

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



**Theme: Pathways to Good Governance,
Sustainable Development, Economic
Transformation & Security in Nigeria**

**ABSTRACTS
& PROCEEDINGS**

14TH - 15TH MAY, 2025





10TH INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

VENUE: BENUE STATE UNIVERSITY, NIGERIA

THEME

Pathways to Good Governance, Sustainable Development, Economic Transformation & Security in Nigeria

DATE: Wednesday 14th - Thursday 15th May, 2025

TIME: 10:00am

CONFERENCE LOC

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Benue State University, Markudi, Nigeria

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MAUTECH, Nigeria

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10TH INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

VENUE: BENUE STATE UNIVERSITY, NIGERIA

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY ONE: Wednesday 14th May, 2025

Conference Briefing via Google Meet	- 10:00am - 10:30am
Online Visual Presentation via Google Meet	- 10:30am - 1:00pm
WhatsApp Video Presentations	- 3:00pm - 4:00pm

DAY TWO: Thursday 15th May, 2025

Conference Briefing via Google Meet	- 10:00am - 10:30am
Online Visual Presentation via Google Meet	- 10:30am - 1:00pm
WhatsApp Video Presentations	- 3:00pm - 4:00pm



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Benue State University, Makurdi was established by the Benue State Government with the enactment of the Benue State University Edict No. 1 of 1991. The University took off in the 1992/93 academic year with four Faculties, namely: Arts, Education, Science and Social Sciences. Two Faculties, Law and Management Sciences came on stream in the 1993/94 academic session and Faculty of Environmental Sciences in the 2014/2015 session.

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Bassey Anam
Director - IIPRDS & UN-African IP-SDGs
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Conference Abstracts

The Impact of Verbal Abuse and Peer Group Influence on Divorce Rates: A Quantitative Analysis

Adamu, Isah Kamba

Department of Statistics

Waziri Umaru Federal Polytechnic, Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State.

Abstract

This study examines the relationship between divorce rates and two social factors: verbal abuse and peer group influence. Using multiple regression analysis on data collected from 71 cases, the research demonstrates that both verbal abuse and peer group influence are significant predictors of divorce rates. The regression model explains 87.9% of the variance in divorce rates ($R^2 = 0.879$, $p < 0.001$), indicating strong explanatory power. Verbal abuse emerged as the strongest predictor ($\beta = 1.10$, $p < 0.001$), with each unit increase associated with a 1.10 unit increase in divorce rates. Peer group influence also showed a significant positive relationship ($\beta = 0.836$, $p < 0.001$). Correlation analysis revealed a strong association between verbal abuse and divorce rates ($r = 0.882$), and a moderately strong relationship between peer group influence and divorce rates ($r = 0.698$). The findings suggest that while both factors contribute significantly to divorce rates, verbal abuse plays a particularly crucial role. These results have important implications for marriage counseling, divorce prevention programs, and domestic violence intervention strategies. The study provides empirical evidence for the need to address both individual relationship dynamics and social influence factors in efforts to support marital stability.

Keywords: *Divorce rates, Verbal abuse, Peer group influence, multiple regression analysis, Marital stability*

Innovative Ideas and Quality Education Programmes in Nigeria

Okoro, Onuawuchi P.

*Department of Accounting, School of Secondary Education (Business),
Federal College of Education (Technical) Asaba, Delta State Nigeria.*

Abstract

Innovative ideas and quality education system is something the education sector and the public have been struggling with for some decades now. The world is dynamic and for the education programmes to meet the challenges of the fast-changing and unforeseeable globalized world, innovations are essential for the improvement of the quality of education in Nigeria. The paper discussed the topic under the following: innovative ideas, quality education programmes, and examples of some innovations in Nigeria education programmes. It was discovered that innovative ideas and quality education programmes are inseparable concepts that should be together to bring about education that will transform the society and lives of the people. It was suggested that innovative ideas and quality education programmes should be accepted at all times.

Keywords: *Innovative Ideas, Quality Education Programmes*

Poverty Gaps and Poverty Reduction Strategies in Nigeria: A Regional Comparison

Abu Muhammed Onimisi

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Abstract

Globally poverty has become a grave concern to most responsible governments and the international organizations. According to the World Bank's Poverty, Prosperity and Planet Report (2024), global poverty rate in 2023 is estimated at 8.6% and 8.5% in 2024. Africa however has a poverty rate of 35.5% in 2024, with the poverty rate in Sub-Saharan Africa is estimated at 33% in 2023 and 67% in 2024. Africa by far has the highest poverty rate, with about two-thirds of the world's poorest people located in Africa. Poverty has become and remains a traumatic challenge in Nigeria, with a rate of 38.9% in 2023 and 40.7% in 2024. This situation is characterized by significant regional disparities that affect our national development. It is noteworthy that several governments have developed strategies to control poverty over the years with varying results. Therefore, this study explores the disparity in poverty rates and the poverty gaps between the North and the South of Nigeria and assesses the effectiveness of government poverty reduction strategies in each region. The socio-economic factors influencing these disparities in poverty rates and the effectiveness of existing government poverty reduction strategies on key indicators such as income, education, health services, security, infrastructure and the economy are key points of analysis in this research. The study is a comparative approach that examines the effectiveness of specific government poverty reduction strategies implemented in the two regions while highlighting their successes and failures. Quantitative and qualitative data are used in this approach, such as data from national surveys and regional statistics, as well a qualitative description of the poverty incidence, intensity and depth of poverty in a metric and thematic manner. It is observed that while some government poverty reduction strategies have yielded positive results in states in the South while most of the North still experience high rates of poverty. This research highlights the need for a multidimensional approach that incorporates socio-economic and political dimensions to promote regional growth and sustainable poverty reduction in Nigeria. This research contributes to the discourse on poverty reduction in Nigeria and it is aimed at providing a framework for the government to design region-specific interventions that can effectively close the poverty gaps and reduce poverty in the country.

