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CONFERENCE ON GOVERNANCE,
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT**
LEEDS, UNITED KINGDOM

THEME:
**SOCIAL POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT
CHALLENGES IN AFRICA**

ABSTRACTS & PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 22ND - THURSDAY 23RD JUNE, 2022

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES



EUROPE–AFRICA CONFERENCE ON GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT LEEDS, UNITED KINGDOM

THEME

Social Policies and Development Challenges in Africa

OBJECTIVE

The Conference offers a great opportunity to bring together researchers and scholars around the world to virtually deliver the latest innovative research results in governance, management, and social development.

DATE: Wednesday 22nd - Thursday 23rd June, 2022

TIME: 11:00 am

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY ONE: Wednesday 22nd June, 2022

Conference Briefing via Google Meet	- 8:30am - 9:00am
Research Training Workshop	- 9:00am - 9:30am
Online Visual Presentation via Google Meet	- 9:30am - 11:00am
WhatsApp Video Presentations	- 3:00pm - 4:00pm

DAY TWO: Thursday 23rd June, 2022

Conference Briefing via Google Meet	- 8:30am - 9:00am
Research Training Workshop	- 9:00am - 9:30am
Online Visual Presentation via Google Meet	- 9:30am - 11:00am
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Director - IIPRDS & UN-African IP-SDGs
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Conference Abstracts

Social Policy in the African Context

Jimi O. Adesina (Ed)

Senegal, Dakar: CODESRIA

Abstract

Achieving socio-economic equality and development is an unfinished project on the African continent. While grand visions exist, many national and global initiatives remain piecemeal and palliative, certainly since the neoliberal turn. Although the reigning dominant doctrine for development includes a concern for welfare, much social policymaking has been criticised for being too narrowly concerned with poverty reduction and thus insufficient for making a significant dent in existing power relations. Especially in a development context, however, social policy must address the larger picture by connecting issues of production, reproduction and protection, as Thandika Mkandawire has so powerfully argued. He called for acknowledging and fostering the transformative potential of social policy, and his intellectual legacy is a gift in the continuing pursuit of transformation on the continent.

Keywords: *Social Policy and African Context*

Embracing Education as Key for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

¹Ven Egesi Jonathan, C., ²Ven Promise Oparanozie &
³Egesi Jonathan Adaku Juliet

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Abstract

Various countries in the world today have attempted a definition of the concept of Education. For our purpose here it can be taken for various aspects of learning which is primarily aimed at making the young adult balanced and well equipped to perform various acts capable of winning daily bread and making the person involved relevant. Various people from various backgrounds and intellectual nomenclature have proffered definitions and benefits of education. Whichever is the case, education have been found to be a very advantageous to growth and development of any nation. Though, it is considered all-encompassing and all-embracing, education has been seen considered to be beneficial in all fronts for various countries. Though various benefits can be achieved through education many countries are yet to embrace it whole heartedly. Various data collection techniques were adopted in the course of this study functionalism was adopted as theoretical standpoint and conclusion drawn.

Keywords: *Education, Sustainable Development, Nigeria*

The Challenge of Economic Crisis in Recent Times in Nigeria: Possible Way Forward Out of this Doldrum

¹Ven Egesi Jonathan, C., ²Okorochoa Cyrilgentle Ugochukwu &
³Uchechi Dike

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Abstract

It has been discovered over the past few months all over the world that the world has been grabbing with the issue of economic crisis. The cost of goods and services has skyrocketed that people considered to be of middle and lower has been considered to the worse hit as most of them can no longer afford themselves one square meal not even to talk of their family members. Issues pertaining to balanced diet for family members has become a thing of the past as many members of this class are in an unending battle to survive while the government do virtually nothing to manage or curb the ugly trend. This calls for serious attention because with the way things are going, the future looks bleak. Various data collection techniques were adopted in this study while a main stream sociological theory was adopted to serve as theoretical framework. The work concluded with scholars stating that the time for the governments to act is now.

