



10th World Research & Strategic Development Conference

4th - 6th June, 2025

ABSTRACTS & PROCEEDINGS

Theme

Advancing Sustainable Development Strategies
Under Current World Crisis Conditions

Kenyatta University International Conference Center (KUICC), Nairobi

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10TH WORLD RESEARCH AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

VENUE: KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, NAIROBI - KENYA

THEME

Advancing Sustainable Development Strategies Under Current World Crisis Conditions

DATE: Wednesday 4th - Friday 6th June, 2025

TIME: 10:00am (GMT+1)

CONFERENCE LOC

Dr. Andre Yitambe

Kenyatta University,
Nairobi

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MAUTECH, Nigeria

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Wright State University, USA

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10TH WORLD RESEARCH AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

VENUE: KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, NAIROBI - KENYA

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY ONE – Wednesday 4th June, 2025

- Arrival of Conferees & Delegates

DAY TWO – Thursday 5th June, 2025

OPENING SESSION/PLENARY

Conference Registration	- 9:00am – 10:00am
Opening Prayer/Welcome Remark	- 10:00am – 10:15am
Institutional Brief/Chairman's Opening Remark	- 10:15am – 10:30am
Research Training	- 10:30am – 12noon
Launch Break/Group Photograph	- 12noon – 1:00pm
Plenary Session	- 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Policy Review Session	- 4:00pm – 5:00pm

DAY THREE – Friday 6th June, 2025

OPENING SESSION/PLENARY

Conference Registration	- 9:00am – 10:00am
Opening Prayer/Welcome Remark	- 10:00am – 10:15am
Institutional Brief/Chairman's Opening Remark	- 10:15am – 10:30am
Research Training	- 10:30am – 12noon
Launch Break/Group Photograph	- 12noon – 1:00pm
Plenary Session	- 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Policy Review Session	- 4:00pm – 5:00pm

DAY FOUR – Saturday 7th June, 2025

- Departure of Conferees & Delegates



Welcome to

Kenyatta University, Nairobi

History of Kenyatta University:

The history of Kenyatta University dates back to 1965, when the British Government handed over the Templer Barracks in Kahawa to the Government of Kenya. These barracks were converted into an educational institution named Kenyatta College, which initially offered Secondary and Teacher Training Education, leading to the award of Secondary Teacher I (S1) and Secondary Teacher Advanced Level (SA) certificates.

In 1970, following an Act of Parliament, Kenyatta College became a constituent college of the University of Nairobi, and its name changed to Kenyatta University College. The institution admitted its first batch of 200 students in 1972 to pursue studies leading to the Bachelor of Education degree awarded by the University of Nairobi. A significant milestone occurred in July 1978, when the Faculty of Education of the University of Nairobi was transferred to Kenyatta University College. This move made the institution the only one in the country at the time offering teacher education at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Kenyatta University College attained full university status on August 23, 1985, and the establishing Act became operational on September 1, 1985. The University was inaugurated in December 1985 with three foundational faculties: Education, Science, and Arts.

When you come to Kenyatta University, you discover that you have arrived at a special place. The University's Main Campus is set on over 1,000 acres with a pleasant and serene surrounding conducive to academic and intellectual growth. Kenyatta University is home to some of the world's top scholars, researchers and experts in diverse fields. We pride ourselves in providing high quality programmes that attract individuals who wish to be globally competitive. To achieve this, we have invested heavily in infrastructure and facilities to offer our students the best experience in quality academic programmes under a nurturing environment in which our students learn and grow. Kenyatta University is one of the leading universities in Kenya judging by the quality of our graduates. Our aim is not only to maintain this position, but to improve further and attain our vision of becoming a world-class university that is committed to quality and relevance.

What gives graduates of Kenyatta University a cutting edge over their peers is the University's emphasis on practical hands-on knowledge and the skills training imparted to its students. Towards this noble end, Kenyatta University has established meaningful links with industrial partners, who guide the University on practical, professional requirements which need to be built into programmes at Kenyatta University. As a result, the University's courses give our graduates a distinct advantage in the workplace. Already, many of our graduates are exposed to new employment opportunities by accessing industrial attachments during their study, or through course related placements.

Source: <https://www.ku.ac.ke/index.php/about-ku/ku-profile>

Timeline for Manuscript Corrections and Journal Publication

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

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

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

References

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Conference Abstracts

Cuba a Sustainable Agriculture: A Lesson to Learn for Northern Nigeria

Dr. Fatima Ali Suwaid (Mrs.)

Department of Political Science,

Sokoto State University, Sokoto P.M.B 2134, Along Airport Road, Sokoto State, Nigeria

Abstract

Cuba has become a global model of sustainable agriculture, particularly due to its transition after the fall of the Soviet Union. The country's focus on organic farming, agroecology, and self-reliance offers valuable lessons for countries like Nigeria, where challenges in food security, environmental degradation, and resource management persist. This paper uses qualitative research to explore how Cuba's agricultural policies and practices can inform the Northern Nigerian context. Through interviews, document analysis, and field observations, this study aims to highlight the critical elements of Cuba's success that Northern Nigeria can adapt to enhance its agricultural sector. Systems Theory is employed as the theoretical framework to understand the interconnectedness of agricultural policies, environmental sustainability, and socioeconomic development.

Keywords: *Alternative Agriculture, Technology, Innovation, Revolution, and Hunger*

How Businesses Can Lead the Way to Net Zero

Jane Marsh
Editor-in-Chief,
Environment.co, Canada

Abstract

To reach net zero, a business must balance the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) it releases with the amount it removes from the atmosphere. For every metric ton of pollution, it emits, it must find a way to remove the equivalent amount within a given time frame, even from an outside source. How can companies achieve this ambitious goal? Businesses must offset their GHG emissions to adhere to the Paris agreement. All companies should at least halve their emissions by 2030. Companies may be exposed to catastrophic weather events if global temperatures increase more than 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit by then. Those failing to comply will likely face supply chain instability and financial penalties. This paper examines how businesses are achieving the coveted net-zero status.