Keywords: *Poverty Gaps, Poverty Reduction Strategies, Regional Comparison*

Leveraging Online Learning Platforms in Economics Education: Embracing the Phenomenon of Disruption

Ibe Ngozi Goodnews

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Abstract

The digital revolution has had huge impacts on education, most notably the ways through which online learning platforms distort traditional teaching methods for economics. This paper investigated how such a platform disrupts the case of economics education in accessibility, flexibility, and interactivity. In this study, a mixed-method approach was adopted by accessing data from enrolment and performance of major online courses in economics, along with interviews conducted with both students and educators. The results showed that the online mode of delivery democratized education further by overcoming geographical and financial barriers, and most of their interactive tools were quite relevant to enhance active learning and critical thinking. Notwithstanding, challenges persist dealing with the digital divide and educational quality. Case studies from universities demonstrated practice of online economics courses using creative pedagogical tools which recorded positive student outcomes. These interviews indicated overwhelming interest in online learning, but they also brought out clearly a dearth of support and training in using these tools to their full potential. This study concluded that even while online learning platforms disrupted conventional economics education, they offered benefits important enough to result in better learning. But what will maximize this potential of online learning for economics education is taming challenges on digital access and quality assurance. The study suggested that in the future, research should be made on how to counteract these existing barriers and test their long-term effects on student success.

Keywords: *Online Learning Platforms, Economics Education, Digital Revolution, Educational Disruption, Interactive Learning, Digital Divide*

Evaluation of Different Varieties of Maize (*Zea Mays L.*) in Borno State Northern Guinea Savannah of Nigeria

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Abstract

An experiment was conducted at Biu LGA Borno state, Nigeria during 2019 rainy season to evaluate the effect of different variety on the growth and yield of maize (*Zea mays L.*). The experiment consisted of eight (8) variety of maize (E.V.D.T, D.M.R, Q.P.M, Gold seed, Oba 98, Sammaiz 14 Obar super 1, and Admiral Nyako) the treatments were laid out in a randomized complete block design {RCBD} and replicated four times. The plot size 3m×3m were used which give a total of 9m². Parameters assessed were plant height, number leaves, stem diameter, leaf area, number of lines per cob, number of seed per cob, 100 seed weight, yield per plot, yield per hacter. The data collected were subjected to analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to test for variation of means among treatments. Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) was used to separate the means. The result obtained showed that variety Q.P.M was significantly higher in plant height (154.77cm) number of leaves (15.49cm), stem diameter (7.82cm), leaf area (688.86cm) number of seed/line (14.79), yield per plot (g) (5.76) and yield per hacter (kg/ha) (5805.55) than all the treatments whereas the variety E.V.D.T had lower seed yield than all the treatment were tested. Based on the results of the study, it may be concluded that Q.P.M variety proved more promising in the study area.

Keywords: *Guinea Savannah Experiment and Maize season*

Education and Youth Empowerment as Tools for Addressing Insecurity in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State

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Abstract

This study explores the role of education and youth empowerment as pivotal tools for addressing insecurity in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Nigeria. The increasing rate of insecurity, characterized by banditry, kidnappings, and communal clashes, has had devastating effects on the socio-economic development of the area. Motivated by the urgent need to mitigate these challenges, this research examines how educational initiatives and youth empowerment programs can contribute to reducing insecurity. The objectives of the study include identifying the root causes of insecurity in the area, evaluating the impact of limited educational opportunities and unemployment among youth, and proposing actionable strategies for sustainable peace. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining qualitative and quantitative data collected through surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions with key stakeholders, including community leaders, educators, and youths. Findings reveal that inadequate access to quality education, unemployment, and lack of vocational skills among youths are significant contributors to insecurity. The study highlights that investment in education, skill acquisition, and entrepreneurship programs can empower youths, reduce crime rates, and foster community resilience. The conclusions emphasize that education and youth empowerment are indispensable for addressing insecurity. Recommendations include increased government and private sector collaboration to improve educational infrastructure, implementation of youth-focused development programs, and community-driven initiatives to enhance social cohesion.

Keywords: *Education, Youth Empowerment, Insecurity, Chikun Local Government, Kaduna State, Skill Acquisition, Community Development*

The Impact of Software Application Packages and its' Contribution to the Academic Performance of Office Technology and Management Students in Federal Polytechnic Damaturu, Yobe State

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Federal Polytechnic, Damaturu Yobe State*

Abstract

This research work is an attempt to view an analysis of the software application packages and its contribution to the achievement of academic performances of Office Technology and Management Department Students. The studies were guided by four research questions postulated i.e. how does utilization of spreadsheet, Microsoft Word, Webpage Design and Desktop Software application packages contribute to the OTM students' academic performance? The researcher adopted descriptive survey designed in the research work, the population of the study was sixty-four (64). The whole population of (64) students was used for the study. From the study, it was found that, the use of software application packages has brought better understanding of students' learning which makes their academic performance to be successful. Based on the findings, it is recommended that, the Department should improve the use of these software as it does not only increase students' performance but boost their learning effectively which is the main objective of any department. Department should also provide more opportunity for students to use the available resources to enable them perform effectively and efficiently.

Keywords: *Software application, Application packages, Technology and Learning*

Contribution of Modern Communication Equipment and its Impact on the Job Performance of Secretaries

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Federal Polytechnic, Damaturu Yobe State

Abstract

This research work looks into the “Contribution of Modern Communication Equipment and its Impact on the Job Performance of Secretaries” in Federal Polytechnic, Damaturu. four objectives were formulated i.e how obsolete communication equipment affect the job performance of secretaries, how poor operational skills to handle modern communication equipment affect the job performance of secretaries, how lack of training and support on modern communication equipment affect job performance of secretaries, how unstable power supply affect the use of modern communication equipment in the job performance of secretaries. Study employed the used of descriptive survey and the total population is thirty-two (32) secretaries in the study area, the instrument used was questionnaire, from the study, it was found that, lack of training and support on modern communication equipment lead to inability to maximize features, higher stress and frustration, decreased confidence, dependency and limited career growth which affect job performance of secretaries. Base on the findings, it is recommended that, the institutions should adequately organized training scheduled for the secretaries in order to enhance their operational skills to handle modern communication equipment and the institution should purchase adequate and updated modern communication equipment to curtail the increased in security risks and limited functionality.

