



**10th International Interdisciplinary
Research & Development Conference**

Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State - Nigeria

ABSTRACTS & PROCEEDINGS

Theme: Nigeria's Development Crisis:
Emerging Issues, Challenges & Prospects

22nd - 23rd January, 2025





10TH INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OTUOKE

THEME

Nigeria's Development Crisis: Emerging Issues, Challenges & Prospects

DATE: Wednesday 22nd – Thursday 23rd January, 2025

TIME: 10:00am

CONFERENCE LOC

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Federal University, Otuoke - Bayelsa State

Dr. Raimi Lasisi

Federal University, Otuoke - Bayelsa State

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10TH INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OTUOKE

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY ONE: **Wednesday 22nd January, 2025**

Conference Briefing via Google Meet	- 9:00am - 9:30am
Online Visual Presentation via Google Meet	- 9:30am - 1:00pm
WhatsApp Video Presentations	- 3:00pm - 4:00pm

DAY TWO: **Thursday 23rd January, 2025**

Conference Briefing via Google Meet	- 9:00am - 9:30am
Online Visual Presentation via Google Meet	- 9:30am - 1:00pm
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Conference Abstracts

The Impact of Poor Institutional Quality and Public Debt on Economic Growth in Nigeria

Zulaihatu A. Zubair

*Department of Economics,
National Open University, Abuja*

Abstract

Poor institutional quality and public debt has tremendous impact on economic growth in Nigeria. Using data series from 2000 to 2021, sourced from World Bank Data bank and Central Bank of Nigeria Statistical Bulletin. The study is anchored on endogenous growth model and by using Auto-Regressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model. The variables for the analysis were GDP growth rate, while poor governance (PG), corruption perception index (CPI) and public debt (PD) are the explanatory variables. The result from the ARDL Bound test revealed that there exists long run relationship among the variables. From the ARDL estimate, Poor governance was found to have significant impact on economic growth in Nigeria, both in the long run and the short run. Corruption perception index was found to have a negative impact on economic growth in Nigeria in the long run and in the short run. Public debt was found to have a significant adverse impact on economic growth in the long run but not significant in the short run. The findings reveal that inadequate institutional frameworks significantly hinder economic growth, while escalating public debt imposes constraints on fiscal policies, thus further undermining growth prospects. This study concludes by offering policy recommendations aimed at improving institutional quality and managing public debt to foster sustainable economic growth in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Institutional Quality, Public Debt, Governance, Economic Growth, Nigeria*

Climate Change, Herder-Farmer Conflicts, and Food Security Crisis in Nigeria

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²Department of Political Science University of Lagos, Akoka

Abstract

The intersection of climate change, herder-farmer conflicts, and food security in Nigeria presents a complex and escalating crisis. Climate change has exacerbated environmental stress, particularly in the arid and semi-arid regions of northern Nigeria, where desertification and unpredictable rainfall patterns have disrupted traditional livelihoods. This has forced pastoralist herders to migrate southwards in search of grazing lands, bringing them into conflict with sedentary farmers over land and water resources. These tensions have resulted in violent clashes, leading to loss of lives, displacement of communities, and destruction of farmlands. The conflict undermines agricultural productivity, exacerbating food insecurity in a nation where agriculture is a key livelihood for millions. The challenges of addressing this crisis are multifaceted, involving environmental degradation, ethnic tensions, weak governance, and inadequate policy responses. Poor infrastructure, lack of effective conflict resolution mechanisms, and the inability to adapt agricultural practices to climate impacts further aggravate the situation. This paper highlights the urgent need for comprehensive strategies that integrate climate adaptation, conflict resolution, and food security interventions to mitigate the crises affecting Nigeria's rural communities. Addressing these issues requires coordinated efforts among local, national, and international stakeholders, alongside sustainable development and peace-building initiatives.

