



**13th National Strategic Conference
on Policies & Development Analysis**

University of Nigeria,
Nsukka, Nigeria



ABSTRACTS & PROCEEDINGS

Theme: Effective Strategies for Security,
Industrialization & Sustainable Economic
Development in Nigeria

9th - 10th October, 2025



13TH NATIONAL STRATEGIC CONFERENCE ON POLICIES & DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA

THEME

Effective Strategies for Security, Industrialization & Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria

DATE: Thursday 9th - Friday 10th October, 2025

TIME: 10:00am

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University of Nigeria, Nsukka

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13TH NATIONAL STRATEGIC CONFERENCE ON POLICIES & DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY ONE: Thursday 9th October, 2025

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

DAY TWO: Friday 10th October, 2025

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

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Conference Abstracts

The Socio-Cultural Symbolism of Ebo Monolith in Yala Local Government Area of Cross River State

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Abstract

Carved stones are also found in Yala Local government Area of Cross River State. Similar stones are in numbers in Bakor speaking communities (Ogoja & Ikom Local Government Area). The cared stones are called monolith but in Yala they are called *Lecho*, they represent their ancestor or the spirit of the departed ones as well as the goddess of the land. The people of Ebo (wogada) in Yala Local Government are not renounce with monolith as their contemporary LGA, as such the studied advocate for wilder knowledge and more publicity of this rich heritage resources. The paper seeks to know the religious, economic and social impact of the monolith (carved & uncarved stones) in the life of the people of Ebo. The researcher employed qualitative method, with purposive sampling that aid the researcher in gaining more insight to the respondents. The findings revealed that monolith in Ebo are representation of their ancestors, the gods of the land and the secret cult of the people, while some are diviners that is responsible for slave trade in the ancient time.

Keywords: *Monolith, Heritage Resources, Ebo, Heritage Tourism*

Challenges to Sustainable Food Waste Reduction Practice and Future Perspective in Nigeria: A Trifocal View

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Abstract

Food waste in the food services sector remains a substantial impediment to sustainable development, global food security, and food accessibility in Nigeria and comparable developing regions. The 2021 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Food loss Index indicates that Nigerians lose an average of 189 kilograms of food per capita each year, or around 37.9 million metric tonnes of garbage yearly. This is particularly concerning given Nigeria's escalating food insecurity. The 2023 Global Hunger Index categorises Nigeria as one of the nation's facing "serious" hunger issues, rating it 106th out of 121 countries. Simultaneously, projections from late 2022 to 2023 suggest that as many as 25 million Nigerians face acute food insecurity, while child malnutrition rates persist at alarming levels. An extensive exploratory study—featuring semi-structured interviews, visual recording, and stakeholder observations—has revealed ongoing challenges in the endeavour to mitigate food waste. These factors encompass limited public awareness, unsustainable purchasing practices, deficiencies in corporate policies, inefficiencies in supplier and distributor operations, inadequate enforcement and prosecution mechanisms, insufficient governmental policy support, and inadequate resource allocation for waste management infrastructure. Confronting these difficulties through a collaborative, systems-oriented approach is essential for attaining sustainable transformation in the food service industry. A complete, context-specific model for reducing food waste in Nigeria is not yet available; nonetheless, a range of viable techniques and proactive interventions has been suggested. These efforts could function as fundamental models for both the Nigerian market and other nations confronting similar challenges in achieving food security, environmental sustainability, and economic resilience.

Keywords: *Food waste reduction, Foodservice, Nigeria and food insecurity*

Antimicrobial Activities of a Formulated *Dacryodes Edulis* Plant Bark Against Bacterial Isolates

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³Adediran, Waliu Adekunle
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Abstract

The increasing prevalence of antibiotic resistance has intensified the need for alternative antimicrobial agents. This study investigates the antimicrobial activities of a formulation derived from the bark of *Dacryodes edulis* against bacterial isolates. *Dacryodes edulis*, a plant widely recognized for its nutritional and medicinal properties, contains bioactive compounds with potential antibacterial effects. The bark extract was prepared using solvent extraction techniques, and its phytochemical components were analyzed to identify active constituents. The antimicrobial efficacy was assessed against selected Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacterial isolates using the agar well diffusion method. Results revealed significant inhibitory activity, with zones of inhibition varying depending on the bacterial species and extract concentration with more pronounced activity at lower concentration. The findings suggest that *Dacryodes edulis* bark exhibits promising antimicrobial properties and could serve as a natural alternative or complement to conventional antibiotics. Further studies are recommended to isolate specific bioactive compounds and evaluate their mechanisms of action and therapeutic applications. This research highlights the potential of *Dacryodes edulis* as a source of novel antimicrobial agents in combating bacterial infections.

Keywords: *Dacryodes edulis*, Antibiotic resistance, Antimicrobial agent

Investigating the Impact of Volatile Environment on Employee Engagement

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Abstract

This study is centered on Investigating the Impact of Volatile Environment on Employee Engagement, where volatile environment were measured with volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA). The study aimed to investigate the impact of volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity on employee engagement. The research engaged cross sectional survey research design, the sample size for the study is 256, determined by using Taro Yamane formula. Primary data for the study was gathered through the use of questionnaires. Questionnaires were adapted from previous studies and were design in a closed ended five linkert scale form. Data were analyzed using Partial Lease Square Structural Equation Model (PLS–SEM), with the use of measurement and structural model to measure validity and reliability of the construct, R Square, Outer Loadings, Model Fit and using Path Coefficients to test the hypotheses. The result found that volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity in the business environment have a significant positive impact on employee engagement. It was concluded that employees may become more engaged when faced with challenging, dynamic, and uncertain work environments. This could be attributed to the activation of cognitive and emotional engagement, where employees are driven to problem solving, innovativeness, and take ownership of their roles. The study therefore recommended that Organizations should leverage volatility as a driver of employee engagement by fostering a culture of adaptability and continuous learning. To manage uncertainty, organizations should promote transparency and effective communication. Leaders should provide timely updates, clarify priorities, and encourage open dialogue to reduce anxiety. Organizations should design roles that offer job enrichment and cognitive challenge. By assigning employees to cross-functional projects, encouraging problem-solving, and offering stretch assignments, companies can tap into the motivational benefits of complexity. To address ambiguity, organizations should foster a culture of psychological safety and innovation. Encourage employees to experiment, take initiative, and seek clarification without fear of committing error.

