and deadly than the one it overthrew. But the novel truly reflects the contemporary/post colonial Africa. This paper argues that the oppressive, totalitarian, deadly and corrupt nature of government in Africa is the major problem militating against Africa development. Using Nigeria as a point of reference, the study observes the social, political, economic, cultural, educational, etc issues as discussed in Orwell's '*Animal Farm*'. It then relates these to the contemporary/post-colonial Africa in order to make a comparative analysis and establish a relationship or correlation between '*Animal Farm*' and Africa. The paper then concludes that an improvement in African leadership style and the system of government will definitely result in the improvement and development of Africa.

✱ *Keywords: Animal farm, Replica, Post-colonial, Africa*



The Political Economy of Poverty, Equity and Growth: a Comparative Study

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Abstract

This wide-ranging and innovative book synthesises the findings of a major international study of the political economy of poverty, equity, and growth. It is based primarily on analytical economic histories of 21 developing countries from 1950 to 1985, but also takes account of the wider literature on the subject. The authors take an ambitious interdisciplinary approach to identify patterns in the interplay of initial conditions, institutions, interests, and ideas which can help to explain the different growth and poverty alleviation outcomes in the Third World. Three different types of poverty are distinguished, based on their causes, and a more nebulous idea of equity in contrast to egalitarianism is shown to have influenced policy. Since growth is found to be the major means of alleviating mass structural poverty, much of the book is concerned with discovering explanations for policies which are found to be the most important influences on the proximate causes of growth. Lal and Myint also consider the available evidence on the role of direct transfers public and private in alleviating destitution and conjunctural poverty. The Political Economy of Poverty, Equity, and Growth develops a novel framework for the comparative analysis of different growth outcomes. This framework distinguishes between the different relative factor endowments of land, labour, and capital, and between the different organizational structures of present versus plantation and mining economies. It also differentiates between the polities of 'autonomous' and 'factional' states in the countries studied, breaking the analysis down into further typological subdivisions and providing important new insights into the differing behaviour of economies that are rich in natural resources and those with abundant labour. These insights constitute a richer explanation for the divergent developmental outcomes in East Asia compared with Latin America and Africa. The evidence collated is used to argue for the continuing relevance of the classical liberal viewpoint on public policies for development, and to show why, even so, nationalist ideologies are likely to be adopted and lead to cycles of interventionism and liberalism. The evidence is also used to provide an explanation for the surprising current worldwide Age of Reform.



Keywords: Political Economy, Poverty, Equity & Growth



Environmental Challenges for Sustainable Livelihood Among Farming Communities in the Hadejia-Nguru Wetland, Jigawa State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Jigawa State has high potentials for agricultural production for household consumption, commerce and industry uses. Over 70% of the State's landmass is considered arable which make it one of the most agriculturally endowed State in Nigeria. The Hadejia-Nguru wetland (HNW) supports more about 1.5 million farmers, fishermen, and herders who solely depend on it for their livelihoods. However over the years the area covered by this potential agricultural land has been bedeviled by environmental challenges and problems. This research focused on the challenges and prospect of agricultural production as well as sustainable rural livelihood among farming communities in Hadejia-Nguru wetland area in Jigawa State. Data collection was done through focus group discussion (FGD) which involved groups of Farmers. A total of 360 farmers had been selected through purposive sampling. It was discovered that the major problems inhibiting the progress of farming activities and sustainable livelihood in the region were flood, aquatic weed (Typha), Quelea birds and the shortage of fertilizer in the study areas. In conclusion, It was suggested by all the communities visited that there should be controlled release of dams during dry season which will provide adequate irrigation water to the farmers in dry season as well as drastically reduce the volume of the water which could prevent overflowing in rainy season. Similarly the farmers recommended that the government should increase its subsidized fertilizer allocations substantially so that more farmers can access cheaper fertilizer thereby lowering their cost of production and increase production. The paper recommends that the state governments that directly benefit from the wetland, the federal government, neighboring countries like Chad and the International community should take a holistic – scientific based approach to overcome the problems of flooding, Typha grass, and Quelea birds in the region.



Keywords: Environmental Challenges, Sustainable Livelihood and Wetland



Investigating Secondary Schools Outcomes in Nigeria: a Case of Macroeconomic Management

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Abstract

This paper examined the impact of macroeconomic variables on schooling outcomes in Nigeria. The study spanned a period of 1980–2013 and the variables employed include, students' performance in SSCE (dependent variables), urban population, inflation, unemployment, government recurrent expenditure on education and real GDP (independent variables). The Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF) test was used to determine the stochastic properties of the series. Other econometric methods such as cointegration and Error Correction mechanism were used. It found that all variables exhibited non-stationary at different level. The result indicates that students' performance in SSCE cointegrates with all the identified explanatory variables. The study shows that macroeconomic variables have a positive but insignificant impact on schooling outcomes in the long-run which differs from the a priori expectation where macroeconomic variables such as inflation and unemployment were expected to have a negative impact on schooling outcomes. The major policy implication for this study is, to have a better and meaningful schooling outcome in Nigeria; Government should accelerate the provision of enabling environment by ensuring macroeconomic stabilities that will encourage better schooling outcomes. More attractive incentives should also be provided in education in order to attract both domestic and foreign qualified personnel required in human development.



Keywords: Macroeconomic Variables, SSCE Performance




A Multiple Source of Innovation Model of Agricultural Research and Technology Promotion

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Abstract

Two models of agricultural research and technology diffusion are described and contrasted. The central source of innovation model frequently underlies the theories and rhetoric of agricultural research and extension institutions. The multiple source of innovation model places agricultural research and diffusion processes in the historical, political, economic, agroclimatic, and institutional context in which technological change takes place. The paper discusses the evidence and reasons for the dominance of the central model and reviews the significance of the multiple source model for agricultural research policy.

 *Keywords: Innovation Model, Agriculture, Research, Technology*



Bitter Harvest: the Social Costs of State Failure in Rural Kenya

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Abstract

Over the last two decades, Kenyans have suffered serious reverses in economic and social well being. This paper, based on research in six districts, explores the causes and social consequences of economic decline in rural areas. Conceptually, three aspects of this process are distinguished. The driving factors responsible for the erosion of rural livelihood systems are identified as reduced access to land and other natural resources, the corruption or collapse of formal institutions, and declining human capital due in considerable part to the impact of HIV / AIDs. Second, the coping mechanisms by which individuals and groups have responded to declining assets, services and opportunities are explored. These strategies include economic diversification and new forms of local collective action. Thirdly, the paper describes the impacts of these processes of change on gender and inter-generational relations in rural households, in which livelihood stress is increasingly reflected in tension and violence. Social disintegration and anomie are signalled in the upsurge of crime, violence and insecurity which have become a recent characteristic of rural Kenya, and the paper goes on to consider the incidence and social consequences of these phenomena.

✱ *Keywords: Africa; Kenya, Rural Development, Livelihoods, Coping Strategies, Diversification, Crime; Violence, Gender, Social Exclusion, Anomie*



Determinants of Net Interest Margin of Listed Deposit Money Banks in Nigeria

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Abstract

Consolidation of banks that took place in Nigeria in recent years has sparked up public debates on the influence and importance of net interest margin as a performance index in the banking industry. This study examines the determinants of net interest margin of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria. The study formulates three hypotheses and applies longitudinal panel data regression to analyze the relationship between the dependent variable, net interest margin and the independent variables, bank cost efficiency, bank liquidity risk and bank size of the sampled banks. Furthermore, the study utilizes secondary data extracted from the financial statements of the banks over the period 2007 through to 2014. The result of the OLS regression provides evidence that bank liquidity risk has a significant impact on net interest margin of listed sampled deposit money banks in Nigeria. It also shows that bank cost efficiency and bank size have no significant impact on net interest margin of listed sampled deposit money banks in Nigeria. Based on the findings, the study recommends among others that deposit money banks should de-emphasis on the policy of mass reduction in the bank cost efficiency in the banking industry in order to achieve an effective banking environment. This is because bank cost efficiency does not have any strong effect on the net interest margin of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria. Instead, the apex bank should provide incentive to ensure a competitive banking environment that will motivate banks to increase their liquidity risk, because it is liquidity risk and efficiency that drives the net interest margin of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria.



Keywords: Determinants Interest on Money Deposit



Scaling Up Slums and Squatter Settlements Upgrading in Thailand Leading to Community-Driven Integrated Social Development at City-Wide Level

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Abstract

Typically, governments and international agencies support 'upgrading' programmes for 'slums' and squatter settlements through improvements in infrastructure or housing. The paper discusses the merits of a different approach to reducing urban poverty by community organizations in large scale. The paper examines the role of ownership of the upgrading process which has changed the relationship between urban poor communities and local governments so these communities become accepted as legitimate parts of the city and have more space and freedom to develop their own responses. This paper describes an ambitious national slum and squatter upgrading programme "The Baan Mankong Program" launched by the Thai government in 2003 and implemented through the Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI). If reconceived in this way, 'upgrading' can be a powerful intervention to rebuild strong social collective unit among poor people communities and to become basic safety net for poor members in the community, to reduce poverty and support decentralization and 'good' local governance. It concludes that upgrading brings about significant change and strengthens the social system and the internal relationship of people in the same community.

✧ *Keywords: Urban Poverty, Slum and Squatter Settlements, Slum Upgrading, Large Scale, Community Based Solutions, Decentralization*



Gender, Human Rights, Environmental Security and the Peace Question in Nigeria Development

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Abstract

Freedom, equality and justice are among the basic pillars of contemporary liberal democracy. However, the realities of the Nigerian state in terms of freedom of choice, equality before the law, gender equity and social justice appear to contradict these liberal democratic values and ethos. The implication of the scenario is that Nigerians are habitually denied equal treatment and opportunity not to just to participate in public life; but the conducive atmosphere and healthy environment needed for self preservation through social production and reproduction, which in turn denies the country the benefit of lasting period of peace. This is so because each of the aggrieved groups that believe they are being denied their rights relative to other groups in the society constantly agitate either legally or illegally for their liberties and rights to be restored. The study investigated the link between gender inequality, human rights violation, environmental insecurity and the peace question in the country. We predicated our analysis on the relative deprivation model of frustration-aggression theory. We made use of secondary sources of data and applied the qualitative descriptive method of data analysis. We observed that within the Nigerian society that women are marginalization in public life, human rights violation and environmental insecurity constitute threats to peace in the country. We therefore, recommend that gender mainstreaming, respect for human rights and the institutionalization of environmental security regime aimed at addressing the various natural and human induced environmental despoliations around the country that usually results in one form of conflict or the other will facilitate and promote enduring peace in the country.



*Keywords: Gender, Human Rights, Environmental Security,
 Peace in National Development and Conflict*



Towards Inclusive Institutions

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Abstract

Donors have paid little attention to capacity of partner institutions, how they exclude, and influence patterns of exclusion and inclusion. This paper tries to develop a framework for interrogating practices of public institutions, how do include and exclude, and how donors relate to these. This is done partly through an analysis of policies for affirmative action. In many contexts, deep-rooted differences and inequalities continue to pervade progressive public policy practices. The paper shows how in India, social differentiation has been reinforced by policy and political practices, including by donor engagement: through categories and classifications used, official inaction or delays, attitudes of officials, and modes of representation including through civil society organisations. Policy recommendation revolve around strengthening our understanding about social policy institutions, how they include and exclude, and how they impact upon often informal practices of inclusion and exclusion. Engagement with welfarist policy arenas is important, as these provide important battle grounds for marginalised groups, and lessons from these areas provide insight about broader public policy instruments and their ability to promote inclusion. Realism is key, as changing deep rooted attitudes is extremely difficult, and donors need to become more strategic and self-aware in addressing this.

✱ *Keywords: Social Policy, Exclusion and Inclusion, Affirmative Action,
Social Categories, Attitudes*



Adoption of Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) in Tourism Industry: a Case of Osogbo and Olorunda Local Government Areas in Osun State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Hotel accommodation in Nigeria is comparatively more expensive than its neighbours in the sub region of West Africa. It is one of the most expensive globally. This is attributable to its operating environment. Any sustainable means of reducing running costs would be most welcome. A study on adoption of renewable energy technologies (RET) was conducted in Osogbo and Olorunda Local Government Areas of Osun State, Nigeria. Data were obtained from registered hotels in the two local government areas through structured questionnaires. Results were presented descriptively. Knowledge and awareness about RET were high among the managers of the hotels with 82.5%. Solar energy technology was the most popular among the respondents with 65.0%, while radio and internet constituted the highest sources of knowledge and awareness with 30.0 and 22.5% respectively. Among the hotels, 30.0% have adopted RET with the level of adoption stated to be moderate and low with 41.7% respectively. Solar energy technology was the most RET adopted with 83.3% of respondents. Among the hotels that have not adopted RET, 92.9% were willing to adopt RET, with all of them (100%) willing to adopt solar energy. However, 7.1% of those currently not adopting RET had previously adopted solar energy technology. Cost of maintenance of the technology, lack of expertise in maintenance and lack of spare parts were ranked first, second and third respectively as reasons for discontinuance of adoption of the technology. For the hotels that have adopted RET, appreciable savings (15%) on cost of running was made, encouraging the provision of gym and outdoor recreational facilities, thereby leading to physical wellness of their customers. There is need for major policy shift by government in favour of solar energy technology and adoption. This policy should not be on awareness alone, but also in the provision of solar energy backbones and infrastructures, training and capacity building in installation, equipment parts and maintenance of the technology in order to increase and sustain adoption in tourism sector.