Keywords: *Modern Communication, Equipment's, Secretaries and Operational Skill*

The Impact of the Nigerian Civil War on the Esan People of Midwestern Nigeria, 1967-1970

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Abstract

In the Nigerian Civil War study, major ethnic groups such as Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo gained prominence. Perhaps the availability of source material, which is readily available in the major ethnic groups than the minority ethnic groups, may be the determining factor. However, it is indisputable that minority ethnic groups have received some attention in the civil war publications. Compared to the large number of minority ethnic groups in Nigeria, the coverage seems inadequate as this does not demonstrate the impact of the war on minority ethnic groups. Hence, it is the attempt to fulfill this aim that this paper examines the impact of the Nigerian civil war on the Esan people of Midwestern Nigeria. Using the qualitative research method, the paper believes that the Nigerian Civil War, which lasted from May 1967 to January 1970, had positive and negative impacts on the socioeconomic and political lives of the Esan people. The paper concludes by recommending that Nigerian political leaders should eschew ethnic prejudice and prioritize the interest of the country rather than sectional interest.

Keywords: *Nigerian Civil War, Esan people and Midwestern*

Comparative Effectiveness of Horizontal and Vertical Methods of Keyboarding Instruction

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Abstract

This study is a comparative effectiveness of two methods of QWERTY keyboard instruction methods, namely; Horizontal and Vertical Methods. The complementary study was a survey of the keyboarding practices and preferences of Keyboard-Educators in OTM Department of Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda and Audu Gusau Polytechnic Talata Mafara, both in Zamfara State. There was a review of related literature to provide a theoretical framework. Thirty students were purposively selected from the population of one hundred and five students across the two institutions. Those purposive sample constituted the two experimental groups of fifteen Subjects/Students per group. Research questions and a null hypothesis were used. Statistical tables were also used to analyse individual and also group performance in the keyboarding experiment which is computed in terms gsm, nsam, gwam, and nwam. An inferential wpm statistic was used to test the null hypothesis. The horizontal method of keyboard instruction was found to be most effective in the keyboarding instruction. It was recommended among others that, where stroking speed and accuracy were the emphasis, keyboard-educators should stick with the horizontal method of keyboard instruction as the finding revealed its most effectiveness.

Keywords: *Horizontal Method, Vertical Method, Keyboarding, and Instruction*

Comparative Analysis Between Fine Arts and Architecture

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Abstract

Each profession has a unique identity that characterizes the personality of an individual. Jobs act the same in principle. But two outstanding jobs He could not separate it from time, despite the fact that attempts to share them were art. And architecture. At that time, art was separated from the architecture of specialization. Various specialty fields have entered the game and formed. Various fields such as engineering, shooting water, urban planning, etc. Shooting, etc. But can art be completely separated from architecture? This the extensive review of literature shines lighter and reveals Genesis the relationship between art and architecture. The purpose of this document is to emphasize in relation to art in architecture to establish role acting arts performing in architectural design. This paper is recommended that the artist can ultimately do it. He is a good architect, but he doesn't have to be a great artist. This After art, it indicates that the architect needs to have a deeper knowledge of art. The body of the flesh or invention is the soul. Both fields are intertwined It is interconnected and may not exist separately without anyone.

Keywords: *Architects, Architecture, Arts, Artists, Creative skills, Jobs*

Evaluation of Toxicity Potentials of *Jatropha* (*Jatropha Curcas* L.) Seed Powder for the Control of *Callosobruchus Subinnotatus* on Bambara Groundnut in Mubi, Northern Guinea Savannah

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Abstract

The project work was carried out in the Laboratory of the Department of Crop Science, Adamawa State, University Mubi, in 2024. This was to evaluate the Toxicity Potentials of *Jatropha* (*Jatropha Curcas* L.) Seed powder for the control of bruchid, *Callosobruchus subinnotatus* Fab. on Bambara Groundnut in Mubi, Northern Guinea Savanna. The objectives of the study were to evaluate the toxicity potential of *Jatropha* seed powder, determine the effectiveness of *Jatropha* seed powder for controlling *C. subinnotatus* compared to Actellic dust. The experimental design used was the Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with five (5) levels of *Jatropha* Seed powder (2.5g, 5.0g, 7.5g, 10.0g, 12.5g) and 2.5g of Actellic dust as treatment repeated three (3) times making a total of twenty one (21) experimental units. The results clearly show that, bambara groundnut is susceptible to attack by the bruchids in store as reported that the Bambara groundnut stored with Actellic dust recorded less mean number of adults alive (0.00), less number of egg laid (5.00), few damaged grains (1.00), and less mean weight loss (8.67) compared to the control at 0.05 level of significance. This further indicates that, synthetic insecticides are still the most effective control method against storage insect pests because of their efficiency and quick action status despite the healthy and environmental concerns. Consequently, the level of *Jatropha* seed powder also significantly suppressed the bruchid especially at 12.5g /300g of Bambara groundnut. Few adults emerged (4.00), less number of egg recorded (8.00), number of damaged seed were minimal (22.67) and less weight of grains lost (10.33). Moreover, the results obtained shows that, *Jatropha* seed powder could provide an alternative to comprehensive use of synthetic insecticides for controlling storage insect pests of Bambara groundnut and other grains. This work has suggested that, if Bambara groundnut seed are to be used for sowing, they should be stored with 12.5g level of *Jatropha* seed powder for twelve weeks. However, if they are to be for consumption, they could be stored with 7.5-10.0g of *Jatropha* seed powder for every 300g of Bambara groundnut for 12 weeks especially in the study area.