Keywords: *Businesses, Net zero, Greenhouse gas*

Digital Marketing and E-Commerce Growth in Ecowas Sub-Region

Umar Magaji Umar
*Department of Political Science,
Sokoto State University, Sokoto - Nigeria*

Abstract

This study explores the role of digital marketing in driving e-commerce growth within the ECOWAS sub-region, focusing on the unique opportunities and challenges presented by the region's dynamic socio-economic landscape. The rapid adoption of digital technologies and increasing internet penetration have opened avenues for businesses to expand their reach through innovative digital marketing strategies. Platforms such as social media, search engines, and mobile marketing have emerged as critical tools for enhancing customer engagement, increasing visibility, and driving online sales. However, the growth of e-commerce in the region faces significant barriers, including inadequate digital infrastructure, limited access to secure payment systems, and logistical challenges. Additionally, low consumer trust and fragmented regulatory frameworks across ECOWAS member states hinder cross-border e-commerce activities. Despite these challenges, the region presents immense potential for growth, driven by its youthful population, growing middle class, and advancements in finTech solutions. This paper highlights successful digital marketing practices in the ECOWAS sub-region, drawing insights from key players and case studies. It also provides policy recommendations for improving digital infrastructure, harmonizing regulations, and fostering innovation to create a thriving e-commerce ecosystem. By leveraging digital marketing, the ECOWAS sub-region can unlock new economic opportunities and strengthen regional integration in a globalized economy.

Keywords: *Digital Marketing, E-commerce Growth, ECOWAS Sub-region, Online Consumer Behaviour*

Climate Change and Forced Displacement: Analysing Policy Responses to Climate-Induced Refugees in Sub-Saharan Africa

¹Agum Charles & ²Wilson Anjola Daniel

*Department of Economics,
Federal University Lafia, Nasarawa State*

Abstract

Climate change is increasingly recognized as a significant driver of forced displacement, particularly in regions vulnerable to environmental shocks. Sub-Saharan Africa, with its high dependency on agriculture, fragile ecosystems, and socio-economic challenges, is acutely susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change. This study explores the intersection of climate change and forced displacement, focusing on the policy responses to climate-induced refugees in Sub-Saharan Africa. Despite the growing attention to this issue, a critical gap exists in the integration of climate-induced migration into existing legal frameworks and policy responses, particularly the lack of legal recognition for climate refugees under international refugee law. This gap leaves many displaced individuals without adequate protection or support, exacerbating their vulnerabilities. To address this gap, the study will adopt the Environmental Security Theory, as articulated by Norman Myers, which links environmental changes to security threats, including forced migration. This theoretical framework will allow for a comprehensive analysis of how climate-induced environmental changes contribute to forced displacement and how these changes intersect with existing security and policy paradigms. By applying this theory, the research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding climate-induced migration and the corresponding policy challenges. The research will employ a qualitative methodology, utilizing case studies of selected countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to analyse the effectiveness of current policy responses. Secondary data will be adopted in the study and analysed through the use of document analysis. The case studies will help identify best practices and gaps in policy implementation, providing insights into how climate-induced migration is being managed at the national and regional levels. The study will provide policy recommendations aimed at filling the identified gaps, particularly in strengthening the protection and rights of climate-induced refugees. It will advocate for the integration of climate risk into national development plans, enhancing cross-border cooperation, and developing comprehensive legal frameworks to better address the needs of displaced populations. This research will contribute to the growing discourse on climate change and human mobility, emphasizing the need for more proactive and inclusive policy measures to mitigate the impact of forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Keywords: *Climate Change and Forced Displacement, Policy Responses, Climate-Induced Refugees, Sub-Saharan Africa*

Assessing the Economic Costs of Non-Communicable Diseases on Life Expectancy of Households in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

¹Agum Charles, Ugwuoke, ²Okwudili Walter &
³Adewale Emmanuel Adegioriola
*Department of Economics,
Federal University Lafia, Nasarawa State*

Abstract

The study aimed to examine the impact of the economic burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) on the life expectancy of households. The investigation highlighted the profound effects of medical costs related to NCDs, a pressing health issue within this region. Utilizing a survey research design, the study involved data collection from households affected by NCDs in Lafia and employed descriptive and ordinal logistic regression for analysis. The analysis revealed diverse impacts of economic costs on life expectancy. Notably, the cost of rehabilitation services exhibited a positive and significant relationship with life expectancy, indicating that better access and affordability to these services could enhance the health and longevity of the affected population. Conversely, the costs of drugs and hospitalization expenses displayed a negative but significant effect on life expectancy, reflecting the financial strain these expenses impose on households, which could compromise the overall health management and outcomes. Furthermore, expenses on laboratory investigations showed a positive and significant effect, suggesting that effective diagnostic tools play a crucial role in extending life expectancy by enabling better disease management. Based on these findings, specific recommendations are directed towards the Ministry of Health and the National Health Insurance Scheme in Nigeria. It is advised that these institutions implement policies that subsidize the cost of drugs and hospital care to alleviate the economic strain on households. Additionally, enhancing support for rehabilitation services and laboratory facilities through increased funding and oversight can further improve life expectancy. These strategic interventions are vital for mitigating the economic impact of NCDs on households in Lafia, thereby contributing to better health outcomes and extended life expectancy.

Keywords: *Cost of Rehabilitation Services; Costs of drugs; Hospitalization expenses; Laboratory expenses; and Life expectancy*

Western Education Among the Indigenous of Gidan Bawan Allah Area of Wamakko Local Government, Sokoto State

Nasiru Abubakar Katami
Sokoto State University

Abstract

The paper is design to investigate into the issue of accepting Western Education by the Indigenous of Gidan Bawan Allah Area of of Wamakko Local Government of Sokoto State, Nigeria There are three objectives and three research questions which are set to guide the conduct of the research. The objectives are stated to examine the attitude of the indigenous people of Gidan Bawan Allah towards western education, to examine the problems militating against the enrolment of the children of the Indigenous people of Gidan Bawan Allah into primary school, to examine the relationship between western education and provision of infrastructural materials to the people of Gidan Bawan Allah area. in the literature review general concept of education, western education in Nigeria, importance of, indigenous education all the areas that were exploited. Also, theories of education were reviewed. A simple survey method was adopted for the study. The population of the study consists of all indigenous people of Gidan Bawan Allah. The findings of the study are that the people of Gidan Bawan Allah do not send their children to primary school, because all of them are farmers and traders and they only engage their children to learn their occupations, there are no available infrastructural facilities in the area such as good roads, good drinking water and medical facilities and, the children are interested in making money quickly, therefore they prepare to go for hard labour and get pay quickly than going to school.