Keywords: *Volatile, Environment, Employee, Engagement & Organization*

Statistical Analysis of Frequency of Breast Cancer in Nigeria

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Abstract

Breast cancer is the leading female malignancy in the world and is now the most common cancer in Nigeria. The incidence of breast cancer is increasing in Nigeria just like other developing countries and the advanced countries that used to have a low incidence. Statistics provide that between 7 & 10,000 new cases of breast cancer developed in Nigeria in 2005. Several factors are responsible for increasing incidence, but the most important factors are increasing average life expectancy, increased access to diagnostic facilities, empowerment of women's ability to make independent decision about their own health care, increasing westernization of dietary, physical activity, obstetric and gynaecological factor among others. The study of neoplasm malignant breast cancer of this research had indicated the occurrence behaviour from specific distribution that exhibit level shift over the year and also stationary series of no-trend with independent errors. The collection of data is secondary, run test, sign test, Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF). Chi-Square were employed to satisfy the aim and objectives of the study. Conclusively, the result of the analysis shown hypothetically that there is no-trend series of data with independent errors and inconsistency of the median frequency over the observed years.

Keywords: *Diagnostic facilities, Obstetric, Gynaecological, Chi-Square, Median frequency*

Artificial Intelligence as a Catalyst for Green Consumer Engagement: Towards Sustainable Marketing Practices in Africa

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Abstract

As African economies digitize, artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly shaping marketing practice, from hyper-personalised mobile engagement to AI-driven demand forecasting and circular-economy nudges. This paper argues that AI can act as a catalyst for green consumer engagement (GCE) in Africa, helping firms reduce waste, strengthen transparency, and align with Sustainable Development Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production. We first situate the discussion within Africa's digital adoption trends, policy frameworks—such as the African Union's 2024 Continental AI Strategy—and the practical realities of infrastructure and cost. Building on this, we propose a GCE–AI framework linking four AI capabilities—insight generation, dynamic personalisation, predictive operations, and impact verification—to five engagement outcomes: attention, participation, co-creation, sustained behaviour change, and advocacy. Drawing on examples from telecommunications, fast-moving consumer goods, and retail, we illustrate how AI can reduce food and inventory waste, enhance supply chain visibility, and foster trust through credible claims. At the same time, we acknowledge risks including AI's environmental footprint, data bias, surveillance creep, and exclusion of low-resource users. To address these, we recommend governance and design principles that ensure net-positive sustainability outcomes. The paper concludes with research directions and practical guidance for African marketers, regulators, and development partners.

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence, Green Consumer and Marketing Practices*

Financial Literacy as Determinants of Financial Wellbeing Among Nigerian Households: An Empirical Evidence

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Abstract

In recent times, many countries including Nigeria have introduced financial literacy plans to their citizens with a viewing to achieving financial wellbeing among the citizens and contribute to economic development. Accordingly, several studies have examined the effect of financial literacy on financial wellbeing in many domains with useful insights. Nevertheless, there is dearth of studies on this topic in Nigeria. Thus, this study examines the effect of financial literacy involving dimensions of financial knowledge, financial behaviour and financial attitude on financial wellbeing. Cross sectional survey was conducted to collected data from 139 Nigerian households using structured questionnaire. Census was adopted in the data collection. Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling was employed to evaluate the structural relationships between the financial literacy dimensions and financial wellbeing. Result demonstrates that financial behaviour and financial attitude have significant positive influence on financial wellbeing of the households while financial knowledge did not show any significant positive effect. Hence, this study concludes that positive financial behaviour and financial attitude engender financial wellbeing. Also, it is concluded that financial knowledge, while foundational, does not automatically ensures financial wellbeing unless it is effectively applied through financial behaviour and supported by a positive attitude. Accordingly, this study recommends that stakeholders saddled with the responsibility of implementing the National Financial Literacy Framework in Nigeria should make more efforts to fully implement it nationwide. This can be done through the mass media, in work places and schools. Similarly, it is recommended that people should make effort to acquire financial literacy for sustainable financial wellbeing and contribute to economic development.

Keywords: *Financial Attitude, Financial Behaviour, Financial Literacy, Financial Wellbeing, Household, Nigeria*

Occupational Prestige Correlate on Job Satisfaction of Cleaners in Selected Tertiary Hospitals, South East, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examines the relationship between occupational prestige and job satisfaction among hospital cleaners in three tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria: Federal Medical Centre Umuahia, Federal Medical Centre Owerri, and Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital Enugu. Despite their crucial role in maintaining hygiene and infection control, cleaners often face systemic neglect, limited institutional support, and low social recognition. Using a mixed-methods design, the study involved a census of 42 cleaners across the selected facilities. Quantitative data were gathered via structured questionnaires and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics, while qualitative insights were drawn from in-depth interviews with five cleaners. Demographically, 83.3% of the cleaners were female, and only 16.7% were male. Educational attainment showed that 40.5% had a secondary school certificate, 33.3% had tertiary education, and 26.2% had primary or no formal education. The mean work experience was 3.8 years. Perception scores indicated moderate levels of occupational prestige ($M = 3.14$), self-worth ($M = 2.50$), job prestige ($M = 2.45$), and access to safety training ($M = 2.88$). However, Pearson's correlation revealed negligible to weak relationships between occupational prestige and other variables such as self-worth ($r = -0.03$) and access to safety training ($r = 0.10$), suggesting that structural barriers outweigh personal or symbolic perceptions in shaping job satisfaction. Notably, only 11.9% of respondents strongly agreed that they receive adequate safety training, and just 7.1% strongly agreed that they feel respected by hospital staff. In contrast, 35.7% reported feeling anxious about how others perceive their job role. Thematic analysis of interviews reinforced these findings: cleaners reported invisibility, gender-based stigma, informal training methods, and a lack of institutional recognition. The study concludes that occupational prestige, while present in name, has limited real impact on cleaners' psychological and professional experiences. Job dissatisfaction stems more from systemic exclusion and lack of organizational support than from social perceptions of prestige. The study recommends structured inclusion in workplace safety programs, formal recognition policies, and organizational support initiatives to enhance cleaners' sense of dignity and value in the healthcare system.