Keywords: Toxicity, *Jatropha*, Bambara, Powder, Insecticides, Control

The Role of Computer Aided Design in Architecture

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Abstract

There was a comment on the computer design tool (CAD) Architects are widely used for decades. I heard it was developed from a simple development tool to the point. Architecture software and powerful communication means The CAD architect plays an important role in the job. The architecture is the main tool of all architectural companies. This is not you can complete with a building company without accepting it. Advantages of computer software due to high demand Competition of the architectural industry. The purpose of this study is Effect of CAD for the architectural design process Conceptual level in the final product, especially in architectural practice. This explores the advantages of CAD integration in the industry. Discuss The possible defects that limit architects. This study is based on the data collected properly. Expert's view. Identified benefits and restrictions in the architectural design process, the CAD potential and experts who use it appropriately Performance will be improved in the industry. With the highest quality at the architecture office.

Keywords: *Architecture, Architecture Practice, Computer Support Design, CAD, Design Process*

The Role of Women's Entrepreneurship in Fostering Sustainable and Reliable Economy in Nigeria

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Abstract

This study explores the role of women's entrepreneurship in fostering sustainable and reliable economy in Nigeria. Despite facing systemic challenges, including limited access to finance, cultural biases, and inadequate infrastructure, women entrepreneurs have demonstrated resilience and innovation in various sectors. This paper examines the current landscape of women's entrepreneurship in Nigeria, and identifying key barriers hindering growth. By employing a mixed-methods approach, we gather quantitative data from entrepreneurial women across diverse regions and qualitative insights from interviews with industry experts. The findings reveal that enhancing access to education, financing, and mentorship programs can significantly empower women entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the paper discusses policy implications and strategic initiatives that can create an enabling environment for women's entrepreneurship. Ultimately, this research contributes to the discourse on gender equality and economic development, proposing actionable recommendations that align women's entrepreneurial potential with sustainable economic growth in Nigeria, paving the way for a more equitable and resilient economic future.

Keywords: *Women's Entrepreneurship, Sustainable Economy, Nigeria, Gender Equality, Economic Development, Policy Recommendations*

Import Duty and Health Sector Performance in Nigeria

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Abstract

The study examined the impact of import duty on health sector performance in Nigeria from 1990 to 2023. The study used import duty waivers, duty tax, exchange rates as proxies for import duty while health sector performance was measured by infant mortality rate. The research utilize time series data obtained from the central bank of Nigeria (CBN) statistical bulletin, world development indicators (WDI), World health organization (WHO) and UNICEF. The data analysis utilize ADF unit root testing, ARDL bound co-integration. The outcome of the ADF unit root testing indicated the presence of a combination of integrated of order zero(0), integrated of order one(1). The ARDL bound co-integration revealed the presence of a long term link between health sector performance, import duty waivers, duty tax and infant mortality rate. The study concluded that they all play major roles. The study suggests that import duty waivers on pharmaceuticals and health supplies should be sustained to reduce infant mortality rate in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Import Duty, Health Sector Performance, Nigeria*

The Impact of Architecture on Urban Spaces and Development

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Abstract

Urban space serves as an important center for community interaction development, and architecture plays an important role. The formation of function and the role in the inclusion of such space. This article explores history Modern relations between architectural design and urban social epidemiology. By studying Architecture principle, topic research and design the plan can contribute to social cohesion, increase safety, and strengthen the identity of the community. Also discuss Problems such as aesthetic neglect and separation of social space that undermine the potential of the city gap. Finally, this study is how attractive and comprehensive, and A space where culturally teaching resonance spaces, educating and participating in the community.

Keywords: *Urban Space, Community Interaction, Architecture, Urban Planning, Social Cooperation*

Analysis of the Non-Linear Impact of Trade Liberalization on Oil Industrial Sector Output in Nigeria (1981-2022)

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Abstract

This study is motivated by the need to examine if Trade liberalization has a linear or non-linear influence on oil manufacturing output, with a focus on capturing the relationship of trade, foreign investment, and economic growth from 1981 to 2022 as trade liberalization is also regarded as industrial growth catalyst, yet its true impact on Nigeria's oil sector remains uncertain, especially given the country's heavy reliance on oil exports. The study used descriptive statistics and Non-linear Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) framework which found that the error correction term (COINTEQ) at -0.341 is significant with a moderate short-run adjustment mechanism. The result also showed a Positive change in Trade Liberalization significantly stimulate oil manufacturing output (OMO). While foreign direct investment positively impacts oil manufacturing output but is not statistically significant in the long run. On the other hand, the GDP growth rate had a positive and significant impact on oil manufacturing output only in the long run. The study thereafter recommended that policymakers should prioritize initiatives like reducing trade barriers, streamlining customs procedures, and actively participating in regional and international trade agreements.

Keywords: *Non-linear, Trade Liberalization, Oil, Industrial Sector, Output*

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

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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*

Evaluating Economic Growth and Income Inequality: A Case Study on Nigeria

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Abstract

This study focused on the GDP-led impact hypothesis in the case of Nigeria. Numerous econometric tools were engaged, such as Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF) test, Quadratic Equation Regression Analysis and Multiple Linear Regression Analysis with the aid of STATA software on time series data from 1985-2023. The results of the Quadratic Equation Regression revealed that the Kuznets Inverted U curve does not hold for Nigeria. It's evident from the result obtained that Multiple Linear Regression Analysis does not provide much support for the view of a robust relationship between GDP and income inequality in Nigeria. It also does not imply that GDP is irrelevant in stemming income inequality in Nigeria. Rather, its analysis decreases the confidence in the idea that GDP has an exerted independent impact in reducing income inequality in Nigeria. Therefore, the empirical findings do not completely support the modernisation hypothesis that GDP reduces income inequality in Nigeria. It is, therefore, recommended that budgetary allocation should be pro-poor; based and targeted at improving the well being of the masses and not to further enrich the rich citizens.