✧ *Keywords: Renewable Energy, Hotels, Technology, Adoption and Customers.*



Gender and Social Inclusion: Social Policy Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean

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Abstract

Based on recent experience and good practices with women's inclusion, this paper analyzes some of the basic building blocks for social inclusion policies in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). It distinguishes 3 levels of interventions to advance social inclusion: (1) constitutional frameworks and national policies, (2) institutional arrangements, and (3) pro-active programs to counter specific forms of exclusion. In order to promote inclusion, first it is necessary to insure constitutional and legal protections for group rights. International and national anti-discrimination laws are among the necessary instruments to fight discrimination. National policies include counting excluded groups in national statistics and enacting land and property rights. Second, the paper examines the experience of LAC with government ministries or offices (“national machineries”) created to promote women's empowerment. It finds that “mainstreaming” the concerns of excluded groups in agencies or ministries has worked in the case of gender inclusion, but success depends on strong support from the executive branch, close alliance with non-state actors and both cultural and political openings. Finally, the paper examines three sets of public policies in affirmative action, education and labor markets to promote inclusion, with particular emphasis on gender. LAC experience offers a good example of the need for both complementary actions in different sectors and participation of state and non-state actors to advance in social inclusion.

✱ *Keywords: Social Inclusion; Gender Inclusion; National Machineries for Women
Affirmative Action; Social Policy; Inclusive Education; Inclusive Labor Markets*



Cultural Tourism: the Gateway to Socio Economic Development in Nigeria: Study on Osun State Nigeria.

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Abstract

Cultural tourism is an industry committed to making a low impact on the environment, locale culture, festival, etc. while helping to generate income and employment opportunities for the locale. Tourists who promote sustainable cultural tourism are sensitive to the cultural belief and norms that are gradually going into extinction and the rich cultural resources that abound in Nigeria. The paper focus on culture been a unique way of life of particular people that differentiates them from their neighbors. It examined the socio economic roles of cultural tourism to the development of Nigeria. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentage method, result shows that 35 respondents representing 87.5% agreed that cultural tourism has a significant role to play in the socio economic development of Nigeria. The study concluded that cultural tourism is an important aspect of the nation's economic sector that should be given adequate consideration for economic sustainability. The researcher recommended that various investment opportunities abound in the nation's cultural resources if well developed and maintained.



Keywords: Culture, Tourism, Development, Sustainability, Industry.



Between Propaganda and Truth: Socioeconomic Realities and the Prospects of Buhari-Led APC Administration Moving Nigeria Forward

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Abstract

Revelations and assurances from both sides of the political divides in Nigeria prior to the 2015 general elections have seemingly turned out riddles. While the outgoing PDP-led government in all its programmes and aggressive media onslaught assured Nigeria that all was well and that Nigeria was on the path of historically unsurpassed transformation and development, the new office seekers, APC, were busy providing the hint that Nigeria was in dare danger; but yet went ahead to make appealing promises that the nation will get fixed once elected into office. With recent post-election evidence of collapsed fiscal capacity of states and federal government to pay workers salaries, stark revelation of massive infrastructural decay that reveals years of utter neglect across Southeast, South-South, Southwest and Northern part of the country as reveal in the ongoing nationwide inspection by the Senator Barnabas Gemade-led Committee of the Senate, one wonders how fast the pre-election evidences of transformation have taken their flight from almost every corner of Nigeria. Contrary to the pre-election assurances of 'transformation' and 'instant rescue', the Nigerian economy has continued its sharp decline. Consequently, indications from across country reveal that Nigeria may indeed be heading towards avoidable paralysis if the new administration fails to adopt sound recovery measures. Towards situating a sustainable future, this paper adopting content analysis of available data, attempts critical analysis of official claims and promises in the periods immediately before and after the 2015 general election to determine what critical steps need to be taken by the new administration restore good governance and recover the embattled Nigerian destiny.

✱ *Keywords: Good Governance, Propaganda and Truth, Socioeconomic Realities, Fiscal Capacity Decline, Buhari Administration and Sustainable Development in Nigeria.*



The Environment and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: a Green Economy Approach

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Abstract

Environment and development have a strong causal relationship. They are the essential components of state survival and sustainability. Supported by Green Approach, the environment is capable of sustaining the developmental strides of any state. In recent times the Green Economy approach has become one of the most significant instruments of sustainable development. While questioning the substance of carbon oriented industrialization in achieving sustainable development, Green Economy Approach presents an option kind of practice that enables an understanding of achieving development that does not compromise the needs of the future generation. Using the descriptive-analytic method and relying heavily on secondary data, the research is carried out to interrogate the relationship between the environment and sustainable development. The work adopts the theory of environmentalism as a framework of analysis and found out that, techno-centrism have led to serious environmental degradation as a result of the manipulative tendencies of man, who sees himself as master of the environment. The research recommends among other things the need for states to educate their citizens on the necessity to go green and collaboration with the international community toward green economy as sure ways of achieving sustainable development.



Keywords: Environment, Development, Green Economy, Industrialization, Sustainable Development



Monitoring Social Policy Outcomes in Jamaica: Democratic Evaluation and Institutional Change

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Abstract

This paper documents a continuing initiative to monitor and improve social policy in Jamaica. Developed as a key component of the Jamaica Social Policy Evaluation (JASPEV) process, the initiative seeks to link technical innovation in the collection and flow of information to a process of institutional change and inclusiveness at different levels of governance. Under JASPEV, the Jamaican Cabinet Office is promoting a system of locally-generated but nationally-comparable benchmark indicators designed to encourage institutional change in the relationship between citizens, the political directorate and technocrats that will improve social policy design and delivery. This involves citizens in sampled communities as primary gatherers of outcome and impact monitoring data on a chosen theme, the first theme chosen being “youth inclusion”. This institutional challenge is considerable. The politicised nature of institutions in Jamaica, the role of hierarchy and patronage and the prevalence of “turfism” within and between political parties is widely recognised. The challenge faced should not be understated, yet the set-up of JASPEV is beginning to create political space for institutional change and greater inclusiveness, through its emphasis on the interaction of nodes of local and national evidence-based policy discussions.



Keywords: Social Policy, Social Monitoring, Institutional Change, Jamaica



Population Dynamics and Economic Development in Nigeria, 1970-2011

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Abstract

This study analyzed the economic relationship between population changes and economic development in Nigeria between 1970 and 2011. Time series data on selected population, macroeconomic and development variables were compiled from publications of the National Bureau of Statistics and Central Bank of Nigeria and subjected to relevant analysis. The study adopted the regression analysis framework based on the conditional convergence model of Barro (1997) and the error correction mechanism. The Error Correction Mechanism model was used to determine the short run adjustment mechanism of the long run equilibrium process while the Granger causality test was used to determine causality. The results of the analysis indicated that, in Nigeria, population growth has no significant effect on economic development. In line with the findings, it was recommended that efforts be made to redefine the nation's population policy to encourage increased use of contraceptives as a way of reducing fertility while better female labour force participation in economic activities should be ensured as a way of boosting growth and development.

✱ *Keywords: Population Changes, Demographic Transition, Malthusian Theory, Economic Growth*



Arenas of Child Support Interfaces of Family, State and NGO Provisions of Social Security

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Abstract

This paper provides an overview of national policy on child welfare in Uganda and goes on to explore the provision of social security for children in three arenas: government programs, NGO projects, and family networks. While state and NGO interventions conform to the principles laid out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990), family support is embedded in kinship expectations and obligations. We examine the contrast between the rights-based (state and NGO) approach to children as individuals and the kinship-based (family) treatment of them as embedded in social relations. We discuss the balance between government attempts to provide universal frameworks for child welfare, such as primary education, and NGO efforts to target support at specific vulnerable groups. The criterion for including some children as vulnerable and excluding others does not always fit with local realities. The paper is based on ethnographic research in eastern Uganda and document reviews. Examples include support to children's education, protection from sexual harassment and inheritance of parent's property. The policy recommendations are: to strengthen collaboration between government, donors, and NGOs at local level; to take measures to improve universal child welfare; to base targeted interventions on local needs assessment and children as active participants; and to support children's long-term security in immediate social contexts.

✱ *Keywords: Child Rights, Social Protection, Universalistic Welfare, Family, NGOs, State, Uganda*



Characterization of Dairy Farm Manure

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Abstract

The increasing quantity and volume of manure especially from the large and mechanized farms demand proper handling to reduce or eliminate threats to water, land and air resources. This paper presents the characterization of manure from a dairy farm. The physical, chemical and microbiological properties of the dairy cattle manure 'as excreted' for the lactating, dry and heifer cow was determined in accordance with recommended methods of manure analysis at the laboratory of the Niger State Water Board, Minna. The average age and weight of the young heifer is about 10 months and 200kg while those of the lactating are about 30 months and 800kg respectively. The lactating manure had the highest BOD₅ and COD values of 2.40mg/l and 7.20mg/l respectively compared to the dairy and heifer manures. Laboratory analysis of manure is an important management tool to use crop nutrients profitably and efficiently on the farm. Published estimates of average manure nutrients can be misleading for planning appropriate application rates as nutrient content of manure can vary from farm to farm and species to species hence, the need to determine the nutrient levels in manure is to take a representative sample for laboratory analysis as seasonal changes during the year. The farm managers can use the methods and results of this work for manure planning schemes. In-situ manure characterization is highly recommended to avoid the error arising from the decomposition of the manure while transporting the manure to the laboratory.



*Keywords: Dairy Farm, Lactating, Heifer, Cow, Manure, Properties,
Characterization, Land, Water and Air Resources*



Impact of Public Expenditure on Economic Growth: Evidence from Nigeria's Data

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Abstract

The paper investigates the impact of public expenditure on economic growth with evidence from Nigeria's data in a democratic era (2000-2014). Secondary data sourced from the Central Bank of Nigeria was used. Econometric modelling was adopted and the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) was employed as the technique used to analyse the impact of public expenditure on growth in a system of multiple regression equation. The result shows that public expenditure has an insignificant positive impact on growth in Nigeria. The paper recommends that public expenditure should be directed to priority sectors such as infrastructure, education and power for it to impact significantly on growth in the country. The diversification of the economy has become necessary to diversify non-oil revenue sources and finance public expenditure in the light of falling oil earnings in Nigeria due to shocks in oil prices in the world market, amongst other recommendations.

✧ *Keywords: Public Expenditure, Investment, Economic Growth, Impact, Model, Economy*





School of Management Sciences



Influence of Job Security on Employee Turnover in Selected Medium-Sized Hotels in Kisumu City

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Abstract

Hotels invest a lot on their employees in terms of induction and training, developing, maintaining and retaining them in their organization. Therefore, managers at all costs must minimize employee turnover. The research sought to establish the extent to which job security affect employee turnover. The research adopted Herzberg's two factor theory. The research design was survey. A target of 24 medium size hotels in Kisumu City comprising a population of 350 employees was used. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the hotels, while stratified sampling method was used to select departments and simple random sampling was used to select the respondents from the departments. A sample size of six hotels comprising 187 employees and 24 management staff was selected for this study. Collection of data was done using questionnaires administered to the general employees and management staff. Descriptive and inferential statistics was used to analyze the data. The findings indicated that job security negatively affected employee turnover ($p=.005$) 2-tailed. The findings indicated that job security significantly affect employee turnover. Employee turnover was affected by job security practices that have been used to reduce employee turnover. The findings indicate that the hotel industry employees have not entered into workers unions. This may be attributed to lack of a union to fight for their rights resulting to high employee turnover as some of them can be dismissed any how. This is as a result of high number of employees being lowly uneducated and the kinds of jobs they perform are more casual. This can also be interpreted to mean that Kenya Union of Domestic Hotels, Educational Institutions and Allied Workers (KUDHEIHA) should come out stronger and incorporate hotel employees and bargain better terms for them to enhance their well being and job security. One of the practices that is applied to reduce employee turnover is job security. According to the study employees have emphasized job security in terms of medical cover such as that of NHIF dues is paid and other financial benefits. The hotel management should establish reasons of employees leaving and try to solve the problems given by holding an exit interview whenever possible. Umbrella bodies and the government should provide adequate job security to the employees who are not unionized.

✱ *Keywords: Turnover, Job, Security, Employee*



The Management and Challenges of Termites Infestations of Buildings in the Federal Polytechnic, Damaturu Yobe State Nigeria

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Abstract

The major problem in tropical climates like Yobe state is the propensity that timber and other cellulous materials of building structures may be attacked by termites due to the “white ants” forming colonies in the ground where a nest housing the queen is found. In the Federal Polytechnic Damaturu, the termites have created an obvious eyesore which hitherto reduces the value of the institution's buildings, both physically and economically. Therefore, this paper aimed to find ways to managing termites attack on buildings of the institution. It has examined the extent of destruction to the properties, and also evaluated the type of maintenance management system adopted by the school authority. This research discovered that termite's activities or damages are found on the roofs, walls or the façade of the buildings, intersection of walls and floors. In fact the junction of the walls is particularly vulnerably affected. This has also lead to the conclusion that they have established colonies on the roofs of most buildings in the school. Since termite management involves reducing the chances that major damage is caused to the buildings by termite infestation, long-term protection can be achieved through a planned or scheduled chemical fumigation of the buildings or the use of physical barriers (or both) to prevent termites from penetrating the structures. Proper construction techniques, such as foundation trench treatment with concentrated anti-termites solution, isolating wood from the soil, and the use of physical barrier to exclude subterranean termites are practical approaches to preventing termites on the buildings. Scheduled maintenance management system should be adopted for at least at the beginning of every academic semester (every 4months) with cleaning, and clearing of debris of construction materials and removal of stumps around the school buildings against termites attack.