Keywords: *Western Education, Indigenous people, and Indigenous Education*

Securing Global Cities: Best Practices, Innovation, and the Path Ahead

¹General Raymond Odierno & ²Michael E. O'Hanlon

¹*Director of Research - Foreign Policy, Brookings Institution,
Washington, D.C., United States*

²*Foreign Policy, Strobe Talbott Center for Security, Strategy, and Technology
Washington, D.C., United States*

Abstract

Today, more than half of the world's population lives in cities. Over the next 30 years, that figure will likely increase to 66 percent. This breakneck pace of urban development, coupled with globalization and increased access to information, is changing geopolitics and global economic development. Increasingly, cities are at the center of the world's economic activity. In the United States, for example, the largest 100 metropolitan areas account for three-quarters of U.S. GDP and two-thirds of the country's population. Integrated global networks, financial systems, and markets are dramatically changing how cities will develop in the future.

Keywords: *Securing, Global cities, Best practices, Innovation*

Africa Grapples with Huge Disparities in Education

Zipporah Musau
Africa Renewal, South Africa
United Nations

Abstract

At the dawn of independence, incoming African leaders were quick to prioritize education on their development agendas. Attaining universal primary education, they maintained, would help post-independence Africa lift itself out of abject poverty. As governments began to build schools and post teachers even to the farthest corners of the continent, with help from religious organizations and other partners, children began to fill the classrooms and basic education was underway. This article aims to examine the challenges and prospects of education in Africa.

Keywords: *Education, Government, Disparity, Development*

Modes of Being: Astonishment and Openness in Entrepreneurship Education

¹Sine Maria Herholdt-Lomholdt, ²Per Blenker & ³Camilla Askov Mousing

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²Research Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Research Program for Didactics of Transformative Entrepreneurship, VIA University College, Aarhus, Denmark

³Research Group: Caring in Healthcare, Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences, Nord University, Bodø, Norway

Abstract

This paper stems from a two-year phenomenological action research project named Innovative and Entrepreneurial Formation (Bildung) in Professional Bachelor Education. The paper explores an entrepreneurial teaching experiment aimed at combining educational ideals of entrepreneurship education with educational ideals necessary to become a professional nurse. The educational ideals aimed for is sensitivity, imagination and courage to act. Through phenomenological analysis of one teacher's lived experience description and a phenomenological interview with a student participating in the teaching experiment, the paper inquiries into modes of Being among students participating in the experiment from an ontological perspective. Furthermore, the paper investigates how these modes of Being can relate to entrepreneurial as well as professional purposes. By that, the teaching experiment is an example of a cross-fertilization between entrepreneurship education and professional education that allows both to grow. The analysis reveals astonishment as a central existential experience of Being, while participating in the specific teaching experiment. The study also shows a phenomenological association between astonishment and openness, which entrepreneurship educators have searched for pedagogies to establish.

Keywords: *Entrepreneurship Education, Lived Experience, Existential, Being, Nursing*

Africa-China Relations: A Strategic Analysis of Benefits and Implications

Abdulmajid Muhammad Zaiyan

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Sokoto State University, Sokoto*

Abstract

The rapid expansion of Africa-China relations over the past two decades has transformed the global economic and political landscape of the African continent. This paper presents a strategic analysis of Africa-China relations, exploring the intricate dynamics that define their partnership and the implications for both regions. Republic of China's presence in Africa has expanded significantly, characterized by a rapid surge in trade, investment, and infrastructural development. This bilateral partnership is driven by China's quest for resources to fuel its economic growth, as well as Africa's need for capital and technology to foster development. The analysis reveals several key benefits of this partnership, including increased economic growth, enhanced infrastructural development, and job creation in African nations. The study will try to investigate potential implications, such as dependency on Chinese investment, concerns over debt burden and sustainability, and the overshadowing of local industries in Africa. Furthermore, the papers will explore the geopolitical implications, including shifts in global power dynamics and Africa's position in international relations. The research employed both primary and secondary source of data collection. The primary data relied on first-hand information gathered from key informants' interview on experts on Africa-China relations. The secondary source relied on existing information from libraries, text books, journals and the internet. The theoretical framework employed by the study is Complex Inter-dependency Theory. The findings of this paper will contribute immensely to the existing literature on Africa-China relations.

Keywords: *Africa-China, Implication, Benefits, Trade, Infrastructure, Investment, Bi-lateral Relations*

Leveraging Mobile Technology and Entrepreneurial Marketing Orientation to Enhance Organic Beef Supply Chain Performance: A Resource-Based Perspective

¹Dr Victor Ogunbiyi, ²Bose Comfort Ogunbiyi & ³Kufre Daniel Inyang

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²School of Paramedical Peri-Operative and Advanced Practice / Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Hull, / HU6 7RX

³School of business, Marketing Department / Federal polytechnic Nasarawa, PMB 01

Abstract

The global organic beef market continues to experience robust growth, valued at approximately USD 11.2 billion in 2022 with projections indicating a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 6.4% through 2030. This upward trend reflects shifting consumer preferences towards sustainably produced, traceable, and high-quality beef products, intensifying the need for more transparent and efficient supply chains. In this context, the resource-based view (RBV) offers a useful theoretical lens for understanding how specific firm-level resources and capabilities—particularly mobile technology integration and entrepreneurial marketing orientation—contribute to supply chain performance in the organic beef sector. Drawing on recent evidence from industry reports, academic studies, and credible online sources, this research synthesizes data showing that approximately 60% of leading organic beef producers have already adopted mobile-based solutions for inventory management, product traceability, and quality assurance. By 2025, it is anticipated that up to 78% of agri-food firms will utilize mobile technologies to streamline operations, reduce inefficiencies, and enhance stakeholder communication. Concurrently, entrepreneurial marketing practices are increasingly employed to target niche segments, leverage social media engagement, and build authentic brand narratives, aligning closely with consumers' growing willingness—estimated at around 67% in a recent global survey—to pay a premium for reliably sourced organic products. Preliminary findings indicate that firm's adept at combining technological capabilities with proactive, value-driven marketing approaches are better positioned to achieve sustainable competitive advantages. By integrating RBV with empirical insights, this study contributes to the academic discourse on supply chain management in emerging markets and underscores the importance of strategic resource allocation. The paper concludes with policy recommendations, including the formulation of supportive frameworks and incentives to encourage widespread adoption of mobile technology and entrepreneurial marketing practices, thereby strengthening the overall resilience, transparency, and performance of the organic beef supply chain.