Keywords: *Economic growth, Income inequality, Kuznets hypothesis, Nigeria.*

Impact of Inflation on Economic Growth in Nigeria

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Abstract

The persistent issue of inflation in Nigeria has raised concerns about its impact on the country's economic growth. Understanding the relationship between inflation and economic growth is crucial for policymakers to design effective strategies that promote sustainable development. This study aims to investigate the relationship between inflation and economic growth in Nigeria. Specifically, it seeks to determine the extent to which inflation impacts economic growth and to identify the key factors that mediate this relationship. The research employs a quantitative approach, utilizing time series data spanning from 2000 to 2023. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used as a proxy for inflation, while Gross Domestic Product (GDP) represents economic growth. The study applies the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression method and Granger causality tests to analyze the data and establish the direction of the relationship between inflation and economic growth. The results indicate a statistically significant positive relationship between inflation and economic growth in Nigeria. The analysis reveals that moderate inflation levels can stimulate economic growth by encouraging spending and investment. However, high inflation rates are found to have a detrimental effect on economic growth, leading to uncertainty and reduced investment. The study concludes that while inflation can have a positive impact on economic growth at moderate levels, excessive inflation poses a threat to economic stability and growth. Policymakers should aim to maintain inflation within an optimal range to harness its growth-stimulating effects while avoiding the adverse consequences of high inflation. Based on the findings, the study recommends that government should implement monetary policies that target a moderate inflation rate to foster economic growth and promote policies that stabilize the exchange rate to support economic growth.

Keywords: *Inflation, Economic Growth, Consumer Price Index, Gross Domestic Product, OLS*

The Need to Copy the South Korea TVET Success Model to Secure Educational and Social Security in Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper examines the positive impact of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Nigeria, the challenges hindering its potential benefits, and contrasts these dynamics with South Korea's successful TVET model, which has been instrumental in driving economic and industrial development. Through a qualitative review of secondary data, including policy documents, academic literature, and case studies, the study highlights key areas where Nigeria's TVET system falls short, such as inadequate funding, outdated curricula, weak industry linkages, and societal perception issues. In contrast, South Korea's success is attributed to robust public-private partnerships (PPPs), substantial government investments, skills development levies, performance-based funding, a dual education system, international cooperation, curriculum modernization, and advanced infrastructure. Drawing from these insights, the paper argues that Nigeria must adopt a structured, multi-stakeholder approach—involving individuals, students, graduates, and all government tiers—to reposition its human capital and stimulate sustainable economic growth. By emulating South Korea's best practices while adapting them to local contexts, Nigeria can transform its TVET sector into a catalyst for national development. The study concludes with policy recommendations aimed at fostering a more effective and sustainable TVET ecosystem in Nigeria. The research adopts a qualitative approach, leveraging comparative analysis and document review of existing literature, government reports, and international case studies to evaluate Nigeria's TVET landscape against South Korea's model. Key themes were extracted to identify gaps and propose actionable solutions for Nigeria's TVET revitalization.

Keywords: *Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Nigeria, South Korea, public-private partnerships, skills development, curriculum reform, vocational education policy, human capital development, economic growth, comparative education*

Growth, Flowering and Yield of Maize (*Zea Mays* L) as Affected by Plant Growth Regulators and Variety in Yola Adamawa State Nigeria

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Abstract

The world is faced with rising demand of maize for food, animal feeds and industrial needs, and the production could not meet up with these increased demands due to low yield obtained in farmer field as a result of poor varietal selection and non-use of plant growth regulators. The field experiments were conducted at the Department of Crop Production and Horticulture Teaching and Research Farm, Modibbo Adama University Yola, Adamawa state Nigeria during 2019, 2020 and 2021 rainy seasons to evaluate the effects of varieties and plant growth regulators on the growth, flowering and yield of maize (*Zea mays* L.). The treatments consisted of three varieties of maize (M12M, SAMMAZ-37 and Admiral Improved Seeds) and seven plant growth regulators (Cytokinins, Super-gro, Growth force, Boostract, Nanomix, Vitalon and water as Control). The treatments were laid out in a split plot design with three replications. Maize varieties were assigned to the main plot and plant growth regulators to sub plot. Data were collected on establishment count, number of leaves, days to 50 % tasseling, days to 50 % silking and grain yield. The data collected were subjected to analysis of variance using statistical analysis software (SAS) system version 9.1 and least significant difference was used to separate the means at 5 % level of probability. The results indicated that varieties had significant effects on establishment count, number of leaves and number of days to 50 % tasseling, while plant growth regulators significantly affect number of leaves, days to 50 % tasseling, days to 50% silking and grains yield. Higher grains yield (5.23 tones ha⁻¹) was obtained in variety M12M, while cytokinins recorded the higher grains yield of 5.73 tones ha⁻¹ though statistically similar with other growth regulators except with vitalon, and control recorded the least (4.06 tones ha⁻¹). There were no significant interactions between the varieties and plant growth regulators in all the parameters measured. For higher grains yield, variety M12M and Cytokinins respectively were found to be promising and are hereby recommended as the best variety and plant growth regulators respectively for farmers to adopt in the study area.

Keywords: *Maize varieties, Plant growth regulators, Flowering, Growth and Yield*

Effect of Plant Growth Regulators on the Performance of Vegetable Amaranth (*Amaranthus Caudatus* L.) in Mubi Northern Guinea Savannah Zone of Nigeria

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Abstract

Low crop productivity is a general problem facing most farming systems in Nigeria. Due to the increase in demand in urban areas where people are not involved in the primary production, the demand for vegetable amaranths has increased. Field trial was conducted during the 2022 cropping season, under rain fed condition at Teaching and Research Farm, Food and Agricultural Organization/Tree Crop Program (FAO/TCP) farm, Adamawa State University, Mubi. The treatments consisted of four Plant Growth Regulators (Gibberellins, Cytokinins, Indole butyric acid and Water as control). The Treatments were laid in a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) replicated three (3) times. Data were collected on plant height, number of leaves fresh plant weight, leaf area index, absolute growth rate, relative growth rate and fresh vegetable yield. Data collected were subjected to Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), Least Significant Differences (LSD) was used to separate the means at 5 % level of probability. The results show that foliar application of gibberellins recorded the highest values in all the growth and fresh vegetable yield (79.07 tones ha⁻¹) measured. For the best growth and yield of vegetable amaranth (*Amaranthus caudatus* L.), foliar application of gibberellins was found to be realistic and is hereby recommended for the farmers in the study area.