* *Keywords: Termites, Pre-Construction Treatment, Post-Construction Treatment, and Scheduled Maintenance*




Market Institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa: Theory and Evidence

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Abstract

In *Market Institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa*, Marcel Fafchamps synthesizes the results of recent surveys of indigenous market institutions in twelve countries, including Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, and Zimbabwe, and presents findings about economics exchange in Africa that have implications both for future research and current policy. Employing empirical data as well as theoretical models that clarify the data, Fafchamps takes as his unifying principle the difficulties of contract enforcement. Arguing that in an unpredictable world contracts are not always likely to be respected, he shows that contract agreements in sub-Saharan Africa are affected by the absence of large hierarchies (both corporate and governmental) and as a result must depend to a greater degree than in more developed economies on social networks and personal trust. Fafchamps considers policy recommendations as they apply to countries in three different stages of development: countries with undeveloped market institutions, like Ghana; countries at an intermediate stage, like Kenya; and countries with developed market institutions, like Zimbabwe. *Market Institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa* caps ten years of personal research by the author. Fafchamps, in collaboration with such institutions as the Africa Division of the World Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute, participated in the surveys of manufacturing firms and agricultural traders that provide the empirical basis for the book. The result is a work that makes a significant contribution to research on the continuing economic stagnation of many countries in sub-Saharan Africa and is also largely accessible to researchers in other fields and policy professionals.

 *Keywords: Market Institutions, Sub Saharan Africa, Development*



Women Entrepreneurship as a Panacea to Poverty in Dutsin-Ma Local Government Area, Katsina State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Women involvement in economic development has been recognized as important in the area of entrepreneurship. This study examined women entrepreneurship as a panacea to poverty in Dutsin-Ma Local Government Area, Katsina State, Nigeria. A longitudinal survey research design was adopted for the study and a structured questionnaire was used to collect primary data while student t-test was used to analyze data and test the hypotheses. The result from data analysis revealed that; annual income level and annual savings of women entrepreneurs have increased reasonably, but the socio-economic condition of the women entrepreneurs has not improved significantly. Hence, women entrepreneurs are still facing some challenges such as; lack of adequate capital for business operation and expansion, lack of awareness on various business opportunities and poor attitude of some men towards women entrepreneurship. In order to address these challenges and encourage women participation in entrepreneurial activities and reduce poverty level among women, the study recommends that the Government and Non-government organizations should establish a bank named "Women Entrepreneurship Bank" that focuses empowerment of women entrepreneurs, the government and religious leaders should take up the responsibility of giving orientation and public campaign on the importance of women entrepreneurship in the society and economic development of a nation, there should be sensitization programs that will orientate and enlighten women on the various entrepreneurial activities that enhance productive returns within the limit of religious injunction.

* *Keywords- Women Entrepreneurship, Poverty Reduction,
Dutsin-Ma, Katsina State, Nigeria*



Asset or Liability? Traditional Authority and the Pursuit of Livelihood Security in South Africa and Afghanistan

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Abstract

Guaranteed access to productive and reproductive resources, alongside various forms of mutuality and social insurance mechanisms, are the characteristics most often associated with informal social security systems. Under conditions of state fragility, whether due to political transition or war and conflict, the stress placed on traditional institutions is thought to be greater. The paper explores the role of traditional leaders and informal institutions in terms of social protection and public action in South Africa and Afghanistan, two countries that have experienced political upheaval and violent conflict to varying degrees. The paper analyses how state fragility impacts on traditional institutions and the implications for ordinary people seeking to survive and manage risk. Particular attention is paid to the urban context, where institutional pluralism is more starkly evident and engaged. The paper concludes that while traditional institutions are often the main vehicle through which livelihood security is attained under conditions of fragility, they are limited in significant ways. These limitations are most likely to be addressed under conditions of state stability and via wide platforms for public action. Conventionally social policy in developing countries has placed much reliance on traditional institutions. The paper points to the importance of recognising the contributions they make while locating these within a broader institutional terrain for the reduction of vulnerability and insecurity.

✧ *Keywords: Livelihoods, Social Security, Fragile States, Traditional Institutions, Institutional Pluralism, Public Action, South Africa, Afghanistan*



Trend Analysis on Recorded Cases of Maternal Mortality in Relation to Still Birth and Caesarian Operation in Northern Nigeria: a Case Study of Sir Yahaya Memorial Hospital, Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Maternal mortality is unacceptably high, about 800 women die from pregnancy- or childbirth related complications around the world every day. In 2013, 289,000 women died during and following pregnancy and childbirth. Almost all of these death occurred in low resource settings, and most could have been prevented. This paper is set to analyse the likelihood future trend of this menace in Northern Nigeria and also to investigate if there exist relationships between cases of still birth, caesarean operation and maternal death in the study area. Trend analysis of time series data and correlation analysis were employed for the monthly data collected from Sir Yahaya Memorial Hospital Birnin Kebbi, a Premier Hospital in Kebbi state North western Nigeria. Three functional models one each for maternal mortality, still birth and caesarean operation were fitted to the collected data and forecast were made based on these models. Results obtained revealed a monthly estimate of 2 maternal death, 6 still birth and 7 cases of caesarean operation for the next 12 months which implies that the trio are likely going to be on the increase though more pronounced in cases of still birth and caesarean operation than maternal death if mitigating measures are not put in place. It was also observed that relationship exist between maternal death, still birth and caesarean operation. it is recommended that the relevant health agencies should sensitize pregnant women on the importance of antenatal care in order to detect and manage conditions during pregnancy that have the potential to lead to adverse maternal outcomes.

 *Keywords: Maternal Mortality, Still Birth, Caesarean Operation, Trend Analysis, Correlation Analysis*



Social Capital and the Micro-Institutional Foundations of CDD Approaches in East Asia: Evidence, Theory, and Policy Implications

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Abstract

As the largest operational manifestation of ideas encapsulated in the term “social capital”, community-driven development (CDD) has attracted considerable acclaim and criticism as its profile has risen within the World Bank and the development community more broadly. While supporters and critics alike have compelling “stories” they can invoke to make their case (e.g., “empowerment” versus “lack of evidence”), we argue that it is the absence of a coherent theory of social and political change at the local level that is the primary obstacle to empirical and policy advancement. We provide such a theory, and use it to frame a review of recent empirical studies of CDD efficacy in East Asia. Solid theory and defensible evidence together offers the sturdiest platform on which to base policy and operational deliberations, and improve the analytic purchase of “social capital”.

✱ *Keywords: Social Capital, Community Driven Development, Institutions, Theory, Evidence*



On the Vulnerability of the Diverse Vegetation Patterns in Nigeria Using a Numerical Simulation: the Issues of Vegetation Recovery, Food Security and the National Development

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Abstract

The study of vegetation patterns can be properly understood through the process of a mathematical modeling. The interaction between the biomass density and the ground water density follows a standard system of first order ordinary differential equations. Considering the terrain of vegetation patterns in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria, the critical issue of investigating the impact of precipitation on the vegetation patterns is the core aim of this present study. To tackle this formidable mathematical problem, we have proposed the application of a deterministic numerical simulation in order to identify the relative importance of precipitation and its impacts in predicting the dependent variables of the dynamics of the proposed vegetation patterns. The possible vegetation patterns which attract some degree of precipitation are compared with other vegetation patterns in other geo-political vegetation patterns of Nigeria. The Nobel result of this pioneering study and their policy implications in terms of mitigating the loss of vegetation in Nigeria are fully presented and discussed in this study. We would expect these pioneering core results to address the issues of vegetation recovery, food security in terms of building the National Development perspective.

 *Keyword: Vulnerability Vegetation Patterns and Simulation Food Security*




Gender, Caste and Ethnic Exclusion in Nepal: Following the Policy Process from Analysis to Action

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Abstract:

This paper builds on the Nepal Gender and Social Exclusion Assessment (GSEA), a collaborative policy research study undertaken by World Bank and DFID. The paper examines the GSEA – which will be followed by further joint work supported by a three year DFID Social Exclusion Action Programme (SEAP) – as an ongoing effort to influence the formal policy making process and the messier, longer term process of supporting the implementation of these policies and trying to make them a reality on the ground. It confronts the fact that policy reform, if it takes hold, is actually culture change – especially when the policy issue examined is how to overcome the persistent legacy of caste, ethnic and gender-base exclusion. The paper is divided into four parts. The first briefly presents the historical background of exclusion in Nepal and the conceptual framework used in the study. The second part presents the main findings of the GSEA research – including poverty outcomes by gender, caste and ethnicity, an analysis of government and civil society responses to gender, caste and ethnic discrimination, a review of legal issues, access to health and education, an analysis of group based approaches and efforts to evolve an affirmative action policy. Part three offers the GSEA key policy recommendations and the final part looks ahead to the next stage of the GSEA process. It examines some of the considerations that must be taken into account by the GSEA team as it moves more fully from policy analysis to supporting the Nepalis in government and civil society who want to make Nepala more inclusive state – and trying to influence those who do not.

 *Keywords: Social Exclusion, Caste, Ethnicity, Gender, Institutional Analysis, Nepal*



The Impact of Disciplinary Measure on Employee Commitment in Banks in Abeokuta

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Abstract

This study investigates the impact of disciplinary measure on employee commitment in banks in Abeokuta. The study made use of primary data which were gathered with the aid of questionnaire. To cover a reasonable number of samples, sample of fifty first banks staffs were selected through purposive sampling technique. Sample frequency with percentage was used in the describing the data gathered while chi square test of independence was used in the data analysis. The study revealed that: there is a significant relationship between employee perception towards disciplinary measure and employee commitment; there is a significant relationship between employees perceived fairness of disciplinary measure and employee performance; there is a significant relationship between employee perceived fairness of disciplinary measure and employee attitude to work.

✱ *Keywords: Disciplinary Measure, Employee Performance, Employee Commitment, Employee Attitude*



Factors Influencing Sustainable Adoption of E-Commerce in the Nigerian Hospitality Industry

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Abstract

Nigerian hospitality industry is a developing sector with huge infrastructural gap. This study examined the factors influencing sustainable adoption of e-commerce. The study noted that e-commerce is one of the most important instruments of the economy. The study employed a cross sectional survey which questioned the respondents on the factors influencing the adoption of e-commerce for business transaction. The researcher administered questionnaires to respondents from five selected hospitality industries located in Abuja, Nigeria and employed multiple regression model to test the hypotheses. The empirical findings revealed that the adoption factors such as organizational readiness, information sharing and managerial characteristics were positively related to e-commerce adoption level. The findings made contributions in terms of creating an understanding of what influences the adoption of e-commerce, hence served as a starting point for other e-commerce research in the hospitality industry. The study recommended that the industry should provide adequate infrastructural facilities in order to achieve sustainable business development.

 *Keywords: E-Commerce Adoption for Sustainable Business Development*



Ownership Structure and Voluntary Disclosure in the Nigerian Listed Industrial Goods Companies

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Abstract

This study assessed the impact of ownership structure on voluntary disclosure of information in the Nigerian listed industrial goods companies for the period of ten (10) years 2004 to 2013. Thirteen companies out of twenty three companies were selected based on pre-determined criteria. The data for the study were collected from annual reports and accounts of the sampled companies and were analysed using descriptive statistics, correlation coefficient and multiple regressions (OLS and GLS) through the use of STATA software version 12.00. Thus, a panel data regression technique is employed since the data has both time series and cross sectional attributes. The study found that both institutional share ownership and managerial share ownership found to be negatively and significantly associated with voluntary disclosure of information in the Nigerian listed industrial goods companies. Thus, the study recommends that Nigerian industrial goods companies should discourage institution from acquiring their securities, since such acquisition has negative impact on the extent of voluntary disclosure of information in their entities. And to reduce the principal-agent problem between managers and shareholders, Nigerian listed industrial goods companies should discourage managers from holding equity in their corporation, which leads managers to engage in non-maximizing behaviour through hiding vital information to the users. Also, outside shareholders should increase their efforts in monitoring the managers' behaviour against possible self-interest seeking actions. The findings of this study have fundamental policy implications regarding the influence of ownership structure in influencing the extent of voluntary disclosure in the Nigerian listed industrial goods companies.