Keywords: *Occupational prestige, Job satisfaction, Hospital cleaners, Workplace recognition, Safety training*

Integrated Motion Detection and Alert System for Real-Time Intrusion Monitoring and Response

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Abstract

The study addresses security concerns that have increased in residential, commercial, and governmental environments, thus it comes up with the decision to develop a multipurpose intelligent security system that would involve advanced sensing, communication and control technologies and systems. It focuses on developing a multipurpose security system that uses pyroelectric infrared motion detector sensors, an ESP camera module for digital display of trespassed zones, an alarm buzzer, a GSM module for communication with GSM phones, and an Arduino Uno open-source micro-controller for controlling the system. The system aims to overcome limitations of traditional security systems such as CCTV or alarm systems, such as real-time monitoring and control of activities such as intruders. The multipurpose security and display system offers a comprehensive approach to protecting people and property, making it user-friendly and adaptable to threats and requirements. The study covers all aspects of the design, construction, and implementation of the system, including testing and analysis of the designed system performance. The system consists of PIR sensors for motion detection, a GSM modem for communication with GSM phones, an ESP camera module for image capture and storage, and an Arduino Uno microcontroller. The system collects information from PIR sensors and processes it to send an intruder image to the homeowner's mobile phone. The system is organized into units namely controller, interfacing, GSM module, and sensors. Hardware system testing is crucial for system design, assessing performance, functionality, and compatibility with software applications. Physical implementation was done on PCB boards, and experimental testing was conducted using a continuity meter and sensory circuitry. The design was portable, with high accuracy in detecting intruders and alerting users through email and alarm notifications. This device is essential for both homes, business areas and government offices, as house burglary rates are increasing in urban centers.

Keywords: *PIR sensors, CCTV, GSM module, Remote sensing, Motion detection, Security alert*

The Use of Glass as a Fire Fighting Material

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Abstract

Fire rated glass is a specially designed glazing system that can resist high temperatures and maintain its integrity for a specific period during a fire outbreak. Unlike ordinary glass, which shatters and loses its protective qualities almost immediately under intense heat, fire rated glass is capable of withstanding flames, smoke, and high temperatures for up to 30, 60, or even 120 minutes, depending on its rating. Due to the high rate of fire outbreaks in our residential, public and institutional buildings which usually result to loss of lives and property, it has become necessary to devise new means of resisting and preventing the spread of fire in our homes and offices. Fire glass is far superior to conventional glasses for use in fire resistant glazing. The secret lies in the material and the manufacturing process used. In the event of a fire, this ensures life-saving and makes it much easier to evacuate the building safely. Excellent color rendition and high transmission in the visibility achieved without having to compromise the aesthetics. At the end of this research work, we will be able to understand the different type of fire glasses and its application, hence ensuring the safety of our buildings during fire outbreak.

Keywords: *Glazing, Fire outbreak, Safety, Resistance*

Whistleblowing and Job Quality Among Employee of Some Selected Multinational Companies in Ogun State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study examined whistleblowing and job quality among employees of some selected multinational companies in Ogun State, Nigeria. The specific objective was to examine the effect of whistleblowing on job quality. The population of the study consisted of three selected multinational companies in Ogun State, Nigeria; a survey research design was used, with multi-stage sampling techniques, while primary data were collected with the aid of a structured questionnaire. Three hundred and seventy-four (374) copies of the structured questionnaire were administered to some selected multinational companies in Ogun State, Nigeria. The study adopted descriptive statistics, and regression statistical technique was used to analyse the data, a 5% level of significance was adopted for the study. The result from the study revealed that whistleblowing ($\beta = 0.514$; $t\text{-stat} = 5.713$; $p < 0.05$); had positive and significant effects on job quality. It was confirmed that whistleblowing had positive and significant effects on job quality among employees of some selected multinational companies. The study recommended that the selected multinational companies in Ogun State, Nigeria and other business stakeholders should provide enabling environments that encourage whistleblowing practices, whistleblowers must be adequately rewarded and the identity of whistleblowers should be protected from all forms of victimization. It was also recommended that managers should continue to allow an organisational culture that encourages whistleblowing practices.

Keywords: *Whistleblowing, employees, job quality, productivity, behaviour*

Influence of Social Media Advertising on Millennials' and Gen Z's Fast-Food Choices: A Qualitative Analysis

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Abstract

This qualitative study investigates how social media advertising and influencer marketing shape fast food choices among Millennials and Generation Z. Drawing on in-depth interviews and thematic analysis; it identifies key psychological and behavioural factors that influence decision-making in digital environments. The findings highlight that visually appealing content, perceived authenticity, and peer influence significantly impact these cohorts' engagement and purchase intentions. Influencer endorsements, especially from relatable figures, were found to be more persuasive than traditional advertisements, while convenience and platform integration further encouraged spontaneous food choices. Gen Z participants emphasized brand values and social responsibility, whereas Millennials leaned toward informative content and loyalty-driven incentives. This research adds depth to the understanding of how digital marketing strategies drive fast food consumption, offering insights for brands aiming to build lasting connections with younger audiences. It also raises critical questions about long-term behavioural effects and ethical considerations in targeting youth through persuasive online content.