Keywords: *Amaranthus caudatus*, plant growth regulators, growth and vegetable yield

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*

Rational Approach to the Design of A Sustainable Drainage System for Permanent Site of Federal Polytechnic Oko: A Case Study for Flood Mitigation and Environmental Management

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Abstract

The design of a drainage system at the permanent site of Federal Polytechnic Oko in Anambra State is critical for mitigating flooding, managing surface runoff, and ensuring environmental sustainability. The design process employed a comprehensive analysis involving topographical surveys, hydraulic modeling, and the assessment of local soil types to ensure stability and efficient water conveyance. Proper slope gradients were considered to maintain adequate flow velocities and avoid sediment deposition, which could hinder long-term performance. From the result, the channel size estimated was 0.199m by 0.0199m and $0.0199m^2$. This study proposed a channel size of 1.4m depth by 0.5m width and $0.7m^2$, optimized to accommodate the anticipated peak flow resulting from heavy rainfall and storm-water events. This sizing is based on hydrological data, which takes into account rainfall intensity, runoff coefficients, and catchment area characteristics. The objective is to effectively convey storm-water while preventing overflow, erosion, and subsequent damage to infrastructure and properties. This sustainable approach incorporates provisions for maintenance and aligns with urban drainage standards to enhance durability and reliability. Implementing this drainage system will mitigate flood risks, safeguard campus facilities, and improve overall water management and contributing to the development of resilient infrastructure at Federal Polytechnic Oko.

Keywords: *Flood Mitigation, Drainage System, Sustainable Design, Environmental Management*

Assessment of Nigeria's Preparedness Towards Achieving Open Defecation-Free Status in 2025

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Abstract

Open defecation remains a serious environmental and social problem in developing countries including Nigeria. Nigeria is one of the leading countries of the world still practicing open defecation. Nigeria has however, pledged to eliminate open defecation by 2025, aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6.2. This paper evaluates Nigeria's progress towards achieving open defecation-free status, assessing the country's preparedness to meet this target. A road-map was drawn to ensure that this target is achieved by the year 2025. A comprehensive review of this road-map and other existing literature, policy documents and data from relevant stakeholders informs this assessment. The study examines critically the institutional framework, community participation, the availability and effectiveness of sanitation infrastructure, as well as the impact of cultural or religious and socio-economic factors. Whereas progress has been made and success achieved in some areas, there are still lingering challenges, including but not limited to insufficient funding, inadequate institutional capacity, and inadequate community participation which hinder the scale-up of sanitation services. Additionally, cultural barrier and socio-economic factors such as poverty, level of education, contribute persistence of open defecation. This study discovers important areas requiring improvement and provides recommendations to reinforce initiatives that are already in place. The findings will inform policy decision and ensure that Nigeria's efforts to eliminate open defecation do not become futile. By this assessment, this study contributes to the global effort toward sustainable development. The result will therefore be valuable for policymakers and researchers working this path of sustainable sanitation solutions in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Open defecation, Assessment, Preparedness, Open defecation-free*

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 causes 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*

Distribution of Agricultural Products from Jema'a Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The distribution of agricultural products plays a critical role in the economic development of rural areas by ensuring that agricultural produce reaches consumers efficiently, thereby enhancing food security and increasing farmers' incomes. In Jema'a Local Government Area (LGA) of Kaduna State, Nigeria, the distribution of agro-based products faces numerous challenges that hinder its effectiveness and efficiency. This paper investigates the various distribution channels employed, identifies the challenges faced by farmers and distributors, and explores potential improvements that could be made to the distribution system. Utilizing a comprehensive approach, this study draws on both primary and secondary data sources. Primary data was collected through detailed surveys administered to local farmers and distributors, and in-depth interviews conducted with key stakeholders including local government officials, agricultural extension workers, and market leaders. Secondary data was gathered from existing literature on agricultural distribution in Nigeria, focusing on infrastructure, market access, and logistics. The findings from this research highlight the significant role that local markets play in the distribution of agro-based products within Jema'a LGA. However, the efficiency of these markets is often compromised by poor transportation networks and inadequate infrastructure. The study also underscores the importance of addressing these transportation issues to enhance distribution efficiency. Additionally, it was found that local farmers face challenges such as limited access to larger markets, inadequate storage facilities, and a lack of information on market prices and demand. Based on the analysis, this paper provides several recommendations aimed at improving the distribution networks of agro-based products in Jema'a LGA. These include investing in infrastructure development, enhancing market access through improved transportation links, providing adequate storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses, and implementing information systems to keep farmers informed about market trends. By addressing these issues, it is anticipated that the distribution of agro-based products in Jema'a LGA will be significantly improved, thereby supporting local agriculture and contributing to the economic development of the region.

Keywords: *Distribution, Agriculture, Agricultural Products, Economic Development*

Effect of Value Added Tax on Inflation in Nigeria

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Abstract

Value-Added Tax (VAT) has been recognised as a vital source of government revenue in the world over. It has been a concern for researchers and policy makers whether VAT is a trigger for the rising inflation rate in Nigeria. This paper thus examined the effect of the implementation of Local VAT (LVAT) on inflation rate in Nigeria, the effect of Foreign VAT (FVAT) on inflation rate in Nigeria and the effect of Import VAT (IVAT) on inflation rate in Nigeria from 2011 - 2024. Secondary data from the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) were used for the study. Data on LVAT, FVAT, IVAT and inflation rate were used for the study. Descriptive and Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) regression techniques were employed in analysing the data. The ARDL being an inferential statistic was adopted because some the variables of the work were not stationary at level that is, $I(0)$. The findings show that, LVAT has a positive but insignificant effect on inflation rate in Nigeria, while FVAT and I VAT had a negative and insignificant effect on inflation rate in Nigeria. In addition, the Error Correction Term $\{ECT(-1)\}$, been correctly signed indicated that once there is disequilibrium in the system, it will take an average quarterly speed of 102.97% to restore the long-run relationship between inflation rate and VAT. The work therefore recommended among other, that the Nigerian government at all levels and policy makers should halt any plan of increasing the LVAT as it portends danger of worsening the already high inflation rate in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Value Added Tax, Inflation*