✧ *Keywords: Institutional Share Ownership, Managerial Share Ownership, Voluntary Disclosure*



Board Attributes and Voluntary Disclosure in the Nigerian Listed Industrial Goods Companies

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Abstract

This study assessed the impact of board attributes on voluntary disclosure of information in the Nigerian listed industrial goods companies for the period of ten (10) years 2004 to 2013. Thirteen companies out of twenty three companies were selected based on pre-determined criteria. The data for the study were collected from annual reports and accounts of the sampled companies and were analysed using descriptive statistics, correlation coefficient and multiple regressions (OLS and GLS) through the use of STATA software version 12.00. Thus, a panel data regression technique is employed since the data has both time series and cross sectional attributes. While CEO duality and board composition have significant negative effects on the extent of voluntary disclosure of information in the Nigerian listed industrial goods companies, board size is found to have positive effects on the extent of voluntary disclosure. Thus, the study recommends that companies that does not separate the role of chairman and chief executive officer should do so and those companies that has done so should maintained the separation of such role in the Nigerian Listed Industrial Goods Companies in to order to reduce concentration of power and to strengthen the propensity to voluntarily disclose information. To enhance board independence and its effectiveness in monitoring the management, the appointment of independent directors on the board should be based on their reputation, accounting knowledge, industry background, and requisite experience of the company, rather than on other non professional considerations. The findings of this study have fundamental policy an implication regarding the effectiveness of board attributes in influencing the extent of voluntary disclosure in the Nigerian listed industrial goods companies.

✱ *Keywords: CEO Duality, Board, Voluntary Disclosure*




An Evaluation of the Impact of Corporate Administrative Mechanisms on Bank Performance Indices in Emerging Economies: Nigeria Experience

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Abstract

This paper evaluates empirically the impact of corporate administrative mechanisms on the performance indices of Nigerian deposit money banks. The study employs pooled data, co-integration and error correction mechanisms (ECM) approaches to examine the relationship between the performance indices of Nigerian deposit money banks and the corporate administrative mechanisms. The study reveals that although positive relationships exist between banks performance indices and corporate administrative mechanisms in Nigeria, board composition with more independent members and not board size significantly influenced performance. It is therefore recommended that banks should assign more number of seats on the board to independent executives in conformity to Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) code of corporate administration.

 *Keywords: Evaluates, Corporate Administrative, Bank Performance*



Innovation and Entrepreneurship: the Nexus

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Abstract

This paper establishes the nexus between innovation and entrepreneurship. Innovation is a *sin qua non* for the sustained operations of profitable endeavours. Entrepreneurship translates the improvements in products and service delivery into monumental wealth for the entrepreneurs and other stakeholders in enterprises. The historic J. Schumpeter theory of entrepreneurship underpinned the entrepreneurship discourse. This paper is compartmentalized into three: the purport of innovation, the concept of entrepreneurship and the nexus of entrepreneurship and innovation. This paper concludes that there is a pivotal linkage between innovation and entrepreneurship in organizations. There is therefore no coterminous existence of innovation and entrepreneurship. This is therefore a fundamental linkage is expedient for enterprise success.

✱ *Keywords: Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurs, Enterprise, Product*



The Impact of Mentoring Relationships on Organisational Commitment

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Abstract

This paper investigates the impact of mentoring relationships on organisational commitment. Despite the various forms of mentoring, it focused on workplace/organisational mentoring. The two main types of mentoring discussed were formal and informal mentoring. The main aim of the research was to understand mentoring in the Nigerian context and to evaluate the extent to which it impacts organisational commitment in two firms. This study is important because it has implications for employee retention. Data collection was done through questionnaires with a response rate of 88% and 85% in KPMG and Zenith Bank respectively. Interviews were also conducted amongst managers and employees to understand mentoring in Nigeria. The two industries surveyed were the professional services (an MNC called KPMG) and banking (a Nigerian bank called Zenith Bank) industries. Correlation analysis and ANCOVAs was conducted to test the hypothesis of the research and thematic analysis was used to analyse the interviews. Although some hypotheses were not supported, the qualitative findings indicate that mentoring to a large extent positively affects employees' organisational commitment. Finally, implications for future research and recommendations for management practice on improving organisational commitment were mentioned. While mentoring relationships have a positive impact on each of the dimensions of commitment, affective commitment is most influenced.

 *Keywords: Mentoring Relationships, Organisational Commitment*



Impact of Political Social Business Environment on Market Performance in Selected ICT Companies in Lagos State

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Abstract

Market performance of most organisations are affected by political and social business environment which often calls for environmental scanning to guard against such unforeseen situation leveraging on Information and telecommunication technology of this century. This study investigated the impact of political and social business environment on market performance of some selected ICT companies in Lagos State. (Zinox technologies Ltd, Spectranet Nigeria Ltd, Multi-links Telecommunications limited in Lagos State. Specifically, economic and technological environment were evaluated. The study adopted descriptive survey design. Data were elicited via primary and secondary sources. The population was 900 staff of the three ICT firms which sample was determined as 277 respondents by Yaro Yamane formula which was proportionately distributed to the firms. 240 respondents completed and returned their questionnaires giving an 86% response rate. Statistical package for social sciences and simple linear regression was used for the analysis. It was observed that political environment is significantly related to sales turnover ($r=0.817$, $R^2=0.668$ for hypothesis one). For hypothesis two, the coefficient of the simple regression is ($r=0.606$), $P(t\text{-stat})=0.000 < 0.05$) which implies that there is a significant relationship between social environment and market share. Concluding, business environment as indicated from political and social segments has impact on the performance of ICT companies in Lagos State. Therefore, there is need to key in adequate business environmental scanning to enhance companies' performance and sustainability.

✱ *Keywords: Political Environment, Social Environment, Business Environment, Market Share, Sales Turnover, ICT, Performance.*




Made in Nigeria: the Push for Local Manufacturing

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Abstract

As it is with most developing nations, the Nigerian economy is heavily dependent on primary production for both domestic consumption and exports while relying on imports for secondary or manufactured products with far-reaching implications for macroeconomic stability. Government efforts at promoting the development of a robust manufacturing sub-sector have rather produced sub-optimal results as evidenced by declining figures of manufacturing contribution to the economy. With a growing local entrepreneurial population, expressed in the number of people involved in small and medium scale businesses, Nigeria's population of over 160 million people is expected to present immense potentials for the growth of domestic manufacturing. Unfortunately the phrase, "Made in Nigeria" has been stigmatised and is synonymous with poor manufacturing quality, packaging and service. To a great majority of Nigerians, they would rather pay more to buy foreign products than purchase cheaper locally made alternatives. This attitude indicates a loss of confidence in the quality of Nigerian products thereby impeding the capacity of the nation to achieve major economic objectives of minimizing dependency on foreign imports and increasing its presence on the international market through exports of local industries.

 *Keywords: Manufacturing, Employment, Macroeconomic Stability, Entrepreneurial Population.*



Organizational Structure and Employee Efficiency in Family-Owned Businesses in Nigeria

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Abstract

Establishment, growth and development of family-owned businesses (FOB) are integrated into Nigeria's economy. They contribute to the reduction of unemployment in Nigeria. However, there are observed deviations in human resource management practices in these ventures. Owners of family business organizations demonstrate more interest in profit maximization than investment in employee capacity for better performance. Hence, the thrust of this study was an examination of the effect of organizational structure on employee efficiency and management of FOB. Cross-sectional descriptive survey design was adopted. The population was 4,820 family businesses in selected sectors of the Nigerian economy. Multistage sampling techniques was used to select sample of 595, adopting Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill formula. Organizational Structure and Employee Efficiency Instrument was administered among the selected sample while the response rate was 99.1%, to obtain primary data which were validated using content validity, while a Cronbach Alpha value of 0.899 was derived to establish reliability of the questionnaire. Organizational structure highlighted formal communication lines, employee efficiency remained its function. In conclusion, organizational structure affected employee efficiency of FOB. Managers and operators of family business organizations should create a forum for suggestions from employees.

✧ *Keywords: Family Business, Employee Efficiency, Organizational Structures*



Monetization Reform Programme in Nigeria: its Operations as a Source of Fund for Public Servants' Real Property Development Initiative

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Abstract

Monetization no doubt is an economic monetary reform programme, which allows its beneficiary more physical cash in the pocket in lieu of some benefits as conditions of service. It was introduced in Nigeria by 1st October, 2003, One area of social need, which the public servant beneficiary can benefit (utilize), the excess liquidity from the monetization benefits is in the area of development of owner-occupier residential accommodation. This paper discussed the monetization reform programme; its operations as a source of fund for public servants' real property development initiative. An extensive review of related literature was conducted, followed by a survey (descriptive) research design. Three research questions were raised to guide the study - in line with the purpose of the study. It was discovered among others that several underlying factors can influence the psychology of investors in real property, of which among the factors include, the national situation and finance, as well as the government policies. Among the recommendations is that government should be more disciplined in handling good policies.



Keywords: Monetization, Reform, Public Servants'



Operators' Perception of the Willingness of People to Adopt Islamic Interest-Free Financing for Real Estate Investment in Lagos Nigeria

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Abstract

Islamic finance is an old concept but new in implementation in the Nigerian financial landscape. Its religious attachment has caused a lot of uproar giving rise to concern about its acceptance and willingness of people to adopt the facility in a multi-religious Nigeria. Therefore, this paper assesses the perception of personnel's of financial institutions of the willingness of people to adopt the facility for real estate investment in Lagos Nigeria. Data analyses with descriptive and inferential statistics were collected through structured questionnaires administered to officials of Islamic Fund Managers, Islamic Cooperatives Societies and Banks. The study revealed that most banks are yet to commence Islamic Interest-free financing and may not commence in the near future. However, the shareholders/financiers of most interest-free financial organizations are both Muslims and Non-muslims with the frequency of interest-free dealings with Non-muslims ranked 'very frequent' and the willingness of people to engage in Interest-free financing for real estate investment ranked 'very high' by the respondents. The study recommended that financial regulators should encourage more interest-free organizations as well as encourage more conventional banks to adopt interest-free windows.

✱ *Keywords: Operators, Willingness, Islamic Interest-free Financing, Real Estate*



Business Management Strategies, Capital Formation and Sustainable African Development in the 21st Century and Beyond

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Abstract

This theoretical research paper sets out to explore and appraise business management strategies, capital formation and sustainable African development in the 21st century and beyond. The objective of this paper is to examine and ascertain business management strategies/practices among Africans over the last decade, their attitude to capital formation/generation and how these impact on sustainable development of the continent. The paper will focus on Nigeria not only as the most populous country in Africa but also on earth. Besides, Nigeria enjoys the status of the largest economy in Africa after coming out of many years of military dictatorship with great potentials in human and material resources. There will be a close study of business management strategies/practices of selected private and government establishments to ascertain how they form/generate capital for sustainable development especially with regard to helping young entrepreneurs to get started, survive and grow. Relevant seminal papers on business management practices, capital formation and sustainable development would be reviewed to provide a clear basis for arguments in the paper and helpful comparison between what happens in Nigeria and other African countries. Based on the findings, appropriate conclusions would be drawn and recommendations made for a way forward.

✧ *Keywords: Business Management, Strategies Capital Formation, Sustainable African Development*





School of Education & Arts




Restructuring the Nigerian Mass Media for a New World Order

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Abstract

A key challenge of many African countries and other developing or underdeveloped countries elsewhere in the world is tailored on how to foster good governance aimed at re-kindling an equitable social order that provides the requisite environment for sustainability of investments. Succinctly, such initiatives are to promote a better standard of living for all citizenry and alleviate poverty with a strong force to enhance economic growth that infuses political emancipation devoid of disequilibrium and disparity .In Nigeria, the mass media in discharging its orthodox functions of information gathering, packaging and dissemination, have not been strategically structured and positioned to contribute meaningfully to the untrammled call for a new world order. This paper is focused on these issues of imbalance arising from the old world order with a view to reposition the Nigerian mass media for propagation of a new world order.

 *Keywords: Mass Media, Economic, Political Control, Social and World Order.*



Students, Bases, Parties, Movements: Public Welfare and the Struggle between the State and its Competitors in the Middle East

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Abstract

This essay examines the costs and benefits of the imposition and decay of the modern state in the Middle East for popular welfare. The modern European-style state, and particularly of the assignment of responsibility for welfare functions to the state, is a relatively new feature of the regional landscape. The widespread failure of many of the region's states to fulfill these responsibilities in the second half of the twentieth century contributed to eroding the already frail legitimacy of formal state institutions, but it did not erase the need for, or expectation of, welfare provision by institutions that transcend private interests. In European and North American polities with long and stable histories of states, many of these welfare functions have been in recent years delegated to a "civil society" defined and delineated by the state; in the Middle East, the declining capacity of the state has instead been an impetus to imaginative constructions of institutional alternatives—rule by "students" or "parties of God"—that challenge and undermine the state itself. Yet the stable provision of social welfare seems to require the public service mission and the administrative capabilities of competent conventional states. Development therefore entails rebuilding rather than dismantling the state structures that were legacies of imperialism.

✧ *Keywords: State, Imperialism, Community, Corruption, Islamist, Social welfare*



Contemporary Issues and Challenges in Basic Education in Ghana, Swot Matrix as a Tool of National Development

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Abstract

The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) matrix is very in identifying contemporary issues and challenges in basic education that face the African continent. We propose this matrix to help identify and address the essential issues that militate against successful implementation of basic education in Ghana. We sampled serving teachers and elicited information that border on internal and external issues of interest in basic schools. The SPSS codes and analyses revealed that the matrix was very appropriate and effective in identifying these issues of enrolments, completion rates, infrastructure and pedagogies. Therefore, educational planners, managers and supervisors should prioritize the use of the SWOT matrix in their domains in the basic schools to accelerate national development.