Keywords: *Social Media, Advertising, Millennials and Food Choices*

Substance Abuse in Katsina Metropolis: Commonly Abuse Substances and Consequences

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Abstract

Substance abuse is a growing social problem that seriously impedes societal development worldwide. This study investigates the commonly abused substances and the consequences of substance abuse in Katsina Metropolis, Katsina State, Nigeria. The primary aim is to examine the types of substances commonly abused and the effects of their abuse within the metropolis. The study adopts Albert Bandura's Social Learning Theory as its theoretical framework. A qualitative research design was employed, utilizing cluster sampling to select six wards within the metropolis. A total of ten respondents were purposively selected for In-Depth Interviews (IDIs), along with two participants for Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). Data collected through the interviews were analyzed using thematic categorization and descriptive content analysis. The findings reveal that the most commonly abused substances in the area include marijuana, cough syrups, and powdered drugs. The consequences of substance abuse range from mental health disorders and increased crime rates to the disruption of educational pursuits. To address these challenges, the study recommends that parents instill strong moral values in their children and provide early education on the dangers of substance abuse. Parents are also encouraged to monitor their children's activities and help them avoid negative peer influences. Furthermore, the study calls on the government and wealthy individuals to create employment opportunities for the youth, thereby providing meaningful engagement and reducing the temptation to engage in drug use. Lastly, the study advocates for the revival of communal living, where community elders play an active role in the upbringing of all children. Such collective responsibility is seen as a key strategy in combating substance abuse in Katsina Metropolis.

Keywords: *Substance, Consequences, Drugs, Drug abuse, Substance abuse*

Health Expenditure, Life Expectancy and Economic Growth in Nigeria

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Abstract

Indeed, health is wealth; in the same vein wealth depends on health, therefore, for wealth of a nation to be sustainable, the health of that nation must be properly maintained. Additionally, worldwide healthcare is perceived as a crucial element for attaining long-term economic growth. Consequently, the study focuses on the impact of health expenditure and life expectancy on economic growth in Nigeria from 1985 to 2024. Specifically, the study examined Nigeria's health expenditure trend and pattern; determine the effect of life expectancy rate and health expenditure on economic growth in the short run and long run and examine the direction of causality between health expenditure, life expectancy rate and economic growth. Situation analysis, Autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) and granger causality test techniques were employed. The descriptive analysis confirmed that the trend of GDP and expectancy were upward while the trend of health expenditure were not regular. The results of short-run coefficients of the estimated Autoregressive Distributed Lag model in terms of the coefficient of determination ($=0.936$) of the estimated model shows that about 94% of the variation in economic growth of Nigeria is jointly explained and accounted for by the independent variables (Fertility rate, Life expectancy and Health expenditure) in the estimated ARDL (4, 3, 2) model. This when adjusted for degree of freedom based on the adjusted coefficient of determination (Adjusted R-bar squared = 0.827) shows that the ARDL (4, 3, 2) model has about 83% explanatory power with respect to variations in economic growth of Nigeria. This implies that the ARDL model has a satisfactory goodness of fit. The F-test which is used to determine the overall statistical significance of a regression model shows that the overall regression is statistically significant at 5% level $F = 8.55, p < .05$. This therefore means that the overall ARDL (4, 3, 2) model (that is, the short run coefficients of the entire explanatory variables as they relate to the dependent variable) is statistically different from zero. The study concluded that there is a long run relationship between the independent variables (Fertility rate, expenditure on health and life expectancy and the dependent variable (GDP). This means that merely raising public health spending is likely to lead to improved health and, in turn, boost the economy's GDP. The policy implication of the results of this study is that if the amount of health expenditure is not improved, attaining the sustainable development objective of increasing life expectancy in Nigeria may not be achievable. Therefore, the research proposes that government should increase its health expenditure in order to help enhance the life expectancy of the people as this in turn will improve productivity, by implication the economic growth will increase.

Keywords: *Health Expenditure, Life Expectancy, Economic Growth, Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL)*

Strengthening Public Service Institutions as a Pathway to Good Governance and Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Good governance and sustainable economic development are essentially linked to the effectiveness and integrity of public service institutions. In Nigeria, the challenges of corruption, inefficiency, politicization of public offices, and lack of transparency continue to hinder socio-economic growth. This paper examines the role of the public service as a strategic vehicle for promoting accountability, transparency, and inclusive development. This study adopted a qualitative approach supported by document analysis and case study methods. Key sources included recent government policy documents, institutional reform reports, and peer-reviewed literature from 2018–2024. Data were also drawn from institutional publications such as the World Bank, OECD, and Nigerian government white papers. Emphasis is placed on digital transformation, merit-based recruitment, and institutional autonomy as key levers for reform. The study found that while Nigeria has implemented various reform initiatives (e.g., SERVICOM, the e-Government Master Plan, and anti-corruption bodies like EFCC and ICPC), public service delivery remains inefficient due to poor implementation, lack of political will, and limited digital infrastructure. Countries with successful reforms showed that ethical leadership, digitization, performance management, and citizen engagement are critical to revitalizing public institutions. In Nigeria, pilot programs involving digital ID systems and service charters have shown modest success in improving transparency and responsiveness. The paper also explores how strategic leadership and capacity building in public institutions can foster citizen trust, reduce wastage, and enhance service delivery. Drawing from best practices in other developing countries, recommendations are made for a responsive, professional, and people-centered public service capable of driving Nigeria's sustainable development agenda. This work contributes to ongoing discourse on public sector transformation and underscores the urgent need for institutional restructuring in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Public service, Good governance, Sustainable development, Institutional reform, Nigeria, transparency, Service delivery*