Keywords: *Climate change, Herder-farmer conflicts, and Food security*

Evaluating the Roles of Cooperatives in Promoting Community Development and Poverty Alleviation Among Rural Farmers in Delta State

Eze, MaryAnn Ogochukwu (PhD)

Agricultural Education

Federal College of Education (Technical), Asaba, Delta State

Abstract

This study investigates the roles of cooperative membership in rural farmers' income and poverty status in Delta State, Nigeria. The study was guided by four purposes, four research questions, and two hypotheses. The research design for the study was survey design. The population was 150 registered rural farmers and 50 cooperative executives in all the Delta. The Purposive sampling technique was employed. Hence, the entire population was used for the study. The instrument for the study was a structured questionnaire. The instrument was validated by three experts in the Agricultural Education Department, Delta State University, Abraka. The reliability of the instrument was determined by the use of Cronbach Alpha which yielded a reliability co-efficient of 0.97. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation. The hypotheses were tested using t-test statistics. The findings revealed a significant positive correlation between cooperative membership and rural farmers' income levels, with members experiencing improved agricultural productivity and access to support services. However, challenges persist in accessing cooperative services, particularly for non-members. The study, therefore, identifies best practices among cooperatives, including member participation, capacity building, and market linkages, which are crucial for poverty alleviation. It was recommended among others that strengthening cooperative services, improving accessibility, and promoting collaborative efforts between cooperatives, government, and NGOs can enhance rural development and poverty reduction in Delta State.

Keywords: *Cooperatives, Community development, Poverty alleviation, and rural farmers*

Crime, Insecurity and Violence in Nigeria

Peace Ugochi Ibekwe

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Abstract

Crime, insecurity and violence have manifested themselves as agents of retardation to the country's socio-economic development and poses a threat to its unity. The paper thus undertakes an exploration of the multidimensional nature of these issues regarding the causes, manifestations, and impacts on Nigerian society. The paper points a nexus involving economic deprivation, frail governance, and social inequality which serve as the causative agents of crime and insecurity in the nation. The unemployment rates and poverty levels coupled with corruption and a weak justice system not only manifest criminal behavior like armed robbery, kidnapping, terrorism, and cybercrime but act as additional factors. Violent conflict is mainly driven by ethnic and religious antagonisms leading recurrence particularly in regions like the Middle Belt and Niger Delta. The study underscores systemic corruption and poor security infrastructures as perpetrators of insecurity. This arises even as scheduled government-led interventions take place, such as military deployment and community policing. However, these have previously proven to be largely futile because of poor coordination due to unavailability of adequate funds and the later created mistrust between the security agents and the citizens. Small arms and light weapons, and the fact that they were cross-border, double the violence and criminal activity, leaving rural and urban areas more vulnerable. Crime and insecurity have a harsh socio-economic impact. They scare off foreign investment and disrupt the local economy. It also leads to internal displacement as around 3.3 million people have been forced to leave their homes due to violence. Insecurity erodes the confidence in the state structures among the public, leading to a scenario of lawlessness and impunity. The psychological impacts, including trauma and fear, further weaken social cohesion, eroding the fabric of Nigerian communities. Combating crime and insecurity in Nigeria demands that immediate security measures be complemented by long-term socio-economic reforms. It requires efforts to strengthen the judiciary and law enforcement, promote an inclusive governance model, and curb unemployment and poverty. More long term is the role of education in the fight against extremism and the provision of training for youth employment. This paper culminates that with huge challenges on crime, insecurity, and violence in Nigeria, concerted efforts by its government, civil society, and international partners can restore stability and initiate the process of sustainable development in the country. There should be a paradigm shift from ego-centric governance to people-centered governance through implementing effective policies to rebuild trust and address the root causes of insecurity in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Cooperatives, Community development, Poverty alleviation, and rural farmers*

Effects of Utilization of ICT in Teaching Business Education Courses in Tertiary Institutions in Delta State

Alfa Okpanachi Omale

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Abstract

This paper examines the effects of utilization of ICT in teaching business education courses in Tertiary institutions in Delta State. The study adopted survey research design guided by two (2) research questions. The population for the study consisted of 157 business educators drawn from tertiary institutions in Delta state. There was no sample since the population was of a manageable size. A structured questionnaire was used for data collection. The instrument was validated by two experts in business education department, Federal College of Education, (Technical), Asaba. The reliability result yielded a coefficient of 0.75 which was established using Pearson product moment correlation coefficient. This was considered adequate for the study. The findings revealed that utilization of ICT in teaching business education courses in tertiary institutions in Delta state is faced with low utilization due to lack of exposure to ICT facilities, obsolete equipment, lack of trained personnel among others. This paper recommends among others that ICT should be encouraged in teaching in tertiary institutions for greater productivity. Moreover, the stakeholders should support in integrating ICT as a tool to enhance teaching in the institutions. Government should create ICT enabling environment for teaching.