✧ *Keywords: Contemporary Issues; National Development; SWOT Matrix*



Challenges Associated with the Implementation of Unified Agricultural Extension Services (UAES) Programme in Imo State

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Abstract

This study was designed to evaluate challenges associated with the implementation of unified agricultural extension Services (UAES) programme in Imo State. Specific objectives were to determine the challenges associated with the implementation of UAES programme in: Administrative, Finance and Logistics. Three

research questions guided the study. The study adopted evaluation design and was conducted in Imo State. The population of the study was 22,988 comprising of 22,880 farmers and 108 extension agents in the study area. Total samples of 336 were used. This consisted of 226 contact farmers and 108 extension agents. The instrument for data collection was Structured Questionnaire complemented by the Focused Group Discussion (FGD) guide. The focused group discussion guide was used to elicit qualitative information from the contact farmers and extension agents. The farmer's questionnaire comprised 69 items arranged in clusters. The instrument was face validated by five experts and the internal consistency of the instrument was established using Cronbach alpha method which yielded the reliability coefficients of 0.70. The instruments were administered through personal contacts with the help of 6 assistants. Questionnaire was used in collecting data for answering research questions. The data was analyzed using mean and percentages. Information collected from the focused group discussion was qualitatively analyzed. The findings of the study revealed that (i) Administrative constraints include inadequate market for disposing farm produce, poor coordination of activities of farmers, inadequate training of extension staff, technologies not compatible with farmer's needs, inadequate personnel to disseminate relevant agricultural technologies, technologies not compatible with farmers socio-cultural life, delay in input supply, high turnover of extension staff, lack of mobility for extension staff to deliver service, bureaucracy in government, inefficient services rendered by extension staff, lack of training facilities for technology dissemination, non- payment of hazard allowance, inadequate remuneration of transport allowance, lack of regular training/in-service training of staff. (ii) Financial constraints include high cost of adoption of technology, inadequate finance, and inadequate collateral facilities for borrowing. (iii) Logistics constraints include low level of education of the farmers, political influence, use of traditional implements, inefficient extension delivery system by extension agents, inadequate storage and processing facilities, lack of access to land, uncertainty of weather due to climate change. Based on the findings of the study, conclusions were drawn and recommendations made which include among others the need for adequate provision of agricultural inputs at a subsidized rate and training of extension agents for effective implementation of UAES programme in order sustain agricultural production in Imo State.

✧ *Keywords: Challenges, Implementation, Unified Agricultural Extension Services.*



Impact of Malaria on Agricultural Productivity

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Abstract

Malaria is a mosquito borne infectious disease of human and other animals caused by Protist (a type of microorganism) of the genus plasmodium and it has an enormous impact on farmers' agricultural productivity, which adversely affect the intensity at which they work on their fields and the level of their farm output. This study examined the impact of malaria on agricultural productivity using farmer in Araga farm settlement and Agric-YES in Poka, Epe, Lagos state as its target population. Eighty farmers were selected at random and structured questionnaire were administered to collect data. The data was analyzed using Simple percentage and Standard Deviation. The data was further subjected to Chi-square for testing the formulated hypothesis at 5% level of significance. The result shows that 54 (67.5%) of the respondents were male while 26 (32.5%) were female. All the farmers were educated with a minimum of NCE or OND qualification. Most of the respondents (53.8%) were between 31-40 years. About 77 (97.7%) of the respondents of this study perceived that if agricultural and health support systems are available to farmers, this can reduce the adverse impact of malaria on agricultural productivity. While only 3 (3.8%) respondents disagreed that agricultural and health support systems if available to farmers can reduce the adverse impact of malaria on agricultural productivity. The mean response and the standard deviation are 1.96 and 0.191 respectively. The hypothesis tested ($p < 0.05$) gave 0.166 which indicates that there was no significance difference in the perception of male and female respondents on the adverse effect of malaria on agricultural productivity. It was also deduced that the impacts of malaria can be reduced if there are agricultural and health support systems available for farmers; such as the use of prophylactic drugs and indoor residual spraying of mosquitoes. The study therefore concluded that malaria has negative impacts on farmers and such impacts impede agricultural production which is due to malaria attack especially on farmers who are the producers.

✱ *Keywords: Malaria, Agriculture, Productivity*



The Significance of Assertive Training on Social Withdrawal Tendency of Passiveness among Students In Unity Comprehensive Secondary School in Sokoto State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Social withdrawal tendencies such as passiveness, shyness, isolate, low self-esteem, exams phobia aggressiveness, and social anxiety pose serious challenges to students/pupils in our contemporary classrooms. These maladaptive behaviors keep the affected students far away from social interaction and interpersonal relationship. The consequence which results to peers rejection, difficulty in teacher-student relationship, difficulty in learning and skills acquisition and overall social, physical, emotional and psychological adjustment. To achieve sustainable development in effective teaching and learning as regard to above mentioned problem, this paper will investigate on the effective of assertive training in the reduction of social withdrawal tendency of passiveness among students. It is an experimental research that will adopt a pretest and posttest control design, to be conducted in Unity Comprehensive Secondary School in Sokoto State, Nigeria. The identified participants from the target population will be randomly assign through balloting into experimental group/treatment group (A) and control group (B). Adopted and validated instruments will be used in identification of the participants for the study, measuring their level of social competences and academic improvement at the pretest and posttest assessment periods. The inventories to be used are “Social Withdrawal Trait Questionnaire” (SWTQ); “Social Skill Inventory Questionnaire” (SSIQ) and Achievement Tests a & b in Mathematics and English Language. The specific objectives of the study are; To examine the effectiveness of assertive training in helping socially withdrawn students to acquire social skills and reduce social withdrawal tendency of passiveness. To determines the impact of the treatment on students` academic performance by comparing the result of control and the treatment group. Two null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. These are, there is no significant difference among the mean scores in the social skills of the participants in the treatment group (A) and those in the control group (B) at posttest assessment period. There is no significant difference in the academic performance of the participants in the treatment group and those in the control group. The treatment group (A) will be subjected to twelve therapy sessions for six weeks and the data collected from

pretest and posttest will be analyzed using statistical measures of paired t-test with help of Special Package for Social Science (SPSS). The way forward will depend on the outcome of the tested hypotheses of the empirical study on progress.

✧ *Keywords; Assertive Training, Social Withdrawal Tendency & Passiveness*



82.

The Abuse and Violation of Human Rights and Privileges in Nigeria: a Paradigm Shift

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Abstract

The countries of the developed worlds have optimal respect for rule of law, which is seen as equality before the law and respect for human persons or rights. But the opposite is what is obtainable in societies like ours. (Nigeria), we need not even say that people's rights or privileges are denied them, it is proper to say that the rights of the citizens are trampled upon and even with reckless abandon. The counts have at onetime or the other dispensed justice in the developed countries with credence, but the courts of the less developed countries is characterized by corruption and what we call "who do you know syndrome" – Ima Mmadu: Those inalienable rights as right to life, basic education among a multitude of others is better dreamt of in Nigeria because it is not attainable as of now. This work is sub-divided into different segments of introduction, definition of terms, the body of the work, summary, conclusion and recommendations. The researchers adopted certain techniques in the collection of data for the research work; they went for such techniques as interview method, observation methods, use of structured questionnaires and documented sources in the gathering of data for this research. The paper concluded with the researchers calling on the government for once to show respect for human rights and privileges to Nigerian citizens.

✧ *Keyword: Abuse, Human Right and Privileges*



The Impact of Qualitative Education as the Master Piece of Developing African Economies: a Study of Nigeria

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Abstract

Whenever education is being mentioned, the lay minds will simply go to acquiring formal education and being relevant in the civil services (local government, state or federal). Education has a broad spectrum, it goes beyond the acquisition of knowledge for civil or public roles or functions, education serves as an eye opener. One question begging for answer is in the developed worlds don't we have people who take up craft works, do business or get engaged in acquiring different skills or crafts and become relevant.. Should the whole body become mouths, where will the other parts be? Though the parts of the human body for instance are interdependent parts, they complement each other in the carrying out of certain day to day functions of the body, they live or work towards the actualization of common goals in the body which in essence means the provision of balance or stability. Otherwise there will be disability, chaos and crisis dominating the whole facets of the economy. Education is pivotal to human, material and natural resources the world over. These group of researchers adopted different measures in their sheer drive to arriving at the conclusion of this work through making good use of their indept knowledge of research techniques. The techniques include one-on-one interview method, secondary sources of data, observation and not leaving out the random sampling method. The work concluded with the researchers calling for the whole continent of the under-developed countries beckoning on the governments, corporate bodies and individuals to embrace education because it simply serves as the gate way to meaningful development.

✦ *Keyword: Qualitative Education ,knowledge ,African Economies*




The Growing Tide of Street Trading and Hawking Practices: it's Policy Implication for the Developing Nations – the Nigerian Experience

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Abstract

Among the challenges that have refuted several solution attempts in developing nations is the problem of hawking and street trading. This trend or problem have most often dominated the banner headlines of several newspapers. But the question every right thinking person tend to ask is if nothing can be done to remedy this situation. Truly there seems to be nothing tangibly and frankly done. Hawking with its twin sister street trading is simply taken as a means of survival which have just come to stay as poor planning on the side of government seem to do almost nothing in this regard. It just does not end on the pages of newspapers that street trading have been abolished in our cities, hijacking the wares of these street traders and hawkers, but it is a means of livelihood. Though street trading has its own attendant problems which include sometimes accident, untimely death, defacing of cities, causing of traffic jams among others its players see it as a possible way of survival and a form of employment. This research adopted several techniques to provide enough ground for analysis in the course of this research. The researchers concluded the work recommending that the government at different levels create job employments in other to ameliorate the problem of hawking and street trading in Nigeria.

 *Keywords: Trading, Hawkers, Developing Nations*



The High Cost of Quality Healthcare Delivery in Developing Countries: a Study of Nigeria

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Abstract

The rate at which certain health problems are over charged in our present day hospitals is a serious issue of concern. But no doubt all that point to the fact that corruption and the African problem is still holding way. It does not even imply that the hospitals in developing countries have adequate know-how or skill, not at all its the tendency to get rich that seem to be the driving force. Most public hospital staff or doctors keep making unending demands of increase of salaries and benefits and which if not met is served with indefinite strike actions. We have had series of them in the past and still continue to count. Often times families send abroad their members whose cases cannot be adequately managed at home, then the question becomes why these exorbitant prices are charged and services below par are what is obtainable. We are beginning to imagine where we are heading to. With all these high prices paid for health care, it does not occur to our teeming doctors to serve their fatherlands with patriotic spirits. This research is occasioned by our poor state of healthcare services in the developing nations especially Africa and Nigeria in particular. The researchers adopted several techniques in gathering data for the research and this included oral interview, the questionnaires, textbooks and the internet among others. The research concluded with the researchers calling on the health care service providers to carry out their duties diligently and with patriotism to take us to the next level among others.

✱ *Keywords: Quality Healthcare, Techniques*



Up-Scaling TVET Through Collaborative Capacity Building for Sustainable Industrial Development and Poverty Alleviation in Cross River State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The non-functional nature of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) has been the bane of adequate supply of skilled workforce into the industrial sector of the Nigerian economy, to the extent that even private investors are constrained. Thus, graduates of tertiary institutions are seen roaming the streets of Nigeria in search of jobs for which they are ill-prepared. In recognition of this, the Nigerian government at federal and state levels have, in recent times, paid tremendous attention to TVET as a tool for cutting down on unemployment. To be functional, it is believed that TVET needs adequate infrastructure, human resources and funding. How government attention translates into physical activities that will improve the current status of TVET in Cross River State of Nigeria is the crux of this study. The need for up-scaling TVET using collaborative capacity building was also highlighted. The expost facto research design was adopted for the study. Three hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Some variables required for up-scaling TVET were identified and a twenty-item four-point Likert type scale questionnaire was formulated to elicit responses from a sample of 100 TVET teachers. Analysis of data was done using percentages, means and standard deviation. A mean of 2.50 and above was accepted as satisfactory by respondents. Based on the result of the data analysis, some recommendations were made which bothered on, among others, the adequate use of collaboration among local industries, NGOs and international donor agencies to better the gains of TVET as a tool for sustainable industrial development and poverty alleviation.