Isolation and Identification of Fungi Associated with Pearl Millets Seeds Collected in Five Markets in Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Pearl millet (*Pennisetum glaucum* L. R. Br.) plays a crucial role in food security across arid and semi-arid regions of Africa and Asia, particularly as a staple cereal in Northern Nigeria due to its rich nutritional content. Despite its importance, the crop remains highly prone to fungal contamination during both field production and storage, compromising food safety and market value. This study aimed to isolate and identify fungal species associated with stored pearl millet grains from five key markets in Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria. Grains were surface-sterilized, cultured on Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA), and fungal isolates were identified using both morphological traits and molecular analysis targeting the Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS) region. Sequence comparison via BLAST confirmed the presence of five fungal species: *Aspergillus tamarii*, *Fusarium arcuatisporum*, *Penicillium griseofulvum*, *Curvularia lunata*, and *Pseudopestalotiopsis theae*, all showing $\geq 98\%$ sequence similarity. Among these, *A. tamarii* was the most prevalent (29.73%), while *F. arcuatisporum* had the lowest frequency (13.51%). The highest fungal load (40.54%) was recorded at Idi-Abebe market, likely due to poor storage infrastructure. The predominance of *A. tamarii*, a known mycotoxin-producing species, highlights potential health risks linked to the consumption of contaminated grains. These findings emphasize the need for strategic interventions, including improved post-harvest handling, storage hygiene, regular mycological monitoring, and mycotoxin risk assessment to enhance the safety and shelf life of stored pearl millet in local value chains.

Keywords: *Isolation, Fungi Associated and Identification*

Determinant and Willingness to Pay and Access to Electricity Power Supply in Dekina, Nigeria

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Abstract

Electric power in Nigeria has been a major bane to economic diversification and growth. The country has an installed capacity of 13,522 Mega Watt, it only able to generate 4,000Mega Watt which is insufficient for the population of 200 million people. Comparatively, South Africa with a population of about 51 million people, generate about 35,000Mega Watt out of an installed electricity generation capacity of over 52,000Mega Watt. With the state of power supply in Nigeria, many micro and medium enterprises as well as the industrial sector became crippled. In response, government embarked on privatisation and deregulation of state-owned enterprises to inject private funds and operational efficiency through market forces. This article investigates households' access to electricity Power supply in Dekina, Nigeria. Cross sectional survey was adopted for the study. A total of 250 questionnaire was administered to ho households head. Multiple regression analysis was employed to test the hypothesis. Findings reveals that households' income, level of education and location of property jointly predict willingness to pay and access to electricity power supply in the study area. Dilapidated power infrastructure, huge debt of gas supplied, inadequate metering and estimated billing, were identified as challenges to Abuja Power Transmitting Company. The author recommends public private partnership in the power and energy sector in Nigeria. Also, there should be more Investment in the Power Distribution to increase access in the rural areas among others.

Keywords: *Households' Access to Power and Energy, Electricity, Nigeria*

The Impact of Food Insecurity on the Health Conditions of Vulnerable Individuals: A Study of Batsari Local Government Area of Katsina State

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Abstract

Food insecurity refers to the lack of access to the quality food items, which affect the health condition of individuals residing in Batsari. The core objective of this is to examine the impact of food insecurity on the health conditions of vulnerable individuals residing in Batsari. The study adopted mixed methods of data collection with a sample size of 362 respondents for both quantitative and qualitative methods. Social determinants of health theory have been adopted as the theoretical framework of the study. The study found that the majority of the individuals had relocated from Batsari to Katsina city. This has made the life more expensive for residents due to the overcrowding in the city. The paper concludes that food insecurity is a major cause of malnutrition, which may affect the lives of individuals who find themselves in such conditions. The paper recommends that the katsina state government should provide adequate security personnel and recruits youths from the affected areas as vigilante to fight against them.

Keywords: *Food Insecurity, Food Security, Health Conditions, Vulnerable*

The Interplay of Economic Dynamics, Political Frameworks, Technological Advancements, and Entrepreneurship Education: A Synergistic Approach to Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

This empirical study delves into the interconnections between economic policies, political stability, technological advancements, and entrepreneurial education in fostering sustainable development. The research is anchored in Schumpeter's Innovation Theory, Institutional Theory, and Human Capital Theory, which collectively explain how policy environments, technological progress, and education shape entrepreneurship and economic sustainability. Using a descriptive survey research design, data were collected through a structured questionnaire titled "Entrepreneurial Growth and Sustainability Survey (EGSS)", distributed to 200 entrepreneurs and 50 policymakers and stakeholders across different economies. The questionnaire measured economic policies, political stability, technological advancement, entrepreneurial education, and business sustainability on a 10-point Likert scale. Data were supplemented with secondary sources, including global economic indices, policy reports, and innovation rankings. The research engaged review expert validation and reliability testing (Cronbach's Alpha = 0.86) to ensure the accuracy and consistency of the instrument. A multiple regression analysis revealed that technological advancements ($\beta = 3.2$, $p < 0.001$) and political stability ($\beta = 2.7$, $p < 0.001$) have the strongest influence on business sustainability. Economic policies ($\beta = 2.1$, $p < 0.01$) and entrepreneurial education ($\beta = 1.9$, $p < 0.01$) also contribute significantly. The model explains 74% ($R^2 = 0.74$) of the variation in business sustainability, confirming the synergy among these factors. Findings suggest that countries with stable governance, strong technological infrastructure, supportive economic policies, and well-structured entrepreneurial education systems experience higher business survival rates and sustainable economic growth. The study recommends increased investment in digital infrastructure, policy reforms to enhance business environments, and the integration of practical entrepreneurship training into education systems to strengthen economic resilience and drive long-term sustainable development.