Keywords: *Organic beef sector, Mobile technology, Entrepreneurial marketing and Supply chain performance.*

Technology, Education, and Cultural Change: Explore How Technological Advancements in Education Influence Cultural Practices and Social Interactions

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Abstract

Educational technology has become a sociocultural and ideological phenomenon, influencing not only how we learn but also how we interact within our cultural contexts. The rise of broad cultural interest in educational technology reflects its significant role in shaping modern educational practices and societal norms. This study will examine the transformative impact of technological advancements in education on cultural practices and social interactions. By integrating insights from sociology and anthropology, it will explore how educational technologies influence cultural norms, social behaviors, and community dynamics. The research will highlight that technology in education serves as a catalyst for cultural change, reshaping traditional learning paradigms and altering interpersonal communication patterns. It will also address the challenges of digital divides and cultural preservation, emphasizing the need for culturally relevant teaching methods that leverage technology to enhance learning while respecting diverse cultural contexts. A mixed research method will be used (Quantity and Qualitative) and The Theory of Technological-Cultural Convergence will be used, the theory posits that, technological advancements in education act as catalysts for cultural evolution by reshaping cultural practices, social norms, and interpersonal interactions. It suggests a bidirectional relationship: technology influences cultural practices through educational integration, while cultural contexts shape how technology is adopted and adapted within educational systems. The findings will underscore the importance of a nuanced approach to educational technology implementation, considering its profound implications for socio-cultural sustainability and the evolution of social interactions in an increasingly digital world.

Keywords: *Educational Technology, Cultural Practices, Social Interactions, Digital Divide, Cultural Sustainability*

Level of Digital Literacy Amongst Secondary School Teacher's and Student's: Implication for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

This study aimed to determine the current level of digital literacy amongst Secondary School Teachers and Students in Nigeria. It also investigated the influence of gender and school location on digital literacy amongst Teachers and Students. Six research questions and four hypotheses guided the study. The study adopted mixed design approach, involving quantitative and qualitative method. The sample of the study consisted of 120 teachers, 360 students and 30 head of schools randomly drawn from Six (6) zones across Nigeria (20 teachers, 60 students and 5 head of schools in each of the six zones). The Questionnaire and interview were used as an instrument for data collection. The Mean, Standard Deviation were used to analyzed Quantitative data from Questionnaire and Qualitative data from interviewed of head of schools were transcribed and categorized into emerging themes. Triangulation of data from various sources were used and revealed the challenges face in the acquisition of digital literacy among teachers and students and the recommended strategies to improve the acquisition of digital literacy among teachers and students. Results of the study indicated the low level of Digital literacy among teachers and students and significant gender and school location difference existed between the two groups in favor of the males, urban teachers and students. The implications of these findings for sustainable development were highlighted.

Keywords: *Digital literacy, Secondary School, Teachers, Students and Sustainable Development*

Role and Identification of Microorganisms and Enzymes Catalyzing Local Production of Soya Yoghurt

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Abstract

Soya yoghurt offers a plant-based alternative to dairy yoghurt, catering to individuals with lactose intolerance or dietary restrictions. This study examines the role of microorganisms and enzymes in local soya yoghurt production, highlighting their contributions to fermentation and quality. Soya beans were processed into soya milk and fermented without starter cultures. Identified microorganisms included *Lactobacillus plantarum* (20%), *Propionibacterium* sp. (20%), *Streptococcus* sp. (20%), *Candida* sp. (50%), *Penicillium* sp. (25%), and *Mucor* sp. (25%). The highest aerobic bacterial count was observed in Sample PTE-a (1.36×10^5 cfu/ml), and the highest anaerobic count in Sample PTE-an (4.80×10^5 cfu/ml), indicating robust microbial activity under both conditions. Red palm oil had minimal impact on microbial populations, as shown by insignificant differences in bacterial counts across samples. Microbial species exhibited substrate-specific hydrolytic activities. *Streptococcus* sp. hydrolyzed olive oil and casein but not starch, *Lactobacillus* sp. hydrolyzed casein and olive oil, and *Bacillus subtilis* and *Bacillus megaterium* hydrolyzed starch and casein but not olive oil. This study advances knowledge of plant-based yoghurt production and offers insights for small-scale producers and the food industry. Future research should focus on characterizing enzymes such as proteases, lipases, and amylases to enhance fermentation control and nutritional benefits.

Keywords: *Fermentation, Microorganisms, Enzymes, Soya, Hydrolysis*

Biodegradation of Nigerian Crude Oil and the Quantification of the Key Functional Genes in a Microcosms Study with Some Selected Bacterial Species

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Abstract

GC-MS and qPCR have been used to facilitate the profiling of metabolites from a wide range of oil materials leading to the wide coverage of comprehensive central pathways involving primary metabolism and the quantification of functional genes responsible for the biodegradation of crude oil components. Therefore, the present study aimed to explore the ability of *Bacillus endophyticus* and *Pseudomonas lurida* for the biodegradation of crude oil. Microcosms study was also conducted for the degradation of crude oil using *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Pseudomonas lurida*. The GC-MS analysis showed an extensive elimination of hydrocarbons of mostly low and medium-chain hydrocarbons by these novel *B. endophyticus* and *P. lurida* as well as *P. aeruginosa* and *B. subtilis*. The qPCR analysis of the functional genes showed a substantially higher relative fold expression of benzoate monooxygenase gene (*Ben*) of 2.1×10^{14} fold after the first week (T1) in a microcosm study with *P. lurida*. Hence, this could indicate an immediate activation of this gene following the experiment set up. However, low relative gene fold of 60.91 for *cat23* was observed in the same microcosm. In the same vein, the relative fold expression of 2156.87 was detected for *alkB* gene from the microcosms with *P. aeruginosa*. Thus, this is substantially higher than the expression for *cat23* gene and greatly lower than the *Ben* gene. The overall results of this study could evidently prove the environmental application of this novel bacterial species – *B. endophyticus* and *P. lurida* for the management of crude oil polluted environments and the overall finding from this study could be utilised as a tool to design an engineered bioremediation process to address the long devastating crude oil pollution across the Niger Delta and beyond.

Keywords: *Biodegradation, Crude Oil, Microcosms, Gene Expression, Environmental Sustainability*

The Impact of Insurgency on Socio-Economic Factors Affecting Children's Education in Some Selected States in North-East Nigeria

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Abstract

The study investigated the impact of insurgency on socio-economic factors affecting children's Education in some selected states in north-east Nigeria. The Survey research design was used and structured questionnaires were administered to sixty (150) respondents on thirty (30) items. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistic (mean) to answer research questions. The results showed that, out of all the factors that determine socio-economic factors on children education that were considered, lack of parental upbringing has the highest mean (3.25) while prevalence of socio-economic injustice has the lowest mean (2.77) among the respondents. Also, respondents with highest mean (3.37) agreed that extremism in preaching of religion is the most widely cause of insurgency while respondents with lowest mean (1.90) disagreed that underdevelopment of northeast does not really have an impact on the causes of insurgency. Finally, all the respondents agreed that insurgency affects economic development. Results from the research led to the conclusion that lack of parental upbringing is a major factor that determines socio-economic characteristics of children education, extremism in preaching of religion is the most widely cause of insurgency and insurgency results in high rate of school dropout, unemployment and increase in inflation. Further study was recommended to identify other factors and how to prevent them.