Keywords: *ICT, Utilization, Teaching, tertiary, Business Education*

An Assessment of the Well-Being of Children and Families in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camps in Central and North-Eastern Nigeria

Nancy Avon Lanshima

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North Eastern University, Gombe*

Abstract

The Central and North-East Nigeria are faced with herder-farmer violence and Boko Haram insurgency that not only distressingly affect the lives and prospects of the people but have forced 3.6 million children and families to flee to IDPs camps. In such devastating circumstances and based on global best practices, responsible and responsive governments go all out to ensure the well-being of such vulnerable people. However, there are strong claims that the well-being of children and families are seriously compromised in these IDPs camps in contravention of United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement 1998, the Kampala Convention on IDPs 2012, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Nigeria's Child's Rights Act (CRA) 2003. This study investigated this claim in Agan IDPs Camp in Central Nigeria and Biu Township IDPs Camp in North-East Nigeria. Broken Windows Theory was adopted as the theoretical orientation. A survey research design was used for the study and 300 IDPs, male and female, aged 18 and above provided data through the use of questionnaire for quantitative analysis while in-depth interviews (IDIs) were used to collect qualitative data. Findings revealed that, indeed, the well-being of 99.9 and 99.8 percent of children and families in these IDPs camps are compromised. It is recommended that government and NGOs address the identified challenges and continuously monitor and evaluate the physical, socio-economic, psychological, mental and emotional well-being of children and families in these IDPs camps.

Keywords: *Well-being, Children, Families, Vulnerable, IDPs, Camps*

Effect of Organizational Justice on Job Satisfaction of Academic Staff of Kaduna State Tertiary Institutions

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Kaduna State College of Education, Gidan Waya

Abstract

The main objective of this study examined the effect of organizational justice on job satisfaction of academic staff of Kaduna State tertiary institutions. This study employed a survey research design and questionnaire instrument to obtain primary data. A total of four hundred and six (406) questionnaires were sent to academic staff of tertiary institutions owned by Kaduna State Government. Only three hundred and seventy-two (372) questionnaires were usable for data analysis. The data were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) for data cleansing and Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) via SmartPLS 3.0 Programme for model testing and test of hypotheses. The findings revealed that procedural justice has significant positive effect on pay satisfaction, but failed to have significant effect on promotion opportunities. Furthermore, the findings proved the existence of significant positive effect of distributive justice on pay satisfaction and promotion opportunities facets of job satisfaction. Lastly, the study concluded that in order to stimulate job satisfaction, academic staff need fair treatment in relation to procedures and distribution of organizational outcomes for sustainable productivity.

Keywords: *Organizational Justice, Procedural Justice, Distributive Justice, Job Satisfaction, Pay Satisfaction, Promotion Opportunities, and Academic Staff*

Nigeria's Cacophonous Ivory Tower and Quest for Sanity in Governance, Politics and Capacity-Building

Cletus A. Lanshima, PhD

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Nigerian Army University, Biu*

Abstract

Nigeria's ivory towers accomplished a lot and were revered not just in Africa but across continents. This was a rare feat for an African nation that went through the stress and strains of colonialism and then a civil war six years after independence. However, research has shown that during the long years of military dictatorship and eventual restoration of democracy, Nigerian universities have been experiencing a cacophonous wave in governance, politics and capacity-building that seems to have reduced and is still reducing the nation's ivory towers to near-mediocrity. This study therefore examines the factors that are affecting governance, politics and capacity-building in Nigeria's once revered ivory towers. The study is anchored on Broken Windows Theory. A survey research design was used for the study and 264 academic and non-academic staff from 12 public universities in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria (2 public universities from each zone), male and female, aged 18 – 69, provided data through the use of questionnaire for quantitative analysis while in-depth interviews (IDIs) were used to collect qualitative data. Findings of the study revealed too much external interference, corruption, non-adherence to standards, poor remuneration, indiscipline, loss of values and lack of entrenchment of global best practices are the factors affecting governance, politics and capacity-building in Nigerian ivory tower. It is therefore recommended among others that autonomy, strict adherence to standards and entrenchment of global best practices be upheld to enable Nigeria's ivory tower to excel again.