Keywords: *Entrepreneurial Education, Economic Dynamics, Policymakers, Political Frameworks, Sustainable development*

Illegal Refining of Crude Oil in Nigeria Niger Delta Region: Emerging New Social Dynamics

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Abstract

This paper focused on illegal refining of crude oil in Nigeria Niger Delta Region: Emerging new social dynamics. This paper was triggered by painful observation of health challenges, environment degradation, and gun battles between owners of the illegal refineries and security agencies in Niger Delta region. By history and records, Nigeria Niger Delta region petroleum history and environment is one of the most tragic and horrible in the world. Recently, a more hazardous air pollutant known as black soot has emerged in the region causing dark smoke in the sky of rural communities and urban center, such as Port Harcourt, etc. This paper examines the complex interplay between illegal refining of crude oil in Niger Delta, with the objective of exploring how this has reshaped the social dynamics of the people over the years. The objective is to contribute deeper understanding of the nexus between illegal refining, environmental pollution, social dynamics. This paper utilized secondary sources of data, and argued that poverty in the Niger Delta region has led to proliferation of illegal refining of crude oil by the youth, which usher new social dynamics in the communities, by encouraging ill-gotten wealth. Dialectical materialism was explained and adopted as theoretical framework. The paper concludes that the youths believed that Federal Government has failed woefully in their responsibility to provide jobs for them, and social amenities, now they resorted to illegal refining of crude oil as means of livelihood, empowerment and sustainer. This paper recommended as follows: Aggressive efforts should be made by government at all levels (local, state, and federal) with or without any special intervention development commission to tackle the age-long problems of gross underdevelopment in Niger Delta region by way of providing basic amenities such as roads, drinkable water, hospitals, and physiological needs to the people.

Keywords: *Niger Delta, Illegal Refining, Crude Oil, Social Dynamics.*

Impact of Social Media on Mental Health and Self-Esteem Evidence from Katsina Metropolis, Katsina State

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Abstract

The paper investigates the impact of excessive social media usage on mental health and self-esteem among individuals in Katsina Metropolis, Katsina State. Social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram have become pervasive tools for communication, especially among the youth. While these platforms offer significant opportunities for social interaction, social change and development, they also pose risks to mental health and self-esteem when excessively use on daily basis, leading to sleepless nights, mental stress, isolation from social groups such relatives, friends' colleagues and peers, which in turn, leads to perceived one's personality as irrational, irresponsible and not worthy of respect or recognition. The study utilizes a mixed-methods approach, data was collected using both quantitative and qualitative instruments. Respondents/participants targeted were aged 18 and above years. Finding revealed that increased social media usage leads to heightened levels of anxiety and depression, along with decreased self-esteem mostly from the significant others. Further, it has been discovered that the effects of social comparison, leads to cyberbullying and pressure most individuals to conform to idealized online personality, which brought about excessive anxiety and deepen mental depression. The paper recommends the promotion of healthier social media practices and mental health awareness about the extreme over use of social media.

Keywords: *Impact of social media, Mental health, Self-esteem*

Impact of Parental Socio-Economic Status and Counseling as Determinant of Students Academic Performance in Secondary Schools in Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined the impact of parental socio-economic status and counseling as determinants of students' academic performance in secondary schools in Surulere Local Government Area Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria. The descriptive research design was adopted for this study; this is because the variables studied were not manipulated but studied retrospectively the way they occur naturally. The population of the study covered the entire secondary schools' students (both males and females) in the area of study. Out of this population sixty (60) students used as sample was selected from the selected secondary schools (SSS) students for the study; using the random sampling techniques. The instrument used to collect data for the study was a twenty items self-structured questionnaire. Three hypotheses were formulated and tested during the study using the Chi-square statistical tool. Each of the results obtained from the tests was compared with its critical value at 5% level of significance. On the basis of the findings made in the study, we conclude that parental socio-economic status influences the secondary school students' academic performance. Based on the findings made in this study, we recommend that non-governmental organizations should reach out more to children from low/poor socio-economic backgrounds by providing scholarships opportunities for them as well as through offering of direct financial assistance to homes in order to empower them and sustain them economically as these homes are the immediate environment of the children. Consequently, we suggest that further research be conducted in areas like "Family issues and its impacts on students' academic performance in secondary school" and "Effects of broken home on students' academic performance in secondary school".

Keywords: *Education, parental, Socio-economic, Counseling, Performance, Chi-square*

Policy Gaps and Local Innovation: The Role of CWCS in Filling State Security Vacuums in Katsina Central

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Abstract

This study investigates the performance Community Watch Corps (CWCs) in Katsina Central Senatorial District, an area frequently affected by armed banditry.

The research focused on six local government areas (LGAs) Batsari, Dan-Musa, Dutsin-Ma, Jibiya, Kurfi, and Safana selected due to their high exposure to security threats. Employing a methodological triangulation approach, the study combined quantitative and qualitative methods to gather robust data. A total of 402 respondents participated, comprising 385 survey participants selected through multistage cluster sampling and 17 key informants purposively chosen from religious leaders, traditional authorities, and CWCs personnel across the six LGAs. The quantitative data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics, while qualitative data were interpreted using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) to capture the lived experiences and insights of participants. Anchored in the Broken Windows Theory, the study explores how visible community-based interventions such as patrols, checkpoints, surveillance, and informal partnerships with hunters and vigilante groups help deter crime and restore public order in the absence of effective state policing. The Findings revealed strong evidence of the CWCs' effectiveness: 93.2% of respondents affirmed their success in crime management, and 94.8% expressed confidence in their ability to secure communities. Additionally, 67.0% reported timely response to incidents, while 60.5% noted rescue operations by the CWCs within the past year. Further, 26.8% indicated the CWCs had secured more than 21 communities, and 19.5% and 15.1% of respondents, respectively, reported over 41 attacks prevented and neutralized. Based on the empirical findings the study recommends that: Katsina State Government should focus on improving the visibility of CWCs by increasing their population in communities, improving response times, and addressing logistical constraints that may hinder their effectiveness. In addition, the state government should also encourage greater community involvement by raising awareness of CWCs' operations and fostering trust in their ability to manage and resolve security concerns.