Keywords: *Impact of Insurgency, Socio-Economic Factors, Children's Education, North-East Nigeria.*

Analysis of the Effects of Gender Inequality on Poverty in Rural Communities in Gombe State

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Abstract

This study is aimed to investigate the impact of gender inequality on poverty in rural communities in Gombe state, Nigeria. The research covers 11 Local Government Areas (LGAs), where 33 rural communities were selected, with a sample size of 330 women. Surveys and interviews were conducted to collect data on women's access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities in these communities. Estimation techniques, including regression analysis and descriptive statistics, were utilized to analyze the data and examine the relationship between gender inequality and poverty. The results indicate that gender inequality significantly restricts women's access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, contributing to heightened levels of poverty in rural areas. Regression analysis reveals a strong correlation between gender inequality indicators and poverty rates in the communities studied. Specifically, women's limited access to education and employment opportunities emerged as key factors influencing poverty levels. Based on these findings, recommendations are proposed to address gender disparities and enhance women's empowerment in rural communities in Gombe state. Interventions to improve access to education and healthcare, promote economic inclusion for women, and enhance gender equality initiatives are crucial for reducing poverty and fostering sustainable development in the region. Further research and policy actions are warranted to address the root causes of gender inequality and its impact on poverty in rural communities.

Keywords: *Gender Inequality, Poverty, Women Empowerment, Gini-Coefficient, Poverty Line*

Land Use and Land Cover Classification in a Disaster-Prone Environment

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Abstract

Since the industrial revolution, the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere has steadily increased. Similarly, more and more greenhouse gases are being released into the atmosphere as the global population increases, and the use of pollutants continuously to spiral out of control. This rise in the emission of these gases has triggered an upsurge in the average global temperature. The increase in the global temperature due to the damage to the ozone layer has caused the glaciers to melt, leading to a significant rise in the sea level, putting many islands, cities, and countries at risk of being submerged underwater. Around the world, many small islands are on are facing the destructive impact of climate change; 75% of these islands' population live on land less than 5m above sea level, thus exposing them to the threat of rising sea levels, coastline degradation and the destruction of their communities and the sources of livelihoods. This work reports the results of applying Deep Learning to classify satellite imagery for identification of high-risk areas in the selected islands. For this purpose, we designed and implemented Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) architectures to classify four land use and land cover classes: Bridges, Industrial, Slums, and Sparse Residential from the Suva City and Lami Town areas of Fiji.

Keywords: *CNNs, Disaster management, Deep learning, Climate change, Remote sensing*

Asymmetric Examination of Selected Monetary Policy Variables and Inclusive Growth in Nigeria

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Abstract

The study examined the impact of selected monetary policy variables on inclusive growth in Nigeria. The research specifically sought to examine the asymmetric relationship between interest rate, exchange rate, money supply and inclusive growth in Nigeria. The Keynesian monetary theory served as the theoretical framework of the research. The study utilized annual time series data from 1986 to 2023, employing Nonlinear Autoregressive Distributed Lag (NARDL) model. The results indicated the existence of cointegration among the variables. From the result, money supply, exchange rate and interest rate revealed a positive, negative and negative relationship with inclusive growth in Nigeria respectively and statistically significant relationship with inclusive growth in the long run during expansionary monetary policy (MS_POS, EXR_NEG and MPR_NEG) in Nigeria, while during contractionary policy regimes ((MS_NEG, EXR_POS and MPR_POS)), money supply and exchange rate shown statistically not significant while interest rate shown negative and statistically significant relationship with inclusive growth in Nigeria. Furthermore, in the short run, expansionary policy of money supply, exchange rate and interest rate show a positive and statistically significant relationship with inclusive growth in Nigeria while the contractionary policy of money supply, exchange rate and interest rate indicated a negative but not statistically significant. Based on these results, the study recommends that policymakers prioritize monetary policy, particularly money supply aspect, as a crucial channel for fostering inclusive growth in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Monetary policy, Inclusive growth, Money supply, Exchange rate, Interest rate, Nigeria*

Accessibility to Social Services and Human Capital for Sustainable Development Goals SDGs Attainment in Nigeria

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Abstract

Global poverty trend and the wave of increasing economic inequality since after the Second World War of 1945 and the quest for achieving accelerated economic performance through globalization led to the institutionalization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 1990 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 by the United Nation. The programs were for reducing poverty menace across nations of the world by atleast 50%. This paper seeks to empirically give a statistical review of the performance of the SDGs programme in Nigeria from 2015 – date, using descriptive analysis of the performance of education and health sectors including accessibility to clean water within the years under review. The study revealed a monumental under performance of both education and health sectors from 2015 – 2020. Also, accessibility to clean water statistics was not encouraging as the study revealed that by 2020 only 21.67% of Nigerians have access to clean water. Against this, the study recommends an overhaul of education and health sectors of Nigeria through the use of reliable data base for policy design and implementation as a necessary condition for SDGs attainment before the terminal year of 2030.

Keywords: *MDG, SDG, United Nation, Human Capital*

Incentive Factors the Auch Chiefs' Club for Obtaining

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Abstract

This research seeks to investigate the factors that have contributed to the success of the top auto associations that are listed on the Indonesian Exchange (IDX). Association size, evaluator repute, regulatory owner, institutional belonging, actual impact, and the president boss's level of tutelage are some of the assessment factors used to determine how well the and including. 2016 to 2020 is the investigation's time frame. Purposive analyzing is the model that is being employed, and there might be up to 18 numerous different examination data testing processes. The test data results revealed that firm size, inspector reputation, trustworthy affiliation, institutional ownership, money related influence, and the impact of senior bosses' mentoring levels all played a role. Benefit Although fairly, the leaders' overall regulatory ownership has an impact on Pay the bench. Association size, the competence of the assessor, and institutional affiliation, Impact relates to money, and senior executives' guiding level do not consider benefits the panel.