Keywords: *Ivory-Tower, Governance, Politics, Capacity-Building, Nigeria*

Dynamics and Operating Pattern of Banditry in Communities South of Kaduna State – Nigeria

¹Friday Joseph Adamu & ²Umar Sani Maimai

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Abstract

Banditry has assumed monstrous scale in Nigeria within the last decade. This is particularly true especially in North West Nigeria. Efforts to contain the problem have not yielded the desired result. It is in the light of the forgoing that this study is embarked to unravel the dynamics and the operations of banditry in communities domiciled within Southern Kaduna. The study will be anchored on Social Disorganization Theory. The study will employ survey designed to collect primary data using the instrument of questionnaire. Data will be analysed using statistical tools such as tables and percentages. Findings from the study will help security agencies in Nigeria to understand the complexities and modus operandi of armed bandits in the study location.

Keywords: *Dynamics, Operating Patterns, Banditry, Community*

A Balancing Approach that Combines Theoretical Knowledge with Soft Skills Development in Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Integrated OTM Curricula in Federal Polytechnics Institutions in Nigeria: A Case Study of Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda, Zamfara State, Nigeria

Maikudi Shehu PhD

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Abstract

This study investigates the extent of the adoption and integration of AI in OTM curricula in Federal Polytechnics Institutions in Nigeria with a focus on balancing theoretical knowledge with soft skills development. AI skills are in high demand globally, and Nigerian graduates with AI expertise will have a competitive edge in the job market. However, the extent of integration of AI in higher institutions in Nigeria is little known. A survey of 500 lecturers and students from 10 Federal Polytechnics Institutions in Nigeria was conducted. The study employed a quantitative approach, using a questionnaire to collect data from survey respondents. The data was analyzed using SEM to examine the relationships between the variables. The findings suggest that AI can enhance theoretical knowledge through personalized learning, intelligent tutoring systems, and virtual learning environments. Furthermore, AI can facilitate the development of soft skills, such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, through virtual collaboration tools, simulation training, and emotional intelligence analysis. The study recommends modular curriculum design, project-based learning, and industry partnerships to ensure effective AI integration. The paper concludes that the strategic integration of AI in Office Technology and Management curricula can provide students with a comprehensive education, preparing them for the demands of the modern workforce and provide AI training for lecturers.

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence, Office Technology and Management, Curricula Integration, Soft Skills Development, Federal Polytechnics Institutions, Nigeria*

Addressing Rural Poverty in Nigeria: Exploring Jeremy Bentham's Utilitarian Principle in Community Development

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Abstract

Rural poverty remains a persistent challenge in Nigeria, marked by inadequate access to basic amenities, low income levels, and limited economic opportunities. This paper critically examined the application of Jeremy Bentham's utilitarian principle, which emphasizes the greatest happiness for the greatest number, as a framework for addressing rural poverty through community development initiatives. By aligning the theoretical underpinnings of utilitarianism with practical strategies for poverty alleviation, the study explored how community-based approaches enhance social welfare, equity, and sustainable development in rural areas. Drawing on qualitative and quantitative data from existing literature and case studies, the research identified key barriers to rural development, including infrastructural deficits, education disparities, and governance challenges, while proposing utilitarian-driven interventions such as participatory governance, equitable resource allocation, and grassroots empowerment programmes. The paper argued that a utilitarian approach can foster inclusive policies and practices that prioritize collective well-being over individual interests, ultimately reducing poverty and enhancing the quality of life for rural populations. Invariably, as much as government cannot satisfy the needs of all its citizens at the same time, it can the greatest number of them as in most developed countries of the world including Bentham's England where he first offered the principle in 1789. This study contributes to the broader discourse on ethical frameworks in development planning and underscores the importance of aligning philosophical principles with practical solutions to achieve sustainable rural transformation in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Rural poverty, Community development, Utilitarianism, Happiness, Nigeria, Sustainability*

Information Dissemination Practices Adopted by Small and Medium Scale Enterprises for Successful Business Operations in Ebonyi State