★ *Keywords: Up-scaling, TVET, Collaborative Capacity Building, Sustainable Development, Poverty Alleviation*



Using 5E Learning Cycle as Panacea to Poor Academic Performance among Pre-NCE Biology Students of Varied Abilities in North-West Zone, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study investigated the “Impact of 5E Learning Cycle on Attitude, Retention and Performance in Genetics among Pre-NCE Biology Students with Varied Abilities, North-West Zone, Nigeria”. The pretest-posttest and post-posttest equivalent group design was used for the study. The population consists of 2,231 pre-NCE Biology students consisting of 1,168 males and 1,063 females. Two colleges of education were randomly selected by balloting method from the eleven co-educational colleges of education and were assigned to control and experimental groups. One hundred and ten (110) students consisting 55 each were randomly selected from the two sampled schools based on their pretest scores and are categorized into high ability, average ability and low ability students. The mode of categorization was done by giving them pre-test of Genetic Academic Performance Test (GAPT), where those that scored sixty (60) and above were categorized as high ability, those that scored 40 -59 were categorized as average ability while those that scored 0 – 39 were categorized as low ability group. In the experimental group, high ability consisted of 15 students, 30 average ability students and 10 low ability students. The same procedure and numbers were used as the control group for six weeks. Genetics Academic Performance Test (GAPT) with reliability coefficient of 0.79 was used for data collection. A hypothesis was tested using two way analysis of variances at $P = 0.05$. The findings of the study showed that pre-NCE Biology students exposed to 5E learning cycle in the teaching and learning of genetics concepts in all the ability levels had higher mean performance scores than those in the control group exposed to lecture method of instruction. Recommendation based on the findings on the use of 5E learning cycle in teaching genetics concepts among others include: The teaching of Biology especially genetics should be conducted in such a way that students learn meaningfully and develop positive attitude towards the subject. The use of 5E learning cycle seems to be appropriate in that respect. It should therefore be incorporated into the main stream of pedagogy in the teaching of Biology at pre-NCE level in all colleges of education and all level of education. In service training for science teachers in form of seminars, workshops -conferences should focus more on how to use 5E learning cycle for the teaching of genetics concepts.

 *Keywords: Learning Cycle, Academic Performance, Biology Students*



Rural Women in Nigeria and the Challenge of Developing Food Security

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Abstract

The traditional role of men as bread winners for their households is being threatened by the perennial rural-urban drift of productive males. The burden of ensuring the survival of these households in the wake of this development is increasingly pushed onto the womenfolk who are usually left behind to tackle the bleak productive system in rural Nigeria. That this is the bane of agricultural production in the country is not surprising as these women in its agricultural system are largely stuck at the level of subsistence. The oil boom and the rising urban centers in Nigeria which encourage the rural-urban drift has left the country importing large quantities of food to make for the food deficits generated by a declining productive system. This paper while looking at the exploitative relationships the women are reduced to in this whole drama, also highlights its long term implications for the country's food security. It is therefore argued in the paper that so long as the provision of food in the economy is largely left to women, the saga of food shortages and importation will not only continue but deepen as the country struggles to feed its teeming population. It is also argued by way of a conclusion that if a food crisis is to be averted in Nigeria, the people and government of the country must address the obstacles to and imperatives of a viable and sustainable agricultural productive system.

 *Keywords: Rural Women Challenge and Developing Security*



Nigeria as the Largest Economy in Africa: some Reflections

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Abstract

Nigeria has recently been denominated as the largest economy in Africa. Writing on this issue has two objectives. It would first of all piece together an idea of the history that provided the basis for redenomination the economy as the largest in Africa. The deeper macro undercurrents influencing the dynamics of the Nigerian economy is the second aim of the paper. Bringing these two objectives together, we would be able to focus on glimpses of the negating factors holding back true development in the country. Productive forces in the economy have since independence been suppressed by these limiting factors. Thus although the country is blessed with enormous human and natural resources which largely accounted for its prestige as the largest economy in the continent, much is to be desired. For how, for example, does this translate into the daily realities of life for the teeming urban and rural populace of the country? The ultimate aim of this paper is to therefore bring out this unfolding irony where plenty on one hand and poverty, penury and want on the other are juxtaposed. Thus, how can a country blessed with such array of resources be bedeviled by such contradictions like high youth unemployment and under utilization of its innovative energies? The paper recommends that both popular and political should be mobilized to tackle and overcome the limiting factors to achieving true development and greatness for the country.

✧ *Keywords: Economy, Poverty, Resources, Africa*



Religious Education as Developmental Tool in 21st Century Africa

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Abstract

The absence of moral values appears to be responsible for most of the troubles bedeviling the African continent. For instance, Nigeria political and socio-economic woe is due largely to the lack or absence of moral values. This paper articulated the potentiality of religious education to drive development in this 21st century Africa. The study uses the qualitative research approach which relies on argumentation that rigorously and strictly adheres to the rules of logical syllogism and coherence. The findings indicated that education is a determinant factor for the development of any nation or society. Again, the study found that right values and morals are adequately integrated in educational system through religious teachings. The study also revealed that no nation can rise above the quality of her educated citizenry. The paper concluded that 21st century Africa can be mobilized and inspired towards using religious education to drive development in the continent.

 *Keywords: Educational System through Religious Teachings*



Educational Reforms and Innovations: an Overview of Sustainable Development Strategies in Nigeria Educational System

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Abstract

The failure of any educational system in the realization of the goals and objectives for which it was established usually inform the calls and agitations for its reforms and transformation. Changes in education often comes about when the current policies are challenged and questions are been asked about the ways things are been done. The search for a more efficient way of achieving educational objectives and goals may lead to proposals for either a new way of doing things or restructuring the current provisions to enable the achievements of the same goals. Changes however don't normally come because someone however just wants a change. There must be an event which informs those in charge of education that the present system is not achieving or incapable of enabling the achievements of developmental goals. This paper seeks to examine the rationales for reforms and innovations in our educational system for sustainable development. In doing these, the paper looked at the basic concepts of the study as well as issues for educational reforms and innovations. The paper concludes that educational reforms and innovations are not often well implemented and this result to massive wastages of finance, human resources, academic derails, low standard performance and many others. Before there will be a change, there must be reforms, innovations, and implementations of identified solutions to enhance sustainable development.

 *Keywords: Education, Reforms, Innovations and Sustainable Development*



Trends and Quality of Senior Secondary Education in Two Selected African Countries - Nigeria and Ghana from 2011-2015

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Abstract

Nigeria and Ghana are African countries that are also called developing countries. Many emerging economies like the two countries used for the study use education as a means of development. The research is centered on the trend and quality of senior secondary education in Ghana and Nigeria and what lessons are to be learnt from Ghana whose senior secondary education is much in demand. The national policy on education of the two countries understudy were used in ascertaining the pattern, structure, trend of senior secondary education from 2011-2015 even though other historical antecedents of secondary education in the two countries were reviewed. The study was a descriptive survey and was conducted in selected areas in the two countries. In the case of Nigeria, public secondary schools in owerri municipal council were used for the study and schools in ku metropolitan district numbering 20 public schools were also used for the study. Cluster sampling was used in selecting samples for the study. The face validity of instruments for the, study were determined and quality of facilities were determined using a rating scale and a checklist. Cronbach alpha test was used in determining the reliability index of rating scales which was 0.87. Research questions were answered with means while the hypotheses posed for the study were analyzed with analysis of variance (ANOVA) Results showed among others that the social organization of the senior secondary schools in Nigeria has effects on the running of the schools. Some of the problems experienced in the schools like examination malpractice, irregular payment of staff, poor infrastructure affect quality of graduates from Nigerian secondary schools. Recommendations were made in paper for ameliorating the situation. One such recommendation is to ensure global harmonization of salaries of all workers in the educational system and insurance of prompt payment of staff employed in the secondary schools. Others are found in the paper.

✧ *Keywords: Trends and Quality of Senior Secondary Education in African Country*



Discourse Strategies and the Evocation of Niger-Delta Revolts in Habila's *Oil on Water*

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Abstract

Language is a resource for construction of social reality. Apparently, the language in literary discourses constructs the various facets of effects and injustices inflicted on the society by these interactions. Using principles from ecocriticism interspersed with relevant principles from discourse analysis, this paper explore how Habila has employed these strategies in *Oil on Water* to explicate the effect of oil exploration in the Niger-Delta region. At the level of ecocriticism, there is a graphic description of the effects of oil spillage on habitats in the Niger-Delta region. From the discourse perspective; Habila has used experience constructions whose prototypical predicate is one of emotion or sensation to depict the various degrees of environmental degradation and the effects of oil exploration in Niger-Delta on the lives of individuals; which have led to revolts in the societies in that region. The discourse strategies Habila has used in *Oil on Water* highlights the dangers of oil drilling in the region, neglect of oil companies to adapt environmental friendly methods, the conspiracy of indigenous people, and how the government and oil companies collaborate to defraud the region. Habila's *Oil on Water* is a voice against environmental degradation of the Niger-Delta region.

✱ *Keywords: Helon Habila, Niger-Delta, Oil Spillage, Experienced Constructions*



Interrogating Public Health Behaviour

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Abstract

Health, ranks among primary issues on the top of developing nations' agenda. While advancement in medicine and medical care surely increase assurance of wellness it is also acknowledged that the social context where the environmental, organizational and personal factors interact to affect health and general well-being can be better enhanced through an understanding of the health behaviours of such individuals and groups. Such understanding will further enhance intervention activities targeting the prevention, promotion and modification of people's unhealthy life styles and proportionately reduce their health risk behaviours. This study maintains that literature has never been aloof to public health advocacy. It illustrates this with the interrogations of public health behavior of Nigerian citizens replete in Ken SaroWiwa's collection of short stories titled Prisoners of Jobs and a Forest of Flowers. Using the Social Ecological theory the study analyses selected short stories from the two volumes. Wiwa is seen to have used the stories to question the health behavior of compatriots, and to advocate for adoption of better health attitudes. His stories therefore serve as an awakening call for the evolvement of multi-modal strategies for sustainable health.

 *Keywords: Public Health, promotion, Modification, well-being, Lifestyles, Social Context, Environment, Risk Behavior, Prevention, Risk Reduction.*



Literacy Education and Lifelong Learning as Contemporary Issues in African Sustainable Development Patterns

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Abstract

This paper examines the content and context of literacy education and lifelong learning in the perspective of contemporary issues in African sustainable development. Serious concern is raised that African sustainable development will continue to be a mirage, misplaced and thwarted by developed countries if urgent attention is not taken by Africans to revert what is seen as deliberate actions to undermine African sustainable development patterns. This could be done by investment of resources in literacy education and lifelong learning. Most recently, the United Nations came up with 17-point sustainable development goals (SDGs) for 2030 as a departure from the millennium development goals (MDGs) which could not be achieved by most developing countries by 2015 as targeted. A careful look at the 17-point goals with its 169 targets shows that, although goal number 4 made reference to inclusive, equitable education and promotion of lifelong learning, not much emphasis was laid on literacy education which to this paper is critical to inclusiveness, and equitable educational opportunities, that will ultimately determine the outcomes of all the remaining 16 goals. Therefore, this paper submits that African sustainable development patterns depend, as a matter of urgency, on literacy education and lifelong learning which correlate significantly with reduction in poverty, attainment of food security, promotion of healthy lives and well-being for all among other sustainable development goals as envisioned by 2030.

✧ *Keywords: Literacy, Literacy Education, Lifelong Learning, Sustainable Development, Patterns*



Two of a Kind – Mother Africa and Womanhood: Locating a Common Solution to a Common Problem of Under-Development

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Abstract

The enigma that gnaws at the emergence of the woman to the realization of her full potential has a disturbing similitude to the multi-faceted masquerade that dances attendance to the mysterious spirit of under-development in Africa. Given the numerous attacks on history, tradition and patriarchy, by the feminist; given, also, the multiple arrows pointed against history, colonialism and the western world, by the Africanist, it is worrisome that under-development and marginalization still remain major setbacks in the worlds of these groups. This paper, therefore, suggests retrospection and introspection as necessary tools to tackling these age long issues with emphasis on the advancement of African literature and writers. It argues the importance of self-examination and conviction (not condemnation) to full self-actualization for the woman as well as Africa. And while this suggestion may not be new, in these fields, this paper broaches the feminist struggle from within the feminists' camp and marries it with the issue of under-development in Africa thereby intensifying the call for Africa and the woman to look inwards for the much needed solution to the problem of marginalization and under-development. Facts derived from texts, interviews and questionnaires prove that a relatively unconscious dislike for self and the denial of shortcomings inherent in the house stampede any other effort towards an appreciable level of development for womanhood and Africa. An unbiased and critical look at self, therefore, exposes disturbing weaknesses, hitherto ignored as insignificant, which are at the core of the stunted growth experienced by these groups. The similarities shared by these entities in widespread discrimination, enslavement and under-development make them, interestingly, comparable in a paper as this.

✧ *Keywords: Africa, Womanhood, Under-Development, Feminist, African, Writer, Literature*




Appraisal of Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) in Nigeria: Access to Universal Basic Education

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Abstract

Eradication of illiteracy to the bearst minimum by world nations and provision of access to quality education by the year 2015, prompt the introduction of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) scheme in 1999 in Nigeria. The study accessed and examined the process, input and output of the UBE scheme in achieving The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The UBE had among its objectives: reducing illiteracy, provision of affordable and accessible education to the citizens of Nigeria. Attempt was made at identifying current issues of the UBE in Nigeria which includes: building of infrastructure in schools, provision of teaching and learning aids, recruitment, training and retention of teachers, welfare issues, and instruction in school, school inspection, supervision and quality assurance based on this recommendation were made. Adequate provision and maintenance of ICT infrastructure and training of manpower needed in schools were also among the recommendations made from the study.