Keywords: *Challenge, Economic crisis, Nigeria.*

Developmental Challenges and Opportunity in Africa

Daniel Athior Atem Manyuon

MINDS Scholar – South Sudan

Abstract

For generations, Africa has faced numerous social, political and economic challenges. These endemic problems range from abject poverty, violence, underutilise agriculture, infrastructure, lack of access to credit facilities, social fractionalisation, poor health facilities, poor education to catastrophic civil unrest; which are linked to illiteracy, lack of proper institution and exploitation by corrupt and brutal leaders. These block African from encountering and supporting sustainable development and recovery of Africa. When these gaps are addressed, many opportunities will open for the youth like entrepreneurship, which shall, in turn, create millions of employments and solve the problem of transitioning to the risk of unemployment.

Keywords: *Developmental Challenges, Economic recovery in Africa*

A Collapsing Society: The Urgency of a Social Protection Floor

¹Georgia Dagher & ²Sami Zoughaib

The Policy Initiative, Lebanon

Abstract

Lebanon is mired in a cataclysmic and seemingly endless downward spiral which began in 2019, when its national currency began to steadily depreciate. Fleeting optimism during the uprising of late 2019 has become little more than a distant memory, as income and wealth are now decimated by the currency shock and severe economic recession. Gone are the colorful images and footage of crowds chanting and demanding systemic political and socioeconomic change. In their stead, innumerable tales and anecdotes of misery have flooded our screens and airwaves—after all, the multidimensional poverty rate stood at 82% in 2021, and has likely worsened since then. Lebanon's ruling authorities are seemingly oblivious to the social repercussions of the financial meltdown unless hard currencies pouring in from abroad are involved. Our analysis shows that out of the 73 response measures undertaken by the central bank, the parliament, and the government, only seven addressed our social calamity—mainly through legislating cash transfer programs that have not yet materialized. The social crisis eviscerating the population requires the urgent implementation of an ambitious social protection policy that tackles rapidly expanding vulnerabilities. This policy will not only provide necessary relief to preserve the country's human capital in the short term but will also be an integral part of the economic recovery process.

Keywords: *Collapsing Society, Urgency, Social Protection Floor*

Interrogating the Role of the Judiciary and the Issue of Corruption in Nigeria

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^{1&2}*Department of History and International Studies,
Imo State University, Owerri*

Abstract

Nigeria as a country operates a Federal System of government where the principle of separation of powers are hinged on a separation of the three arms of government namely, the legislature, executive and the judiciary. The essence of their separation is to avoid fusion of powers among the three arms so as to ensure checks and balances that guarantee good governance in the country. Using a qualitative study which is based on a historical analytical descriptive approach that revolves around a combination of historical literature where both secondary and primary sources of data were utilized, to arrive at logical findings, the study argued that, the Nigerian judiciary which has been described by certain scholars as the last hope of a common man and also the bastion of democracy is saddle with the responsibility of interpreting the laws as well as determining and resolving dispute between individuals on one hand, and between states and other levels of government on the other hand. But regrettably, right from the military regime up to the present day democratic experiment in Nigeria, the judiciary has been deeply abashed or embroiled with corrupt practices of various degrees. The paper is therefore, tailored towards examining not only the causes of corruption in Nigeria's judicial system but also the implications of corruption on our justice system. The paper finally canvases for total overhauling of the judiciary system for optimal performance of the sector in order to rekindle the lost confidence of Nigerians on the justice ministry or sector.

Keywords: *Judiciary, Legislature, Executive, Corruption and Separation of Powers, good governance.*

Employability and Entrepreneurship Skills Among Nigerian Undergraduates: Why the Service-Learning Curriculum Matters

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Abstract

Given the lack of awareness among undergraduates in Nigerian universities about employability and entrepreneurship skills, it is critical to emphasise the need for a service-learning curriculum for undergraduates to promote experiential learning and an adequate understanding of 21st century skills required to be employable and the ability to create jobs. Based on recent events on unemployment and the supply of labour in Nigeria, there is a need to introduce a service-learning curriculum into the Nigerian university system in order to improve the quality of labour supply, promote a good attitude to entrepreneurship, increase job creation, and promote students' self-independence through experiential learning. Therefore, the study adopted an explanatory concurrent mixed method design (QUAN-qual). A purposive sampling technique was used to select three (3) states from the six southwestern states and also to select 200 undergraduates in 300 level in each of the selected faculties, while twenty (20) HRs and entrepreneurs were also selected for this study. The findings revealed that undergraduates have a high level of awareness of the employability skills required to secure good jobs in the twenty-first century, as well as a high level of awareness of the entrepreneurship skills required to fit in today's workplace. However, most employers still complain that graduates rarely possess the skills they claim they are aware of. Hence, graduates need to be practically exposed to the skills needed to deliver effectively and efficiently at work. Therefore, this study recommended that Nigerian universities embrace the service-learning curriculum for employability and entrepreneurship skills so as to improve the quality of labour supply and graduates in the work place.