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Abstract

The study was carried out to determine the information dissemination practices adopted by small and medium scale enterprises for successful business operations in Ebonyi State. The study was guided by one research questions and a null hypothesis. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study was 2,433 small and medium scale enterprises in Ebonyi State, whose businesses were registered with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria. The sample size of 344 small and medium scale enterprises was used for the study. A structured questionnaire containing 11 items entitled “Information Dissemination Practices Adopted by Small and Medium Scale Enterprises for Successful Business Operations (IDPASMSESBOQ)” was used for data collection. The instrument was validated by three (3) experts. The Cronbach Alpha Reliability coefficient was 0.92. Three hundred and forty-four (344) copies of instrument were distributed, while 321 copies representing 93% were successfully retrieved from the respondents. Mean \bar{x} and Standard Deviation (SD) were used for finding answers to the research questions. The null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance using t-test statistical tool. The findings showed that information dissemination practices adopted are posting sales promotion on face book, uploading business videos on YouTube, displaying bill board with vital information, chatting with the customers on Wahsapp, use of radio announcement and using television announcement. Hypothesis tested showed that there is no significant difference in mean rating of male and female operators of small and medium scale businesses on the information dissemination management practices adopted by small and medium enterprises for successful business operations in Ebonyi State. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended, among others, that small and medium scale enterprises operators should adopt the use of social media platforms in disseminating business information to customers in order to create the necessary awareness and atmosphere for business to thrive. The educational implication is that business education teachers should while teaching small scale business courses teach and make more emphasis on the benefits of the utilization of information dissemination practices to promote business activities.

Keywords: *Information, Dissemination Practices, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises*

Digitalized Curriculum in Basic Education: Towards Education for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper studied the relevance of digitalized curriculum, its ease and effectiveness at actualizing the basic education programme in Nigeria. The author is of the opinion that the basic education which is a mandatory nine years academic programme is an imperative for encouraging mass literacy and numeracy, requisite skills for job creation, and avenue for educational opportunity for a long-life learning for the out of school for formal and non-formal education. However, the paper observed that given the economic realities in Nigeria and its challenge to a regular teacher-student classroom method of service delivery; the actualization of the basic education programme in Nigeria might become a mirage and the intended skills and job creation that would have been encouraged through the programme and the attended sustainable development in Nigeria would be elusive. Based on the observations, the author maintained that the digitalized curriculum is a preferable educational approach to achieve sustainable development in Nigeria through the basic education programme ; given the versatility and adaptability of the digitalized curriculum to many and varied learners . The author observed some challenges, such, as power supply, network coverage, finance for data subscription among others as major setback to implementing the digitalized curriculum in Nigeria. Based on the observed challenges, the author made some suggestions that would help to effectively implement the digitalized curriculum at the basic education level to achieve sustainable development in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Digitalized Curriculum, Nigeria, Basic Education, Development*

Impact of World Bank Assisted Intervention Projects on the Economic Development of Communities in Imo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study investigated the Impact of World Bank Assisted Intervention Projects on the Economic Development of Communities in Imo State of Nigeria. A sample of 278 respondents was determined from the population of the communities which is 115,465, using Taro Yamane's formula. Ten communities from the Local Government Areas of the state, where World Bank assisted intervention projects had been carried out, were administered a well-structured questionnaire on a four-point Likert scale. Out of this, 253 were completed and returned. Primary data was adopted and used for assessment analysis from the intervening communities. The mean response of the respondents was calculated and compared with the criterion mean of 2.5 to determine if the question was positive or negative. Ordinary Least Square Regression Estimate was used for the analysis. The study used coded data which was obtained from a field survey conducted with a well-structured questionnaire. The findings of the study revealed that poverty reduction, education infrastructure, and health Infrastructure have positive impacts on the economic development of the communities. A unit increase in poverty reduction, education infrastructure and health infrastructure cause the economic development of the communities to increase. Consequently, it was concluded that intervention in these areas has improved the lives of the communities. It was therefore, recommended that assisted intervention projects by World Bank should be strictly monitored to ensure adequate project execution.

Keywords: *Impact, World Bank assisted intervention projects, Economic Development, Communities*

Investigation of the Design Performance of Grid Connected Bifacial PV Module Located in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Benin City is the capital of Edo State, Nigeria, located at Latitude 6.55°N and Longitude 5.55°E of the equator. In choosing the site, this study was carried out to investigate the performance of grid connected Bifacial PV module in Edo State to boost the energy demand of the city. In carrying out this study, the researcher selected a site plan and module installation angle based on single axis East-West location. With a pitch of 1.5m row-to-row and 25° tilt angles for less Ground Coverage Ratio (GCR) to increase system performance. The simulation was conducted within the past ten years (2001-2020) with data from NASA.