 *Keywords: MDGs, UBE, Scheme, Process, Input and output.*



Effect of Fertilizers and Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Inoculation in Melon (*Citrullus Lanlatus*) Production: Preliminary Study for Land use to Enhance Food Security

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Abstract

The link between land use systems for enhanced food production cannot be overemphasized as crop production and food security depend on land; a factor of production. However, available agricultural lands in some quarters are threatened by other land users for non crop production purposes aside soil fertility problems. Obviously, food demand by growing population is on increasing side, hence, various methods were advocated to improve the management techniques of soil fertility of the available lands for quality food production, these include; the use of natural input and reduced dependence on chemical fertilizers for crops production. Hence, a preliminary investigation on the response of two cultivars of melon (*Citrullus lanlatus* (Thumb) Mansf): (egusi bara and sewere) to three fertilizers was carried out at Michael Otedola College of Primary Education, Lagos Nigeria under pot conditions in an open space. The experiment was 2 x 2 x 2 factorial, laid in complete randomized design (CRD) and replicated three times; two levels of each factor (Arbuscular mycorrhiza fungi (AMF), organomineral fertilizer (OF) and compost) were applied at 0, 25 g per 10 kg of soil and 0, 12.5 g per 10 kg soil for NPK fertilizer with 0 and 10 g of mycorrhizal inoculum to each fertilizer level. Melon seeds were sown at two seeds per pot and were thinned to one seedling per pot two weeks after. Melon plant growth parameters such as number of leaf, vine length, fruits weight and number of fruits were observed. All data collected were subjected to ANOVA and means were separated using DMRT ($P < 0.05$). The results showed that mycorrhizal inoculation under compost gave the highest number (10) of leaf at three weeks after sowing for both melon cultivars, other treatments were not significantly different ($P > 0.05$) when compared. Similar trend was observed at the fifth week after sowing. The vine length was significantly increased by mycorrhizal inoculation with organic fertilizers compared to NPK application with mycorrhizal inoculation. Similar trend was observed under fruits yield (weight) and number of fruits at harvest. The highest number of (4) fruits per plant were observed with sewere under OF application with mycorrhizal inoculation. The results revealed that OF and compost with mycorrhiza are compatible soil amendments for melon production, however, it may be recommended that equivalent rate of 2.5 t ha⁻¹ of be applied on field with AM inoculation for higher melon production using sewere melon cultivar.

✧ *Keywords: Fertilizers, Melon, Pot Conditions, Mycorrhizal Inoculation, Land Use*





School of Engineering & Sciences



A GIS Mapping of Calcium and Magnesium Distribution in Parts of Central Plateau State, North Central Nigeria

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Abstract

Adequate intakes of calcium and magnesium in water have been found to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes especially, where adequate amount of these ions are not supplemented in foods. The dependence on waters abstracted directly from hand dug wells and other sources without any form of treatment and or regulation are of great concern to the health of humans and animals. Groundwater abstracted from hand dug wells and hand pumps without any form of treatment, are the main sources of water supply for rural inhabitants of central Plateau State, Nigeria. The aim of this study was to map out the distribution of calcium and magnesium using GIS in parts of central Plateau State. Multivariate analysis to explain the variation of these ions in aquifers of the area was also employed. Four rock types constitute the aquifers from which water is abstracted for drinking (migmatite, biotite granite, granite gneiss and basalts) exhibiting variations in their contents of calcium and magnesium. Content of calcium and magnesium are higher in the migmatite lithology as compared to the other rock types. Calcium and magnesium content also vary with depth of sampling, with concentration higher at depths of >5m in the migmatite lithology and higher concentration at depths of <5m in the biotite granite/granite gneiss lithology. Generally the total content of calcium in both foods and water does meet the recommended daily intake of 1000 mg for an adult. Although, magnesium is quite low in 90% of water points, the daily recommended daily intake of 200 – 400 mg for adult is supplemented in (Zea Mays, and sorghum) staple foods consumed daily by every household in the area. The high prevalence of cardiovascular disease (hypertension) in the area may probably not be linked to inadequate intake of magnesium, but probably to inadequate intake of calcium, social factors and other environmental factors.

✧ *Keywords: Calcium, Magnesium, Cardiovascular, Diabetes, Aquifer, Lithology.*



Taking Power: Social and Political Dynamics of the Energy Sector

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Abstract

Civil society organizations are resisting a redefined notion of “the public.” While corporatization processes associated with electricity sector reform primarily construct the public as “customers”, civil society organizations are asserting their voice as “citizens” and demanding access to decision making processes at all levels. The paper explores 1) how fundamentally different understandings of public participation amongst stakeholders have stunted meaningful dialog, 2) institutional frameworks where public and private interests intersect and 3) policy recommendations for supporting collaborative stakeholder partnerships during reform. Institutional reform invariably involves a reckoning of its own, a sorting out of alternative versions of allegedly shared assumptions, and their selective translation into working practice. “Working misunderstandings” can sustain a merry band of reformers well on its way to wayward public prominence. At some point, however, political realities step in to call the question and tally the bill.

✧ *Keywords: Electricity Sector Reform; Corporate Governance; Public Participation; Regulation; Democratic Governance; Corporatization; Collaborative Partnerships*



Developments in Nigeria's Power Industry and Strategies for Improvement

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Abstract

In 1898, the then Public Works Department (PWD) of Nigeria installed two, 30KW generating sets along Marina, Lagos. This, indeed marked the commencement of public electricity generation and distribution in Nigeria. Similar electricity undertakings were set up at various locations under the control of PWD. Thus, from this humble beginning, Nigeria has today a total installed generation capacity of approximately 11,000 megawatts with a huge network of transmission and distribution lines spanning the six geo-political zones of the country. This paper studies and assesses the existing energy facilities of Nigeria and weighs its suitability for the present developmental needs of the country. It identifies the problems militating against adequate and reliable electricity supply and makes recommendations for improvement.



Keyword: Development Power, Industry and Improvement Strategies



Rating of Maternal Health Care Offered During Delivery among Post Natal Mothers in Rural and Urban Hospitals in Kenya

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Abstract

Maternal mortality rate due to pregnancy-related complications remains high at 488 per 100,000 live births in Kenya. If mothers are treated appropriately and in a timely manner, in a hospital almost all women who develop pregnancy-related complications can be saved from death and disability. The objective of the study was to assess the rating of the health care services and factors that promote hospital delivery among postnatal mothers in Thika and Kangundo District Hospitals which are in Kiambu and Machakos Counties respectively. The methodology was a cross sectional study which was composed of eight hundred post natal mothers from Thika and Kangundo Districts attending Maternal Child Health Clinics who had delivered less than one year ago. Structured questionnaires and interviews were used to collect the data. In addition, Focus Group Discussions were conducted in each District and Key informants interviewed. Quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS for windows version 16 and data presented in form of tables and bar charts. The qualitative data from the focus group and Key informants was transcribed and a summary written. The results showed that rating of the health care services in terms of acceptability was average with only half of respondents feeling that the services were acceptable in both hospitals. In terms of accessibility 74% could access the hospital through matatus. In terms of availability time taken to be attended was rated above average while availability of health facilities and services required was below average in both districts. Quality of care during delivery was rated high in both districts with 72% of the respondents being assisted during head delivery but in terms of infection control this was above average. The research concludes that health care is rated average in terms of acceptability and below average in terms of availability and services required. This calls for improvement in terms of acceptability and affordability.



Keywords: Maternal Mortality, Health Care, Post Natal



Nigeria's Electric Grid: Technical Issues, Challenges and Solutions

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Abstract

Energy is a very key factor in the development of any country. Almost every facet of life depends on electricity for survival. Infact, industrialization and good life would suffer without adequate reliable good quality electricity supply. Unfortunately, many nations of the world, including the so-called developed countries are still having some difficulty in providing stable, quality and adequate electricity necessary for socio-economic activities. Major grey areas include energy mix, compatibility with environment, electricity quality, and access. The paper aims at disseminating knowledge on energy development as it relates to Nigeria. This would enable nations across the globe to compare notes, assess and improve on the practices that could enhance own energy sector in the face of current global energy challenge.



Keyword: Nigeria's Electric Issues, Challenges and Solutions



Assessment of Smart Cities Challenges Towards Building a Smarter Planet


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Abstract

The provision of smart cities, especially the building, transportation, waste and security for the masses has been characterized with major challenges over the years. To improve on this situational trend, certain innovative constructions (materials and methods), cutting-edge technologies, principles, laws and regulations among others are expected to facilitate access to futuristic smarter cities. Ever increasing demands for smart city systems in the planet can never be under estimated which calls for adequate sustainable international developments. Such smart cities are geared to meet up with all global practices and standards (economic, environmental and social). At least, minimum design standard requirements within the general accepted level of environmental friendliness, safety, security, health, access and ecological considerations are required to be put in place. As a result of the above, this paper revisits as well as appraises the exposition of duly accredited international standards, information and communication technology such as innovative designs systems, amphibian architecture systems, digital city systems, intelligent building systems, zero-energy emission systems, 3d printed homes or hybrid, vertical and modular systems etc. for implementation to attain a smarter planet.

 *Keywords: Smart Cities, Economic, Housing, Development*



Investigation of some Physico-Chemical Properties of Hand Dug-Well Water in Mubi, Adamawa State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The status of eighteen (18) hand dug well-water samples from six selected wards (Yelwa, Lokuwa, Sabonlayi, Kolere, Digil, Wuro-patuji) in Mubi town was determined by evaluating the physiochemical properties of hand dug well-water samples. The investigation was carried out for a period of 12 calendar months. The parameters investigated include Turbidity, colour, odour, temperature, taste, suspended solids. Total dissolved solid (TDS), electrical conductivity (EC), pH, Na, Mg, Ca, Fluoride, Nitrate, Potassium, Sulphate, in the laboratory using standard procedure. A Filtering device developed, made from a jute sack and ply wood was used to filter physical impurities in the water. The results was compared with the available standard requirement for water use. The physical properties (Odour, colour, taste, TSS, TDS, turbidity and temperature) of the investigated hand dug-well water were found to be within the acceptable limit for safe drinking water quality specified by WHO (2010), NIS/SON/NAFDAC, (2007) and Australian Drinking Water Guideline (2011). The chemical properties (pH, F, Cl, Na, Ca, Mg, SO₄, NO₃, K and conductivity) were also found to be within the acceptable limits for safe drinking water quality earlier specified by WHO (2010), NIS/SON/NAFDAC, (2007) and Australian Drinking Water Guideline (2011). The Data were analyzed using statistics 8.0 for the analysis of variance (ANOVA) among variables under observation. The sample means were appropriately separated using LSD at 5% level and S.E (±). In addition, selected parameters were further compared using line graphs.

✱ *Keyword: Contamination, Well Water, Quality, Analysis, Impurities, Investigation.*



Effect of Moringa Powder Application Rate on Purification of Micro-Biological Contaminated Hand Dug-Well Water Sources in Mubi Adamawa State Nigeria

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Abstract

The work involved data collection and analysis to determine the microbiological properties of hand dug-well water in Mubi. Three (3) water samples were collected from each of the 6 locations (Kolere, Lokuwa, Sabon-layi, Yelwa, Wuro-patuji and Digil) once a month for a period of 12 calendar months (1 year), and analyzed for microbiological properties. The microbiological properties (T. coli and E. coli) equally revealed that their values were far above the permitted levels for safe drinking water quality standards. Moringa powder (water purifier) proportionally reduced the concentration of microbiological contaminants with increasing application rates in the hand dug-well water studied. The T. coli population dropped from 166.43 cfu/100 ml (0 g of moringa powder) to 83.42 cfu/100 ml (10 g of moringa powder), then 45 cfu/100 ml (20 g moringa powder), and 0 cfu/100 ml (30 g of moringa powder). Similarly, the E. coli also reduced from 78 cfu/100 ml (0 g moringa powder) to 46.5 cfu/100 ml (10 g moringa powder) and to 0 cfu/100 ml at both 20 and 30 g of moringa powder application rates. The Data were analyzed using statistics 8.0 for the analysis of variance (ANOVA) among variables under observation. The sample means were appropriately separated using LSD at 5% level and S.E (\pm). In addition, selected parameters were further compared using line graphs.

✱ *Keyword: Contamination, Moringa, Micro-Biological, Water Sources, Purification*



The Effects of Age and sex on some Lymphoid Organs of the Grasscutter (*Thyromys Swinderianus*)

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Abstract

The grasscutter (*Thyromys swinderianus*) has become an important source of protein and income to rural dwellers in most West African countries including Nigeria. In these countries where it has a very high demand, aggressive hunting in the wild has become very rampant. Domestication of the grasscutter is therefore encouraged in order to take care of the growing demands without sending the rodent into extinction. Twelve apparently healthy grasscutters consisting of six males and six females between the ages of three and seven months were obtained from rural dwellers in Benue state and used for this study. The animals were transported by means of constructed cages to the Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and sacrificed using chloroform inhalation gaseous anaesthesia by suffocation. The thymus, mesenteric lymph nodes and spleen were extirpated and the tissues prepared using standard methods, haematoxylin and eosin stain was used for routine histology, while Rhodamine B-aniline-methylene blue stain was used for staining reticular and elastic fibres and mononuclear phagocytes of the mesenteric lymph nodes. Grossly, the thymus was bilateral on either side of the thoracic midline, a consistent decrease of the organ was observed with increase in age. Mean \pm SEM values for thymic weights were $1.23 \pm 0.048\text{g}$, $0.53 \pm 0.019\text{g}$ and $0.30 \pm 0.042\text{g}$ at three, five and seven months of age, respectively. Histological, the thymus showed loss of lymphoid cells as the grasscutters advanced in age. The spleen was dark red in colour and roughly triangular in outline, and was observed to increase consistently with age, maximum values were recorded at seven months of age in both males and females. Mean \pm SEM values for splenic weights were $0.67 \pm 0.09\text{g}$, $1.65 \pm 0.35\text{g}$ and $2.31 \pm 0.06\text{g}$ at three, five and seven months of age, respectively. The percentage ratio of splenic weight to body weight was 0.1%. Histological, the germinal centres revealed three zones; the germinal centre, cortical layer and the marginal zone. The mesenteric lymph nodes were constantly bean shaped and appeared as opaque white masses which resemble fat but were distinguished from fat by their pearly glossy nature. The mean \pm SEM values for mesenteric lymph node weights were $0.056 \pm 0.005\text{g}$, $0.143 \pm 0.034\text{g}$ and $0.1600 \pm 0.023\text{g}$ at three, five and seven months of age, respectively. Presence of mononuclear phagocytes were observed in all the mesenteric lymph nodes, with their sizes much larger in the older grasscutters,

suggesting that as the grasscutters advanced in age the phagocytic features of the mesenteric lymph nodes became more evident. The cytoplasm of these cells stained weakly eosinophilic and granular in nature with haematoxin and eosin, and stained strongly positive with Rhodamine B-aniline-methylene blue. In conclusion, all the lymphoid organs studied varied slightly from that of other rodents which was believed to be a form of adaptability for the rodent's habitat.