Keywords: *Benefit the Meeting Agency's membership*

Low Retention, Diversity Among School Principals Sparks Need for Long-Term Strategies

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Abstract

Reports about the crisis facing public school teachers in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic are widespread, though a parallel crisis among the ranks of school leadership has also been quietly unfolding. While staffing has always been an uphill battle in high-need settings, challenges have been exacerbated in recent years. According to a report from the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the principal workforce is potentially facing a retention crisis, with large spikes in reported extra work and intentions to leave the workforce raising red flags about the sustainability of the status quo. And with the teacher labor market simultaneously under historic stress, unstable leadership could compound the problem by making retention worse. Beyond turnover, the principal workforce's lack of racial diversity has become a prominent issue. Similar to patterns among teachers, diversity gaps between students and principals have been growing. In 2000, 39% of students identified as non-white while 18% of principals identified as non-white; by 2017, these numbers among students surged to 52%, but only grew to 22% among principals, widening the gap by nine percentage points. Though current circumstances are challenging, a period of high turnover among school leaders also presents a unique window of opportunity to move the needle on principal diversity.

Keywords: *Low retention, Diversity, School principals, Long-term strategies*

A Positional Paper on Driving the Future of TVET in Nigeria; The Imperative of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

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Abstract

The future of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Nigeria is closely tied to the promotion of gender equality and social inclusion. By addressing the challenges facing TVET and implementing targeted solutions, Nigeria can foster a skilled workforce that contributes to the nation's economic growth and development. To improve their socioeconomic standing, people from a variety of backgrounds including those with limited access to formal education can make use of alternate avenues provided by TVET to obtain the necessary skills and knowledge. By providing practical, hands-on training, TVET can empower girls and women to pursue careers in various industries, thereby promoting gender equality in the workforce and addressing the gender gap in education. By encouraging men and women to pursue careers in non-traditional fields, TVET helps dispel gender stereotypes and promote an inclusive workforce. TVET equips learners with entrepreneurial skills, enabling marginalized groups and women to become self-employed and promote economic independence, contributing to social inclusion. Raising awareness about gender equality and social inclusion through targeted campaigns, workshops, and events held at TVET institutions can help address issues such as gender stereotypes, workplace harassment, and equal opportunities. Collaborating with local organizations and community leaders can help TVET institutions identify the unique needs of various communities, fostering community engagement and a more inclusive environment. In conclusion, driving the future of TVET in Nigeria requires a focus on gender equality and social inclusion. By addressing the challenges facing the sector and implementing targeted solutions, Nigeria can create a skilled workforce that contributes to economic growth and development while promoting fairness and equality for all.

Keywords: *TVET, Social Inclusion, Gender Equality, SDG 5*

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education: A Strategy for Self-Reliance and National Development

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Abstract

In order to produce learners with skills and competency to face the 21st Century emerging global issues, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education was introduced to the school system by the Nigerian government. The major drive is to set a solid foundation for sustained National development and self-reliance which will depend upon synergies among the key sectors of the economy. The fundamental value of STEM education in the development and growth of Nigeria is indicated in its contribution as a source of food, self-employment, market opportunities, reduction in poverty and health improvement. Nigerians rely heavily on government employment after graduation from college. In order to reduce youth un-employment, improve self-reliance and national development, corporate organizations and government interest in STEM education must be aroused. This can be achieved through policy development and frame work, funding and establishment of research centres, entrepreneurial centres, the provision of credit and infrastructural facilities to unemployed youths. This paper looks at the prospect of STEM education as a good strategy for self-reliance and National development.

Keywords: *Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM), Education, Self-reliance and National Development*

From Concept to Reality: Employing Digital Storytelling Strategy to Communicate Climate Change Issues in Nigeria

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Abstract

The repeated occurrence of drought, desertification and rising temperatures resulting in heat waves, frequent extreme weather, rise in sea level, and flooding amongst others, are pointers to the fact that Nigeria is experiencing Climatic Change. Although Nigerians residing in the six geo-political zones of the country are suffering the consequences of Climate Change, yet the phrase still remains a concept that most people know little to nothing about. More worrisome is the fact that information and messages that shows how human activities aggravates the situation, as well as what to do in order to improve the situation, remains a mirage to be figured out. A Survey published by Statista Research Department (2023), to investigate knowledge of climate change topic in Nigeria by area, shows that only 36.7% of Nigerians in the urban area and 24.2% in the rural area have heard about climate change. While 60% of Nigerians in the urban area and 69.3% in the rural area, have never heard about climate change. Hence, climate change remains a concept that is yet to be brought to reality among Nigerians. Therefore, this Study will investigate how digital storytelling can be utilized as a communication strategy to bring home the meaning of climate change and how it relate to the lives of Nigerians in rural and urban areas. The objectives seek to identify the communicative components of digital storytelling and how the components can be used to deconstruct the concept of climate change in Nigeria. This study will deploy Qualitative In-depth Method, with Key Informant Interview as the tool for data collection. A total of six digital Storytellers, each drawn from the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria, namely: the North Central (NC), North East (NE), North West (NW), South West (SW), South East (SE) and South South (SS). Data to be generated will be analysed and presented using Content Analysis and Descriptive Statistics. Technological Determinism theory will be used. The findings will determine how Storytelling can initiate Nigeria's transformation from an ignorant society to one which is well informed and can provide local solutions to climate change problems, based on the specific climate change crises experienced in the various local terrains of the geopolitical zones in Nigeria. The study will recommend sustainable development strategies on digital storytelling in order to address climate change crisis.

Keywords: *Digital Storytelling, Communication, Climate Change, Nigeria*

Health Effects of Unemployment

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Abstract

Unemployment has an adverse effect on the overall health of an individual. This effect is still demonstrable when social class, poverty, age and pre-existing morbidity are adjusted for. Those who are unemployed and their families are at more risk of increased mortality experience, particularly from suicide and lung cancer, reduction in psychological well-being with a greater incidence depression and anxiety, diabetes, insomnia and high blood pressure. However, the following can be done to limit the impact of unemployment on health; Maintaining financial security, providing proactive health care, eating healthy, avoiding alcohol and drugs, keeping an open mind, asking for help and being optimistic about the future.

Keywords: *Health, Unemployment, Financial security*

Unveiling Modern Trends: Social Media in Education a Paradigm Shift for Sustainable Development in Nigerian Universities

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Abstract

This paper presents a conceptual analysis of the prospects and challenges associated with the adoption of social media for University Education in Nigeria. The study explores the ubiquity and potentials of social media platforms for teaching and learning in tertiary Education, emphasizing their impacts on the Educational landscape. Additionally, it examines the influence of social media on teaching and research in Nigerian higher institutions, highlighting the invaluable role of social media as a tool for enhancing educational practices. Furthermore, the paper delves into the formal integration of social media platforms in teaching and learning in Nigerian Universities, discussing the prospects and constraints associated with this integration. The study also highlights the impact of effective social media usage among University students in Nigeria, revealing its positive influence on various skills, including learning. Overall, the paper sheds light on the paradigm shift in Education through the integration of social media, and the exploration of how social media is influencing pedagogical approaches in Nigerian University, Student engagement, and had investigated into the nature and extent of peer interaction thereby emphasizing its potential to transform the educational experience for Nigerian University students.