Keywords: *Benin City, cash flow, Diffused Global irradiation, horizontal Global irradiation, irradiation*

The Impact of Political Instability on Economic Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Nigeria's economic development has been hindered by persistent political instability, manifesting in frequent regime changes, coups, and ethnic conflicts. This study examines the impact of political instability on Nigeria's economic development from 1960 to 2022. Using a combination of descriptive statistics, econometric analysis, and case studies, we investigate the effects of political instability on GDP growth, investment, inflation, and poverty rates. Our findings reveal that political instability has significantly impeded Nigeria's economic progress, with each episode of instability resulting in a 2% decline in GDP growth and a 15% increase in inflation. Furthermore, we find that political instability has discouraged foreign investment, exacerbated poverty, and undermined the effectiveness of economic policies. The study highlights the need for political stability and institutional reforms to address the country's economic challenges. Policy recommendations include strengthening democratic institutions, promoting transparency and accountability, and addressing ethnic and religious divisions.

Keywords: *Political Instability, Economic Development, Nigeria, GDP Growth, Investment, Inflation, Poverty Reduction*

Accounting for the Public Good: Bridging Profit and Purpose to Address Nigeria's Development Crisis

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Abstract

This study investigates the relationship between public financial management and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives in driving national development in Nigeria. Given the country's persistent socio-economic challenges, including poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and poor public service delivery; understanding the role of effective governance and private sector engagement is crucial. This research is guided by Stakeholder Theory, which posits that various stakeholders must balance their interests to achieve sustainable development. The study examines how transparent public financial management and CSR activities influence national development, as measured by the Human Development Index (HDI), which encompasses health, education, and income levels. The study adopts the ex-post facto (quantitative) research design, utilizing secondary data sources such as government financial reports, CSR disclosures, and HDI data. A multiple regression technique is employed to assess the impact of public financial management and CSR initiatives on HDI. Therefore, by integrating profit with purpose, this paper argues that Nigeria can address its socio-economic challenges and create a sustainable development pathway. The findings are expected to provide insights into the effectiveness of governance and corporate practices in fostering national development. The study contributes to policy discussions on improving financial accountability and enhancing the role of CSR in addressing Nigeria's socio-economic challenges.

Keywords: *Public Financial Management, Corporate Social Responsibility, National Development, Human Development Index, Stakeholder Theory*

Promoting Peaceful and Non-Violent Lifestyle Among Tertiary Education Students in Bayelsa State: Role of Guidance and Counselling

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Abstract

The study examined the role of guidance and counselling in promoting peaceful and non-violent lifestyles among tertiary education students in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Employing a descriptive survey research design, the study was guided by four primary objectives: to assess the prevalence of peaceful and non-violent practices among students, to evaluate the perceived impact of guidance and counselling programs on fostering non-violence, to identify challenges faced by counselling units in promoting peaceful behaviors, and to explore students' attitudes toward non-violent conflict resolution strategies. The population for the study comprised tertiary education students across various institutions in Bayelsa State. A sample of 200 respondents was selected using purposive sampling techniques. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire titled "Guidance and Counselling for Non-Violence Questionnaire," developed and validated by experts, with a reliability coefficient of 0.85 established using the Cronbach Alpha Formula. Data analysis involved mean and standard deviation to address the research questions. Findings revealed that students frequently adopt non-violent practices and acknowledge the significant role of counselling in promoting peaceful coexistence; however, inadequate resources and limited awareness pose challenges to counselling effectiveness. Recommendations include increasing funding for counselling units, integrating peace education into counselling programs, and enhancing awareness of non-violent lifestyles among students.

Keywords: *Guidance and Counselling, Peaceful Lifestyle, Non-Violence, Tertiary Education Students*

Relationship Between Institutional Quality and Financial Inclusion from Ecowas Countries

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Abstract

The objective of this study is to investigate the relationship between institutional quality and financial inclusion in five selected countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso. The study employed Pool Mean Group (PMG) as its technique for data analysis after established strong evidence of cointegration among the variables (institutional quality financial inclusion, exchange rates, interest rates, and inflation) using Pedroni and Kao tests. Findings from PMG reveals that institutional quality positively influences investment in the long run, while increased financial inclusion has a negative impact on investment. Exchange rates do not significantly affect investment over the long term, but interest rates are associated with a decrease in investment, and inflation is positively related to investment. In the short run, the rapid adjustment towards equilibrium is indicated by the error correction term. The findings indicate that higher institutional quality correlates with increased financial inclusion, highlighting the need for effective governance and regulatory frameworks. The study concludes that there is a significant positive relationship between institutional quality and financial inclusion in the five selected countries of ECOWAS. The article concludes with recommendations for policymakers in ECOWAS countries to improve institutional frameworks and enhance financial inclusion strategies.