Keywords: *Community Watch Corps (CWCs), Community Based Security, Banditry, Insecurity and Katsina Central*

Examining the Development and Implementation of Inclusive Pedagogical Approaches that Promote Equity and Accessibility in Digital Learning Ecosystems

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Abstract

This paper examines the development and implementation of inclusive pedagogical approaches aimed at promoting equity and accessibility within digital learning ecosystems. The increasing prevalence of digital learning platforms necessitates a focus on ensuring that all learners have equal opportunities to access and benefit from educational resources. This paper outlines the review on the principles and benefits of inclusive pedagogy, challenges and barriers to equity and accessibility in digital learning, and strategies for developing and implementing inclusive pedagogical approaches. The paper concludes by providing insights into how educators and institutions can create more equitable and accessible digital learning environments, ultimately leading to improved learning outcomes for all students.

Keywords: *Development, Implementation, Inclusive Pedagogical Approaches Equity, Accessibility and Digital Learning Ecosystems*

Effect of Entrepreneurial Leadership on MSME's Growth in Zamfara State

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Abstract

This research work aimed to investigate the effect of Entrepreneurial Leadership on MSME's growth in Zamfara state. Specifically, the study examined the effect of entrepreneurial innovation trait, entrepreneurial risk taking, technical leadership trait, psychological leadership trait and ethical leadership threat on MSME's growth in Zamfara state. The study employed quantitative research approach and in particular survey research design. Data was collected from a sample size of 300 respondents that are MSME's owners in Zamfara state, using structured questionnaire. Structural equation modelling was used for both the measurement and structural models; it was also used to validate and confirmed the hypotheses relationships. The study finding revealed that there is a significant statistical relationship between the entrepreneurial innovation trait and MSME growth in Zamfara State, equally confirming that there is no positive significant relationship between entrepreneurial risk-taking and MSME growth in the state. The study also stated that there is a significant positive relationship between entrepreneurial technical leadership traits and MSME growth. It also stated that there is no significant positive relationship between entrepreneurial psychological leadership traits and MSME growth in the state and there is a significant negative relationship between entrepreneurial ethical leadership traits and MSME growth in Zamfara State. The state should establishment of innovation hubs or centers of excellence where MSME leaders can collaborate, experiment with new ideas, and accessing resources for innovation should be prioritized in the state.

Keywords: *Entrepreneurial, Leadership, innovation, psychological, risk-taking & MSME*

Impact of Political Apathy on Good Governance and Sustainable Development in Zamfara State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study investigates the impact of political apathy on good governance and sustainable development in Zamfara State, Nigeria. The study aimed to examine the relationship between vote buying, election rigging, and electoral violence on good governance and sustainable development in Zamfara state. The study was guided by the System Theory of David Easton. Quantitative survey design was adopted for the study. A model for the study was developed in line with the study variables. Data was collected from selected eligible voters through the use of a closed ended questionnaire structured on a five likert scale. Data was analyzed with SMART-PLS3 statistical model, using Bootstrapping and Algorism for determining constructs validity and reliability, and Multiple Regression was used to test the significant level of the formulated hypotheses. The a priori of the study revealed that there is significant relationship between political apathy measured by vote buying, election rigging and electoral violence, and good governance and sustainable development in Zamfara state. The study concludes that political apathy has negative impact on leadership selection process, which by implication, adversely affects good governance and sustainable development in Zamfara State. The study therefore recommends that government should urgently establish a National Commission on Electoral Offences with the responsibility of investigating and prosecuting electoral offenders, and enforcing the electoral regulations on electoral actors.

Keywords: *Political Apathy, Vote Buying, Election Rigging, Electoral Violence and Sustainable Development*

The Distance Learning and E-Learning in Achieving Sustainable and Economic Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Education has been nationally and universally accepted as veritable tools for development; therefore, this paper commences by discussing the meaning of distance learning, e-learning education. it also discusses the brief history of distance education in Nigeria. furthermore, the paper highlights the technologies used in delivering e-learning, need for open and distance education, role of National open university of Nigeria. it went further to highlight the challenges of e-learning and distance education as the fundamental feature for sustainable development in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Distance Learning, E-Learning, Sustainable and Economic Development*

Microbial Profiling of Iron Acquisition Pathways in Cowpea Root Zone Via Shotgun Sequencing

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Abstract

Nutrients acquisitions are very crucial in the development and growth of cowpea plant. Unfortunately, the nutrients are not readily available in the soil. Hence the applications of artificial synthetic chemicals, to promote plant productivities. But these chemicals are commonly accompanied with adverse and long-term effects on both the primary and secondary consumers. Thus, the need for better alternatives to enhancing plant growth. This study investigated microbes from cowpea plant at different seasons, possessing genes expressing protein products that can metabolise inorganic form of phosphorus and iron to make them available to plant using culture independent approach (shotgun high-throughput sequencing) and in-silico analysis. Functional characterisations from this study revealed several genes and ORF genes coding for various putative protein products involved in several molecular functions and biological processes in iron acquisition metabolisms. iron acquisition metabolism, gene and ORF gene *fhuA* and *AHA_1953* that encoded ferrichrome-iron receptor protein responsible for siderophore uptake transmembrane transporter activity and iron ion homeostasis; gene and ORF genes (*Fur*, b0683, JW0669, PA4764, VAA_03429, VP0833) coding for ferric uptake regulation protein *fur* responsible for ferrous iron binding and involved in siderophore biosynthetic process among others were identified in the cowpea soil samples. Similarly, functional diversity revealed that *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Synechocystis sp.*, *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus subtilis* among others were significantly higher in Winter Season (WS) than Summer Season (SS) while *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* among others was slightly higher in SS than WS. Conclusively, the functional activities and diversity of iron metabolism were significantly higher in WS than SS.