Effect of Variety on the Growth and Yield of Some Tomatoes (*Solanum Esculentum* L.) in Mubi Northern Guinea Savannah Nigeria

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Abstract

The study determines the effect of varieties on the growth and yield of some tomatoes in Mubi Northern Guinea Savannah Nigeria. The experimental treatments consisted of three different varieties of tomatoes (Seria, UC and UTC). These treatments were laid out in a Randomize Complete Block Design with three replications. Data were collected on plant height, number of branches, stem girth, number of days to first flowering, number of days to 50 % flowering and fruit yield. Data collected were subjected to analysis of variance and treatment means were separated using Duncan Multiple Range Test at 0.05 level of probability. The results showed that variety significantly affects all the growth and yield parameters measured. Higher growth parameters, minimum number of days to first and 50 % flowering, and higher fruits yield were all recorded from UTC variety. For the best fruit yield (208.26 kg ha⁻¹) at 7 harvest, variety UTC was found to be realistic and farmers are therefore advised to adopt it for its maximum fruits yield in the study area.

Keywords: *Tomatoes, Variety, Growth and Fruits yield*

Civil Service as a Catalyst for Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

The primary function of the civil service is formulation and implementation of governmental policies in line with the welfare of the citizens, sustainability of the state, regulating commercial operations, and providing social service. Civil service plays a crucial role in any country's economic development, particularly in Nigeria where the public sector is directly involved in national development. It serves as a pivot for design and execution sustainable economic development programmes. This necessitated the civil service to adopt more management methods, develop the necessary managerial abilities, and adopt a new strategy that includes project management in order to secure and ensure sustainability. This study explored the role of the civil service as a contributor to Nigeria's sustainable economic development. The methodology adopted was a documentary review and contextual analysis of past and current literature on the impact of civil service on sustainable economic development in Nigeria. The inefficiency and incompetency of the Nigerian civil service are evident due to the poor execution of the national budgets and public policies geared towards economic development. Furthermore, the unpredictability of the Nigerian political and economic sector and the high cost of doing business which is undermining investors' confidence is another important negative effect on Nigerian civil service performance in promotion of sustainable economic development. Therefore, for the Nigerian civil service to contribute to sustainable economic development, it must be made more appealing and supported, modern equipment and technologies should be introduced across all levels of the civil service, continuous professional development should be made mandatory in the civil service, and appointment and promotion in the civil service must be based on merit and qualifications.

Keywords: *Nigeria, Civil service, Sustainability, and Economic development*

Impact of New Technology Management on Service Delivery of Business Education in Tertiary Institution in Delta State

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Abstract

The study examined impact of new technology management on service delivery of business education in tertiary institution in Delta State. The study examined the effectiveness of new technology management on job delivery in the background of the study. Three specific purposes, three research questions and three null hypotheses guided the study. The study utilized the cross sectional survey research design method. The population of the study comprised three (300) hundred female secretaries and one thousand (1000) male students were randomly selected as sample of the study in Delta State. The study reviews the concept of new technology, Management, service delivery, business education. System theory was adopted by the researcher in the study. An empirical studies propounded by other author was reviewed in the literature. A questionnaire instrument was designed to elicit information from the respondents. The instrument was validated by two experts from the department of measurement and evaluation all from Faculty of Education in the University of Delta, Agbor. The instrument gave a reliability index of 0.895 using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient of text-re-text method. Data obtained from the study were analyzed using mean, standard deviation, t-test and analysis of variance (ANOVA) at 0.05 level of significant. Results showed that new technologies are effectively used in service delivery in tertiary institution of Delta State. The result of the findings also indicates that good management of new technology improves service delivery of every tertiary institution in Delta State. The finding concluded that efficient new technology management motivate employees to deliver their service adequately in their various offices. The recommended that government should provide adequate technology room that is equip with facilities for service delivery of tertiary institutions.

Keywords: *Impact, New Technology Management, Service Delivery, Business Education, Tertiary Institution*

Philosophizing on Basic Education as a Fundamental Human Right in Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper examines the philosophical basis on basic education as a fundamental human right in Nigeria, and its indispensable role in both individual advancement and societal progress. Basic education serves not only as an instrument for personal empowerment but also as a decisive factor in fostering national growth by reducing disparities and enhancing grassroots participation in the democratic process. However, despite its importance, numerous Nigerian children face barriers to accessing quality instruction due to socioeconomic variations, insufficient funding allocation, and political difficulties. This research explores the theoretical foundations of learning as an entitlement, drawing on domestic and international human rights frameworks, like Nigeria's commitments to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. By philosophizing on the essence and significance of education as a fundamental right, this paper aims to underscore the necessity for Nigerian policymakers to prioritize educational reform, promote inclusiveness, and address systematic obstacles. Eventually, ensuring accessible, quality basic education for all is not just a policy objective but a moral imperative vital for Nigeria's advancement toward a more equitable and prosperous future.