Keywords: *Social media, Pedagogy, Sustainable Development, Teaching and Learning*

Development of Advanced Nanocomposite Materials for Armour Shelter Construction in Military Applications: Emerging Trends, Challenges, and Future Prospects

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Abstract

The evolution of military infrastructure has necessitated the development of cutting-edge materials to enhance protective capabilities while optimizing structural efficiency. Among these, nanocomposite materials have emerged as a transformative innovation for constructing high-performance armour shelters. By leveraging the unique properties of nanostructured reinforcements, such as carbon nanotubes, graphene, and advanced polymer matrices, these materials exhibit superior mechanical strength, impact resistance, and environmental adaptability compared to conventional armour solutions. This paper explores the recent advancements in nanocomposite materials tailored for military shelter applications, focusing on their composition, structural integrity, and multifunctional capabilities. A critical analysis is conducted on the latest fabrication techniques, including electrospinning, 3D nanoprinting, and molecular self-assembly, which enable precise control over material properties. Furthermore, the study examines the integration of smart functionalities, such as self-healing mechanisms and adaptive camouflage, which enhance survivability and operational effectiveness in combat zones. Despite these advancements, several challenges hinder the widespread adoption of nanocomposites, including high production costs, scalability issues, and long-term durability under extreme conditions. The paper discusses ongoing research efforts aimed at overcoming these limitations through innovative material engineering and sustainable manufacturing practices. Looking forward, the future of nanocomposite-based armour shelters lies in interdisciplinary collaborations that merge nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, and sustainable materials science. Emerging trends suggest that the convergence of bio-inspired designs, nanostructured metamaterials, and energy-absorbing hybrid composites will revolutionize the next generation of military defence structures. This paper provides a comprehensive roadmap for future research, emphasizing the critical role of policy frameworks and international cooperation in accelerating the deployment of advanced protective technologies. Ultimately, the study underscores the imperative of nanocomposite innovation in fortifying military infrastructures against evolving threats, ensuring enhanced security and resilience in modern warfare scenarios.

Keywords: *Nanocomposites, Military Armour, Advanced Materials, Protective Structures, Smart Materials, Impact Resistance, Nanotechnology, Sustainable Manufacturing, Adaptive Camouflage, Self-Healing Materials*

Beneficiaries' Participation and Sustainability of Community and Social Development Projects in Plateau State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Active community participation guarantees the sustainability of the development outcomes in rural communities across Plateau state, Nigeria. The engagement of benefitting community members in all the stages of project execution; starting from the design, execution, and monitoring and evaluation of the projects executed in communities is the catalyst for sustainable development in rural communities. The study investigated the level of target community members' participation and sustainability of the projects initiated and executed in partnership with the benefitting communities and Plateau State Community and Social Development in the state. The study is anchored on participatory communication theory. The study adopted descriptive statistical method. Questionnaire and Key Informant Interview (KII) were used as instruments of data collection for the study. The sample size for the study. The respondents were selected through multi-stage sampling technique. 50 were selected from each of the three Senatorial Districts in the state, namely; Northern, Central and Southern Senatorial Districts. 150 copies of questionnaire were administered to the respondents. 6 key informants were interviewed through KII, 2 from each of the districts and 2 management staff of PLSCSDA were interviewed through In-depth Interview. The data were presented using Yaro's formula. The findings of the study revealed that benefitting communities in the state initiated and actively participated in the process of projects execution in their communities while the PLSCSDA with World Bank's support funded the projects. The projects are sustained by the communities through local vigilante group, levies and fund risings for the repairs of the projects. The study concluded that development outcomes can be sustain through community engagement in the execution process of execution and taking ownership of the projects in their communities. It recommended that government and NGOs should create enabling environment for communities to actively participate in development cycle.

Keywords: *Community Participation, Community Development, Intervention, Sustainability*

Media Narratives and Environmental Awareness: Harnessing Solution Journalism for Communicating Climate Change Issues in Nigeria

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Abstract

The current situation of the continent reveals that all regions are impacted by global warming and pollution. These issues are one and almost the same shared experience, globally. But beyond international agreements, treaties, sustainable tourism practices and conservation efforts, is the communication discourse that can drive the need and better narratives on climate change themes that are focused on solutions. A paradigm shift from a negative issue based media narrative approach to solution journalism approach that proposes way out of climate challenges and crises. However, despite the global shift in Journalism practice that focus on advancing rigorous reporting about how people are trying to solve problems and what can be learnt from their successes and failures, there are still not much to be desired worldwide. In Nigeria for instance, Journalism over the years and now, still concentrate on giving information, traditional process of reporting issues on Climate Change crisis. Journalists reports issues on When news reports on climate change without investigating local or grassroots solutions to the problems. There is still a large gap in solution journalism knowledge among Journalists, media owners and climate change key stakeholders in Nigeria. The study objectives seek to explore the concept of Solutions Journalism; to determine ways Solutions Journalism can be used to communicate climate change issues; to ascertain the benefits of utilising solutions journalism for climate change crises reports in Nigeria. The study is anchored on social responsibility and Framing. This study deploys survey research method, sampling considerable number of journalists for quantitative data while top media management, environmental/Health experts, representatives of civil society organizations and citizens (Men, Women and Youths) who are passionate about communicating environmental justice, will be engaged for Key Informant Interview (KII) as the tools for data collection. The findings of this research will help to determine how Solution Journalism can be effectively utilised for transformation from an information society to one which communicates problem solving with local solutions to climate change problems.