Keywords: *Institutional Quality, Financial Inclusion, ECOWAS, Governance, Economic Development*

Governance and Public Sector Performance

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Abstract

Fasenfest (2010) describes governance as that which presents a set of decision and processes made to reflect social expectations through the management or leadership of the government especially under liberal democratic ideas where the will of the people hold supreme. In other words, governance as applied in this paper will provide insight on the direction of the decisions and processes required to be adopted by the political actors or leaderships to facilitate economic, social, political and otherwise in the state. On the other hand, public sector performance points to the energies, strategies, design and implementation geared towards the realization of government's policies and programmes anchored on governance. To this end, public sectors performance in this paper will address issues and conducts required for the driving of the socio-economic and political sectors of our national economy and development such as ethics and values in offices and work places in Nigeria. Among these decisions and processes are; provisions of security, provision of enabling environment and infrastructures, fairness, equity and justice, a level political playing ground and opportunities and adopting a democratic political will, as well as maintaining good diplomacy among the comity of nations. Recommendations will be provided adequately based on the discussions as articulated above.

Keywords: *Governance, Public Sector and Management*

Impact of Land Disputes on Rural Poverty and Community Development in Abia State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Land disputes in Nigeria, particularly in Abia State, have severe socioeconomic consequences, devastating communities and hindering human capital and infrastructure development. This study reviews existing literature on the impact of land disputes on rural poverty and community development in Abia State, employing historical and descriptive research design based on qualitative data collection and analysis methods. The findings reveal that land disputes are a pervasive issue in Abia State, caused by various interconnected factors, including ambiguities in customary land tenure, territorial boundary conflicts, succession-related conflicts, land acquisition and development-related disputes, and inadequacies in land administration. These disputes have led to reduced agricultural productivity, food insecurity, and poverty among rural households. To address land disputes in Abia State, the government should enhance land administration by investing in digital registration systems and training administrators. Additionally, establishing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as community-based mediation centers, can help resolve disputes amicably. Promoting sustainable land use practices, like agroforestry and conservation agriculture, and supporting community-led land use planning can also prevent conflicts. Finally, improving access to essential resources, including land, water, and credit facilities, is vital to reduce poverty and improve agricultural productivity.

Keywords: *Land disputes, rural poverty, community development*

Income Diversification Constraints Among Non-Farm Households in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria

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Abstract

The study examined the income diversification constraints among farm households in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. Multistage, purposive, and random sampling techniques were used to select 360 respondents. Data generated from primary sources through the use of structured questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical tools. Results of the study showed that 82.5% of respondents diversified their income sources while only 17.5% of them engaged solely in agricultural production. The result also showed that the most serious constraints to the performance of non-farm income-generating activities were the increasing cost of fuel and other needed materials, the bad state of the roads, and inadequate credit facilities. The study recommends that Government should make more budgetary allocations to the educational sector as well as improve the infrastructure (tarred roads, provision of electricity, pipe-borne water, etc.) status of the farm economy in the Niger Delta Region and the government should also make more cheap credit facilities and other inputs available to the households through the various Credit Guarantee Scheme programmes.

Keywords: *Income diversification, Constraints, farm, households, Niger Delta Region*

Is Democracy Working in Nigeria? Nigeria's Democratic Experience and Citizen Discontentment (1999 -2024)

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Abstract

How does the Nigerian democratic experience breed discontentment among citizens? A central argument in favour of democracy suggest that democratic systems seek to advance the needs, wishes and aspirations of the citizens. Hence, this argument has been stressed in the "Lincolnian" appreciation for democracy as a system of government that is for and by the people. Theoretically and idealistically, popular power held by citizens remains a cornerstone of democracy. However, an assessment of Nigeria's democratic experience since 1999 to the present day, suggest a fundamental disconnect from this principle - the principle that the people are the true holders of political power within the social contract. This disconnect creates a discontentment and disillusionment that creates conditions that undermines the very core of democracy. This study seeks investigate the practice of democracy in Nigeria and its consequences for citizens discontentment and thus, chart a path for instituting a better democratic experience. As qualitative research, and drawing from secondary sources, the study concludes that although Nigeria conducts regular elections, the dividend of Democracy remains lacking in the society as well as governance is bereft of "good" democratic governance that alleviates the socioeconomic and political needs of the people. The study recommends that Nigeria's should adopt citizen-centric and people-driven governance framework that meets the socio-economic and political needs of citizens.