Keywords: *University, Workplace, Graduate, Awareness*

African Social Institutions and Development

Ali B. Ali-Dinar, PhD

African Studies Center

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Abstract

The overall social situation in Africa has continued to deteriorate. This is evidenced by the rapid rate of population growth and the pressure of urbanization and rural emigration, the decay in educational and health infrastructure, growing malnutrition and poverty, the worsening plight of refugees and displaced persons, and widespread unemployment and underemployment. Severe cutbacks of expenditure on education and emphasis on cost recovery and cost sharing continue to affect adversely the education sector, evidenced in falling gross enrolment ratios, haphazard attendance, high attrition and repetition rates, low moral and exodus of teachers from the profession. In some cases, pay disputes between governments and teachers' associations as well as political tension or strife have contributed to the closure of many educational institutions. As with the educational sector, so with the health sector. Cost recovery programmes as well as pay disputes have interrupted the demand for health care in many countries. The only positive developments in the social arena in 1994, perhaps, were in the democratization process, culminating in the establishment of popularly elected governments in a number of African countries. Women, children and youth bear a disproportionate burden of the social crisis in Africa, who constitute 70 to 80 per cent of refugees, and a preponderant share of the unemployed and participants in the informal economy. African women experience the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, while the level of illiteracy among them is almost unsurpassed anywhere else. This work analyses trends in selected social aspects of development, focusing on such key areas as the demographic situation, employment, health and nutrition, women in development, refugees and displaced persons.

Keywords: *Urbanization, Rural emigration and African Development*

Moving Forward to the Next Step of Sanitation Ladder: The Conversion of Squat Toilet to Water Closet Toilet in Nigeria

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Abstract

Globally, Nigeria is second to India among the countries with the highest number of people practicing open defecation. The practice has had a negative effect on the populace, especially children, in the areas of health and education. The sanitation situation in the country prompted the National Council on Water Resources (NCWR) and Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMWR) to prioritize the development of a roadmap and sanitation ladder towards eliminating open defecation in the country, in line with the United Nations global campaign for ending open defecation using improved sanitation and hygiene practices for the survival, socio-economic development and wellbeing of the society at large. In addition, it safeguards girls/women's dignity and protects them against sexual harassment, kidnappers, dangerous animals attack, privacy and comfort among others. The Government of Nigeria is committed to end open defecation in the country by 2030 which is in line with the revised Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target set by the United Nations. The sanitation ladder is therefore a useful tool that is being used to monitor progress towards the attainment of sanitation target of the SDGs. The objective of this paper is to identify strategies that can bring about the conversion of squat toilet to water closet toilet in Nigeria. The Methodology entails case study qualitative method of design, construction and implementation, using local content smart toilet technology and step by step methods of assembly. Major findings Based on the physical visitations and mode of operation, it was observed that converted and improved smart toilets from squat to water closet system has improved sanitation trend, inclusive/innovative toilet constructions, positive attitudinal hygienic behaviours, promotions, cutting-edge technologies, principles, sanitation laws and regulations. Anticipated outcomes, benefits will be harnessed in the conversion of squat toilet to water closet toilet in Nigeria, such as safety, privacy, comfort, aspirations, and employment creation. In conclusion the opportunities and the need to participate in the upward movement to the next level of strategy is a collective responsibility called 'Community Led Total Sanitation', which will provide the enabling environment, leadership and coordination required in achieving SDG target by working together with communities, civil society, development agencies, private sector and government at sub-national levels. Implementation and recommendations, appropriate application of general, collaborative and partnership efforts by Government, stakeholders and non-Government organization in order to safeguard and promote the sustainable solutions of converting squat toilet to water closet toilet in Nigeria using 'sanitation marketing', use the Toilet Campaign', and other approved water and sanitation tools and strategies will change the game from open defecation to open defecation free Nigeria..

Keywords: *Appropriate, Change, Improvement, Sustainable and Solutions*

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