Keywords: *Philosophy, Basic Education, Human right*

Quality Assurance in Office Technology and Management Programme in Nigerian Colleges of Education

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Abstract

The study examined quality assurance in Office Technology and Management programme (OTM) in Colleges of Education in the South-South, Nigeria. Descriptive survey research was used for the study. Two purposes of study, two research questions and corresponding two null hypotheses guided the study. The population of the study consisted of one hundred and sixteen (116) lecturers; there was no sample as the entire population was easy to manage. Ninety (90) copies of questionnaires were retrieved from the one hundred and sixteen copies distributed, (51 males and 39 females). Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions and t-test statistics was used to test the two null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The results showed that respondents agreed with the items listed for the study as the grand mean for research questions 1 and 2 were rated 3.04 and 3.63 respectively, which is above 2.50, which was the boundary limit set for the study. The hypotheses tested revealed that there was no significant difference in the opinions of experienced and less experienced lecturers, on the causes of poor-quality assurance mechanism and also there was no significant difference in the opinions of male and female lecturers on how to improve quality assurance programme. It was recommended among others that regulatory agencies such as NCCE saddled with supervision, accreditation and reaccreditation of colleges should visit institutions offering OTM programmes yearly to ascertain compliance and that qualified lecturers, instructors and technologies should be engaged to ensure academic excellence.

Keywords: *Quality Assurance, Skill, Acquisition, Office Technology, Management, Education*

The Use of Edible Plants and Fruit Trees to Improve the Ventilation and Landscape of a Built Environment

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Abstract

A fruit tree simply refers to a tree that bears fruit for human consumption. Over the years it has been observed that flowers have been used for the purpose of beautification and landscaping of the environment. However, the maintenance of this flowers has proven to be very tasking, especially cutting and trimming of the leaves and branches or watering the plants to ensure their leaves remain green during dry season. This process wouldn't have been so tedious if there was an economic benefit of the plants rather than only for beautification. This research work is aimed at enlightening the society on how to replace the flowers with edible plants such as: waterleaf, pepper, curry, and the Ocimum Gratissimum popularly called scent leaf etc. Also, orange trees, guava trees, pawpaw, mango and coconut trees can also be introduced to create some shade and sitting areas in our environment. At the end of this research work we will learn how to achieve a well-designed landscape environment using economic plants and trees that will feed our society.

Keywords: *Environment, Edible, Economic, Landscape*

Economics Education: An Instrument for Promoting Sustainable Development and Transformation in Colleges of Education in Delta State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined economics education as an instrument for promoting sustainable development and transformation in colleges of education in Delta State. Two research questions and two hypotheses guided the study. They study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprised of three colleges of education in Delta State. Convenient simple techniques was used to select 90 students from each of the institutions given a total of 270 respondents. An Instrument developed by the researcher titled Economics Education an Instrument for Promoting Sustainable Development and Transformation Questionnaire (EEIPSDTQ) was used for data collection. The instrument was subjected to face and content validation. The reliability was established using Cronbach Alpha. The result gave coefficient value of 0.73. The researcher administered the instrument with the help of three research attendants. The data collected was analyzed using mean and standard deviation research questions. T-test was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level significant. The findings revealed that economics education is a key factor for promoting sustainable development and transformation. With functional education in economics, sustainable development will be achieved. Based on the findings recommendations were made that for sustainable development and transformation to be achieved attention should be given to education economics for greater productivity.

Keywords: *Economics, Promoting, Sustainable, Development, Transformation*

Transportation in the Era of Fuel Subsidy Removal: An Assessment of the Cost Implication in Benue State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The cost of transportation in Benue State and Nigeria at large has progressively skyrocketed along road links with a constellation of adverse economic forces following suit, in the wake of fuel subsidy removal. This study examines the remote and proximate causes of this increasing transport cost against the background of the implications for inflation in the cost of consumable goods and services, relative to livelihood of the masses in Benue State. A sample size of three major roads cutting across the three senatorial districts of the state comprising Gboko to Makurdi, Gboko to Katsina-Ala and Gboko to Oturkpo roads was purposively selected, on which 120 structured questionnaires were administered on commuters and commercial vehicle operators. Similarly, four other destinations cutting across the north, Middle belt, Southwest and South-South, Kano, Jos, Lagos and Calabar to which Benue people travel were also administered questionnaire. Trends and Time series Analysis as well as frequency distribution and simple percentages were employed in data analysis while Pearson correlation statistics was used in testing hypotheses. Results revealed that the rising cost of transportation is significantly correlated with the rise in fuel pump price. The results also revealed that the arbitrary rise in transport services has translated to skyrocketing prices of consumable goods, which in turn has phenomenally bastardized livelihood thereby intensifying poverty among Benue people. This study recommends the immediate revival of the four refineries to restore local refining of petroleum. The study also recommends alternative sources of energy to power vehicles in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Transportation, Fuel subsidy, Transport cost, Transport fare, Inflation, Poverty*

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*

Audit Quality and Discretionary Expenses Among Nigerian Listed Oil and Gas Firms

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Abstract

This study investigates the impact of audit quality on discretionary expenses among Nigerian listed oil and gas firms from 2003 to 2022, a period marked by heightened regulatory scrutiny and economic volatility. Utilizing a quantitative research design, the study employs Pooled OLS regression to analyze secondary data from audited financial statements and NGX databases. Audit quality, proxied by audit independence (-0.194 , $p = 0.001$), audit fees (-0.188 , $p = 0.040$), audit firm size (-1.744 , $p = 0.064$), audit committee size (-0.016 , $p = 0.041$), and audit tenure (-0.248 , $p = 0.000$), exhibits a significant negative effect on discretionary expenses, rejecting the null hypothesis and confirming that robust audits curb earnings management. Conversely, leverage (0.037 , $p = 0.013$) and firm size (0.020 , $p = 0.040$) positively influence discretionary expenses, while sales growth (-4.121 , $p = 0.000$) reduces manipulation. The model's high explanatory power ($R^2 = 98\%$) and absence of serial correlation (Durbin-Watson = 2.17) affirm its robustness. Grounded in agency theory, the findings highlight audit quality's role in mitigating information asymmetry in Nigeria's oil and gas sector, particularly amid 2022–2023 scandals. Recommendations include stricter auditor rotation, engaging Big 4 firms, and enhancing audit committee effectiveness to foster transparency. This study offers actionable insights for regulators and stakeholders to strengthen financial reporting integrity in a critical economic sector.

Keywords: *Audit Quality, Discretionary Expenses, Earnings Management, Nigerian Oil and Gas, Financial Transparency*

Note

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