Keywords: *Democracy, Citizen Disconnect, Governance, Democratic Experience, Nigeria*

Green Human Resources Management (GHRM) Practice Advocacy in Organizations: A Strategic Necessity for a New Global Climate Management and Environmental Sustainability

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Abstract

Organizations over the centuries have continuously explored and annexed natural resources and the attendant unsustainable utility of same for the wellbeing of humanity has posed a fast-growing threat of climate change and other divergent environmental challenges which has taken its toll on all stakeholders. Consequently, there is global clamor and intentional activism to mitigate the rather endemic threat ravaging the world leading to respective ecological awareness and advocacies for environmental sustainability. This has culminated into various strategic responses and today given rise to Green Human Resources Management Practice Advocacy by scholars across the globe in various fields as a strategic necessity for the new global climate management and environmental sustainability approach. This paper, after exploring extent literatures on the aforementioned topical issue, discuss and suggested future pathway of some HRMP to further strengthen the current global drive to combating climate change and environmental degradation through a conscious integration of environmentally friendly activities into all organizational functions and office practices to make the world a better place for generations to come.

Keywords: *Human Resources, Management Practice and Environmental sustainability*

Strategies for Poverty Alleviation Among Farm Households in Niger Delta Region of Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined poverty alleviation strategies among farm households in Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Specifically, the study determined the level of poverty and the strategies for poverty alleviation. Multistage, purposive and random sampling techniques were used to select 360 respondents and data were generated from primary sources through the use of structured questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical tools. Result of the study showed that household size, educational level, health status and number of nonfarm activities engaged in by the farmers were statistically significant while for non-poor status, household size, educational level and number of nonfarm economic activities engaged in by the respondents, being a member of cooperative society and access to credit were statistically significant. The study recommends that the government should make more cheap credit facilities and other inputs available to the households through the various Credit Guarantee Scheme programmes, subsidize inputs and equipment hiring services to improve the production and supply of quality farm product by smallholder farmers and the households should form more cooperative groups to enable them participate in any Government Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), obtain extension services and inputs and enjoy better livelihood.

Keywords: *Strategies, Poverty, Alleviation, Farm Households*

Product Innovation and Pricing Tool for Optimizing Competitive Advantage

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Abstract

The study investigated product innovation and pricing tool for optimizing competitive advantage. Two research questions were used and two null hypotheses tested at 0.05 level of significance. The population of the study was made up of 70 members of staff and major dealers of Dangote noodle. The data collected were analysed using mean, standard deviation to answer the research questions and chi-square (χ^2) to test the hypotheses. The findings revealed that product development, diversification and market development as competitive strategies do ease competition and give competitive advantage to firms in the market place. From the findings, it was recommended amongst others that manufacturing firms should take cognizance the cost of production in which they should try to produce their products at the lowest cost possible, while still producing the required quality desired by their consumers and further engaging in high technological changes and improvement so as to ensure that they remain in production. By so doing, firms are assured of a high performance, which include profit making, efficiency and effectiveness in the industry.

Keywords: *Product innovation and Pricing, Competitive Advantage and Competitive Strategy*

Curbing Youth Unrest and Insecurity in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region: Challenges and the Way Forward

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Abstract

Records have shown that conflict arising from youth unrest involves the youths and young people hence this study is centred on curbing youth unrest and insecurity in Nigeria's Niger Delta region: Challenges and the way forward. The study made use of secondary and primary data. The study combined the elite theory and the frustration aggression theories as its theoretical framework in explaining why conflict and insecurity still persist in the Niger Delta region. Analysis was done qualitatively through content analysis. Findings from the study revealed that several socio-economic and political factors account for youth unrest and insecurity in the Niger Delta region. These factors include: marginalization and exclusion from the oil and gas sector, poor implementation of the federal governments amnesty programme in the Niger Delta, unemployment, poor governance at the state and local government levels etc. It is the position of this paper that massive investment in human capacity especially the youths will go a long way in curbing youth unrest and insecurity in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta region.

Keywords: *Curbing, Youth Unrest, Insecurity, Niger Delta, Challenges and Way forward.*