Keywords: *Solutions Journalism, Communication, Climate Change, Media Narratives, Environmental Awareness*

Developing Effective Climate Change Communication to Enhance Awareness of Neglected Tropical Diseases in Rural Communities in Nigeria

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Abstract

Climate change, no doubt, acts as a catalyst for the spread of infectious diseases by altering the habitats of vectors such as mosquitoes and ticks. As global temperatures rise, vector expansion allows diseases to emerge in previously unaffected regions, posing new challenges for disease transmission and public health. Therefore, improving our understanding of how climate change influences Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) can help identify priority populations to include in future public health intervention, while developing effective communication strategies to raise awareness about NTDs in the context of climate change among rural communities. The study will adopt the convergent parallel mixed research method to examine the views of 384 respondents determined by Krejcie and Morgan sample size table on how to develop personalized messages on NTDs and climate change, engage credible local leaders and community members to deliver information and build trust, implement community-based initiatives that involve local residents in the communication process, and to evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies in enhancing awareness and promoting preventive actions against NTDs. The theories of Health Belief Model and the theory of Planned Behaviour will anchor the study, while findings will be discussed within the larger body of existing knowledge on climate change, communication, and Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Keywords: *Climate Change, Communication, Neglected Tropical Diseases, Awareness, Rural Communities*

Perceptual Influence of Online Learning System Among Students and Academic Staff of Tertiary Institutions in the North-East of Nigeria

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Abstract

It is notable that majority of tertiary institutions in Nigeria are yet to adopt online educational system despite the swiftly rising importance in its deployment in the teaching and learning processes globally. This empirical research is a methodical study aimed to predict and find out academics staff and students perceptions to use online educational system in North East Nigeria's tertiary institutions where the use of online is presently viewed uncommon, by adopting the Extended Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) amplified by two external variables. Students and academics staff of Federal and state Polytechnics in the sub region were the tertiary institutions studied. The researcher circulated 885 questionnaires in which five hundred and seventy-nine (579) were established to be valid. The data were mined and analyzed and the results indicated that for both academic staff and students, the Perceived Ease of Use (PEOU) and Perceived Usefulness (PU) of online educational system strongly forecasted the participants' behavioral intentions to use online learning. Moreover, the results strongly established the Reliability of Technology Acceptance Model which is the essential component. Outcomes from this study could be used as basis for adopting online learning system in tertiary institutions not only in the North-Eastern part but within Nigeria and other developing countries of Africa as a whole.

Keywords: *Online learning system, Perceptual influence, Tertiary institutions, teaching and learning, Educational Technology Acceptance Models*

Effect of Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) on the Credibility of 2023 General Election in Nasarawa State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The credibility of electoral processes is fundamental to democratic consolidation, and the adoption of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) in Nigeria's 2023 general election aimed to enhance electoral transparency and integrity. This study examines the effect of BVAS on the credibility of the 2023 general election in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Anchored in the Technological Determinism Theory, the study assesses how BVAS influenced voter accreditation, election transparency, and public confidence in the electoral process. A survey research design was employed, using structured questionnaires to collect data from election officials, political party representatives, accredited voters, and civil society organizations. The study sampled 500 respondents, selected through stratified random sampling. Findings reveal that while BVAS improved voter accreditation efficiency and reduced electoral malpractice, challenges such as technical malfunctions, network connectivity issues, and inadequate personnel training limited its effectiveness. The study recommends improved technological infrastructure, comprehensive voter education, and enhanced capacity building for election officials to optimize the benefits of BVAS in future elections.

Keywords: *Bimodal Voter Accreditation System, Election Credibility, Electoral Transparency, Voter Accreditation, Nigeria, Electoral Reforms*

Effect of Central Bank Digital Currency Policy on the Operation of Small and Medium Enterprise in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja

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Abstract

The adoption of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is transforming financial transactions worldwide, with significant implications for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This study examines the effect of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) policy on the operation of SMEs in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), the study investigates how CBDC influences financial inclusion, transaction efficiency, access to credit, and business growth among SMEs. A survey research design was adopted, utilizing structured questionnaires to collect data from SME operators. The study targeted SMEs registered with relevant business regulatory agencies, with a sample size of 400 respondents selected through stratified random sampling. Findings reveal that while CBDC enhances transaction speed and financial accessibility, challenges such as technological infrastructure gaps, cybersecurity concerns, and limited awareness hinder its full adoption among SMEs. The study recommends increased public sensitization, improved digital infrastructure, and tailored policy interventions to optimize CBDC's benefits for SMEs.

Keywords: *BiCentral Bank Digital Currency, SMEs, Financial Inclusion, Technology Acceptance Model, Digital Transactions, Economic Growth*

Perception of Mental Illness and the Use of Mental Health Services in Nigeria

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Abstract

Mental health remains a significantly overlooked aspect of public health in Nigeria, shaped by longstanding cultural norms, religious ideologies, and societal attitudes. This paper critically examines some important interconnected areas: prevailing cultural interpretations of mental illness, the influence and involvement of traditional healers and religious bodies in mental health care, the principal cultural and social obstacles that impede access to professional mental health services, and the overall public awareness of available mental health resources. The research highlights that mental illness is frequently linked to spiritual or supernatural causes, leading many individuals to seek help from traditional or religious institutions rather than clinical settings. Deep-seated stigma, widespread misconceptions, and a general lack of mental health education further discourage engagement with formal treatment services. The findings emphasize the urgent need for inclusive, culturally responsive mental health strategies that promote education, strengthen community-based initiatives, and integrate informal support systems with professional care frameworks. A collaborative, multi-sectoral approach is essential to bridging the mental health treatment gap, reducing stigma, and expanding equitable access to mental health services throughout Nigeria.

Keywords: *Perceptions, Mental Illness, Mental Health Services, Nigeria*

Assessment of the Implementation of Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES) on Youth Unemployment in Kogi State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Youth unemployment remains a significant global challenge, particularly in developing countries. This study evaluates the effectiveness of the Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES) in addressing youth unemployment in Kogi State, Nigeria. Guided by Kelman's Social Influence Theory, the research investigates how the YES initiative influences young people's attitudes and behaviors toward vocational skills acquisition, entrepreneurship, and innovation. A quantitative survey design was adopted, with a population of 2,299,300 and a sample size of 400 determined using the Taro Yamane formula. Data were collected through structured questionnaires administered across nine of the 21 local government areas in Kogi State. The findings indicate that YES has positively contributed to youth empowerment by enhancing vocational skills training, promoting self-reliance, and fostering entrepreneurial capacity. Participants reported satisfaction with the quality of training received and acknowledged the scheme's role in providing valuable networking opportunities. Nonetheless, the study identifies areas requiring improvement, such as preparing participants more effectively for the labor market and strengthening support for youth-led enterprises, particularly in terms of resource provision and access to modern technologies. The study concludes that while YES plays a vital role in youth empowerment, its impact can be amplified through the integration of soft skills training, career counseling, and job placement services. Additionally, collaboration with local industries and enhanced financial support mechanisms are recommended to improve outcomes and ensure sustainable youth engagement in the evolving economic landscape.

Keywords: *Youth unemployment, Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), Vocational skills training, Entrepreneurship, Innovation*

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