✧ *Keyword: Age Lymphoid Organs and Grasscutter*



108.

Current Trends in Research and Innovations: Improving Teacher Formation and Performance through Qualitative Educational Research

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University of Calabar, Calabar



Abstract

The Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme is an expression of the desire of government to reinforce participatory democracy in Nigeria by raising the level of awareness and general education of the whole citizenry. UBE goes beyond the provision of primary education to school-age children. It is a package which contains the basic components that will make an individual literate in knowledge and skills so that he fashions out strategies for effective living. It involves both formal and non-formal approaches. The components of UBE include primary education, adult literacy, junior secondary school, nomadic and fishermen education. This paper therefore focused on the meaning, goals, scope and objective, the problems and challenges of UBE in Boki Local Government Area. In addition, it suggest the way out of the major challenges of UBE.

✧ *Keywords: Universal Basic Education, Mobilization, Sensitization, Appraisal, Stakeholders.*



Invitro Assessment of the Effectiveness of *Bacillusthuringiensis Israelensis* for the Control of Mosquito Larvae

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Abstract

Several species of mosquitos serve as a vector for many parasitic diseases, like yellow fever, dengue fever and malaria. The aim of this research was to assess the effectiveness of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) in controlling mosquito larvae. The mosquito larvae were collected from their breeding site at Bogo area 11 and transported to Biological Science Laboratory Gombe State University. The larvae were acclimatized for 24 hours and fed with yeast extract. The collected mosquito larvae were grouped into 2 groups containing 7 treatment with 25 mosquito larvae in each treatment. The settings were treated with 0.72mg, 1.44mg, 2.16mg, 2.88mg, 3.60mg, and 4.32mg powdered and crystal form of Bti respectively. The 7th treatment is considered as a control (with no Bti). Knock down mortality after 1hour and mortality after 24 hours were recorded. Least mortality rate of 3(12%) was recorded at crystal concentration of 0.72mg, mortality increase to 11(44%) as the concentration increase 4.32mg. also 0.72mg of powdered Bti produced 6(24%) mortality as compared to 15(60%) when the concentration is increased to 4.32mg, 100% mortality were recorded at all the concentration of both powdered and crystal form after 24 hours. Further research should be carried out in order to reassess the effectiveness of Bti under field conditions (invivo).



Keywords: Mosquitoes Israelensis and Control



Exploring the Potentials of Khaya Senegalese's (Mahogany) Seed Oil as a Biodiesel Feedstock

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Abstract

Khaya senegalensis (mahogany) is native to Africa and Madagascar. The seed has an oil content of 52.5 to 67.0%. Khaya senegalensis seed oil was extracted in a modified soxhlet extraction method. The extracted oil was transesterified with methanol and ethanol using KOH as catalyst at a molar ratio of alcohol to oil of 6:1. The transesterification reaction was carried out in a 250ml three neck reactor. The compound quantification, separation and determination were carried out using GC-MS QP 2010 SE Shimadzu model. Khaya senegalensis methyl ester of 97.2% was obtained with composition mixtures of palmitic, oleic, stearic and arachidic methyl esters. The ethyl ester gave a yield of 96.8% with composition mixtures of palmitic, stearic, oleic, heptadecanoic acid and monoglyceryl oleate ethyl esters. The flash, pour and cloud points, kinematic viscosities, water and sediment and copper corrosion strip index fall within the ASTM and European standards. From the results obtained, Khaya senegalensis seed oil has a potential of a good feedstock for biodiesel production.

 *Keywords: Fame, Fae, Gc-Ms, Khaya Senegalese 's, Transesterification*



Effects of Light and Variety on the Stored Potato (*Solanumtuberosum*) Seed Tubers

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Abstract

A storage experiment was conducted at the National Root Crop Research Institute, Kuru, Plateau State, Nigeria to determine the effects of light and variety on the storability for preservation of potato seed tubers. Seven varieties: Nicola, Bertita, Diamant, 043, BR 63 - 18, RC 7716 - 2 and RuslinRuaka were stored under three light conditions: diffused light (DL), complete darkness (CD) and complete full light (CL) for ten weeks using three different store houses in 2013, 2014 and 2015. The results showed that the percentage weight loss on seed tubers of potatoes stored under DL was significantly ($P < 0.05$) lower than that obtained from seed tubers stored either in CD or CL. Sprouting was most observed on potatoes stored under CD from where longer sprouts were also produced than those stored under DL and CL. Whereas Nicola and 043 varieties had significantly ($P < 0.05$) lower percentage tuber weight loss than other varieties, Bertita and RuslinRuaka produced more sprouts starting from four weeks in storage (WIS) and through to ten weeks. Although, there was no significant difference among the light conditions and varieties with respect to infection by bacteria wilt and soft rot pathogens, dry rot infection was significantly more enhanced under CL than CD and DL while Diamant was most significantly infected by dry rot among other varieties.

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✱ *Keywords; Solanumtuberosum, Storage, Deterioration, Ralstoniasolanacearum, Erwiniacarotovora, Fusariumdry Rot.*



A GIS Mapping of Calcium and Magnesium Distribution in Parts of Central Plateau State, North Central Nigeria

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Abstract

Adequate intakes of calcium and magnesium in water have been found to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes especially, where adequate amount of these ions are not supplemented in foods. The dependence on waters abstracted directly from hand dug wells and other sources without any form of treatment and or regulation are of great concern to the health of humans and animals. Groundwater abstracted from hand dug wells and hand pumps without any form of treatment, are the main sources of water supply for rural inhabitants of central Plateau State, Nigeria. The aim of this study was to map out the distribution of calcium and magnesium using GIS in parts of central Plateau State. Multivariate analysis to explain the variation of these ions in aquifers of the area was also employed. Four rock types constitute the aquifers from which water is abstracted for drinking (migmatite, biotite granite, granite gneiss and basalts) exhibiting variations in their contents of calcium and magnesium. Content of calcium and magnesium are higher in the migmatite lithology as compared to the other rock types. Calcium and magnesium content also vary with depth of sampling, with concentration higher at depths of >5m in the migmatite lithology and higher concentration at depths of <5m in the biotite granite/granite gneiss lithology. Generally the total content of calcium in both foods and water does meet the recommended daily intake of 1000 mg for an adult. Although, magnesium is quite low in 90% of water points, the daily recommended daily intake of 200 – 400 mg for adult is supplemented in (Zea Mays, and sorghum) staple foods consumed daily by every household in the area. The high prevalence of cardiovascular disease (hypertension) in the area may probably not be linked to inadequate intake of magnesium, but probably to inadequate intake of calcium, social factors and other environmental factors.

✧ *Keywords: Calcium, Magnesium, Cardiovascular, Diabetes, Aquifer, Lithology*



Viability Analysis of a Photovoltaic-Hydro-Diesel Hybrid Renewable Energy System for Katsira Village

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Abstract

Off-Grid rural electrification with the help of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) has become a cost-effective and convenient option for areas where grid connection is neither available nor feasible in the near future. This paper focuses on creating a model for electricity generation from a mix of renewable energy resources to satisfy the electrical needs of an off-grid remote village of Katsira, located in north western state of Sokoto in Nigeria. The selected solution is based on the system cost and the availability of the renewable energy resource at the location. The monthly average daily global solar radiation for the village is about 5.919 kWh. With an estimated primary energy demand of 189KWh/day and 33kW peak load demand for the village, an economic feasibility and assessment of a proposed hybrid system to supply this requirement was carried out. The simulation using NREL's Homer software indicate that for the proposed hybrid system comprising of PV, Diesel and Small Hydro Power (SHP), the cost of generating energy (COE) is 0.045\$/kWh. This cost is 40% lower than that of the public utility supply company in Nigeria. The optimized hybrid system realized has a Net Price Cost of \$39,828.00 and no storage battery is necessary.

 *Keywords: Small Hydro Power, Cost of Energy, Net Price Cost, Renewable Energy, hybrid system*



Investigating the Switching Characteristic of High Power Resonant Inverter Using Linear Technologies (LTSPICE IV)

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Abstract

Semiconductor switching devices operate in Hard Switching Mode in various types of Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) DC-DC converters and DC-AC inverters employed in a power system. This generates problems such as increase in switching losses, electrical dynamic voltage and current stresses on the switching devices, and that result to electromagnetic interference (EMI) and loss of electronic components. In order to solve the problems, it is required to operate the semiconductor switching devices on the principle of soft switching. This study investigates the switching characteristic and mode of operation of the inverter using Linear Technologies spice (LTspice IV) Simulink. This inverter provides soft commutation and higher efficiency as compared to the hard switching PWM inverter and it therefore alleviates the problems associated with it.

 **Keyword:** *Resonant Inverter, Resonant Frequency, Switching Devices, LTspice.*



Housing Development for Sustainable Built Environment in Nigeria

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Abstract

Housing is a basic need for sustainable development as it provides shelter and employment to people. Housing development is enhanced by cost, time and quality standards, unfortunately in Nigeria is yet to attain its optimum in the built environment. Housing demand is on the increase as a result of population growth. However, non-sustainability of housing policy led to abandonment and uncompleted housing projects remain a challenge. This is as a result of ineffective and inefficient project monitoring and supervision. This study therefore seeks to assess housing development challenges for sustainable built environment in Nigeria. The study adopts both qualitative and quantitative survey. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select 400 respondents from the entire population for the purpose of data analysis. The study found out that there are ineffective and inefficient monitoring mechanisms to enhance sustainable built environment. It is recommended that project and evaluation should be strictly adhered and procurement due process should be maintained.

 *Keywords: Challenges, Development, Housing, Infrastructure, Sustainable Built Environment*




Building Pathology and Sustainable Housing Delivery in Nigeria

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Abstract

Housing is essential in the socio-economic development of any nation. The increase in population signals a high demand for housing in Nigeria. Sustainable housing delivery is a mirage due to pathology of buildings. Most houses could not meet the requirement of housing demand. Besides, issues of high cost of buildings and longer duration before projects are completed makes housing demand an illusion. This research seeks to examine building pathology and sustainable housing delivery in Nigeria. The study use both qualitative and quantitative methods. Data was collected using questionnaire from the professionals in the built environment. Analysis of Variance was used to analyze the data at 95% level of significance. The study concludes that inefficiency and ineffective building production processes as well as non-compliance to housing policy is responsible for lack of sustainable housing delivery in Nigeria. It is recommended that monitoring mechanisms should be put in place to ensure compliance to housing delivery in Nigeria.

 *Keywords: Building, Delivery, Housing, Pathology and Sustainability*



Causality Between Government Expenditures and Economic Growth: Case of Granger Causality Test

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Abstract

The paper examines the causal relationship between government expenditures and economic growth in Nigeria from 2000 to 2014. Secondary data sourced from the Central Bank of Nigeria was used. Econometric modelling was adopted and Granger causality model was used to test the direction of causality between government expenditures and economic growth in Nigeria. Since government expenditures lead to increased growth in Nigeria, the paper recommends that government expenditure should be directed to priority sectors such as power, infrastructure, education and power so as to facilitate the rate of growth in the economy, amongst other recommendations.

✱ *Keywords: Government Expenditure, Economic Growth, Causality, Model, Economy*




Effect of Knowledge of Task on Productivity in an Organization

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Abstract

The growth of any organization as well as its survival in a turbulent business environment is a function of well-trained employees. Knowledge of task is imperative for all employee of an organization for them to be more productive. Training is a process designed to equip non-managerial employees with the skill requirements for their category of work in spite of the knowledge they already possess. However, such knowledge form the foundation upon which training is built. The study made use of Yaro Yamani formula to get its sample size. Survey design was use, as well as Primary data. A simple regression analysis was used to test the hypothesis. Tested hypotheses showed a significant relationship between employees' knowledge of task performance and productivity in family businesses with a p-value=0.000; r=0.321. This evidence affirmed that knowledge from training enhanced productivity. Result shows that there is a significant relationship between employee knowledge of task and productivity.

 *Keywords: Productivity, Knowledge of task, Organisation*



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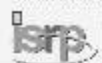
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