Keywords: Iron metabolism; functional diversity, Winter season (WS), Summer season (SS)

Revitalizing Nigeria's Economy Through Youth Entrepreneurship: Challenges, Opportunities, and a Unified Path Forward

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Abstract

Youth entrepreneurship in Nigeria is at a critical crossroads, one vested with promise but constrained by systemic bottlenecks. As the nation grapples with rising unemployment, particularly among the youth who comprise over 60% of the population, entrepreneurial innovation has emerged as a potential leverage for sustainable economic growth. This essay re-evaluates the current realities of youth-led businesses, identifying persistent and emerging challenges such as access to capital, regulatory barriers, weak mentorship structures, and exclusion from policy dialogue and in-depth inclusiveness. Simultaneously, it emphasizes the vast economic opportunities in agriculture, technology, fashion, and services amongst other high potential areas. Drawing inspiration from notable young entrepreneurs like Iyinoluwa Aboyeji - Flutterwave, Ada Osakwe - Nuli Foods and Nasir Yammama - Verdant AgriTech, the paper argues that innovativeness, resilience, collective advocacy, strategic coalitions, and policy reforms rooted in youth inclusion are keys to unlocking the potential of youth entrepreneurship and in the long-term, national development. It recommends a youth-led coalition modeled after existing national business associations, autonomous from government control but fully engaged in institutional dialogue. The paper charts a dynamic roadmap to a more inclusive, resilient, and youth-driven Nigerian economy.

Keywords: *Revitalizing Nigeria's Economy, Youth Entrepreneurship, Challenges, Opportunities, Unified Path Forward*

Statistical Approach to the Analysis of Petroleum Products Price and Inflationary Dynamics in Nigeria

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Abstract

Inflation rate in Nigeria is quite unstable as this may have been caused by increase in the price of petroleum products. This study therefore set out to investigate the impact of change in petroleum products prices on inflation in Nigeria. The study employed Autoregressive Distributed Lag model for the data analysis. The scope of the data used from the analysis of the study ranges from 2012 to 2023. The study found out that petroleum pump price has a positive impact on inflation and the result is statistically significant at 5% level of significance. Given the fact that virtually everyone is directly or indirectly connected to the usage of petroleum products, increase in the price of petroleum products is felt by everyone. The study also found out that Automotive gas oil (AGO) and bonny light crude oil has a positive relationship with the level of inflation in Nigeria. Since we as a country depend heavily on imported goods, the price of those goods moves with fluctuation in exchange rate. A good example is the price of cars. The study recommended that our refineries should be put in good shape so we can save the cost of having to export to other countries for refining as this contributed to the high cost of selling the product in Nigeria. The study also recommended diversification of the economy in favour of the real sectors as this will help provide more goods for exports thereby improving on the balance of payment.

Keywords: *Inflation, Petroleum products, Price, Autoregressive*

Entrepreneurship in Creative Arts Education: A Tool for Security and National Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Entrepreneurship in Creative Arts Education is a valuable tool to curb insecurity and boost national development by fostering self-reliance, reducing unemployment and insecurity and promoting economic growth for national development. Integrating entrepreneurship skills in creative arts education is a means to achieve the above objectives. The paper examines the concept of entrepreneurship education, creative arts, role of creative arts education for security and national development. The paper recommends among others that government should give priority attention to the teaching of creative arts in schools and colleges in Nigeria. It concludes that if creative arts education is given the priority attention it deserves, insecurity will be reduced to the barest minimum, thereby resulting to national development.

Keywords: *Entrepreneurship education, Creative arts, Insecurity, National development*

Integrating Digital Technology and Innovation for Security and Youth-Led Industrialization in Nigeria

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Abstract

Nigeria's quest for sustainable industrialization is undoubtedly linked with its ability to provide national security and productively harness the potentials of her increasing youth population. The paper argues that the combination of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) with Innovation & Entrepreneurship offers a potent yet underexplored strategy to address these interconnected challenges. While conventional approaches have regarded security and industrialization as separate, this study argues that a digitally-enabled security framework can create a stable and conducive environment suitable for youth-driven, technology-based entrepreneurship to thrive. The study will adopt a qualitative and multi-method approach, review existing national security policies, ICT strategies, and youth empowerment initiatives. Anchored on a critical review of case studies of Nigeria's nascent tech ecosystems, the paper will analyze the synergies and disconnects between prevailing security strategies and the needs of the digital entrepreneur. Expected findings will highlight key policy gaps and infrastructural deficits hindering the ICT leveraging for national security and economic diversification. The paper will conclude by proposing an integrated strategic framework for policymakers. This model will be organized to deliver practical guidance designed to create a secure and enabling environment in which youth-driven entrepreneurial initiatives can thrive, thus contributing directly to the fundamental objectives of national security, industrialization, and sustainable economic development in Nigeria. The study recommends a prospective input into national policy debate with technology as the main facilitator towards a secure and prosperous entrepreneurial future for youths.

Keywords: *Digital Technology, Industrialization, Youth Entrepreneurship*

Cholera & Typhoid Outbreak as Public Health Problem in Yauri Local Government Area, of Kebbi State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper investigated the factors that lead to recurring outbreaks of cholera and typhoid which constitute major public health problem in Yauri LGA, Kebbi State. The paper has explained what accounted for the outbreak of cholera and typhoid in July 2024. The study has the following objectives: (a) To identify the factors that led to the outbreak of cholera and typhoid (b) To identify people who contacted with cholera and typhoid (c) To provide a possible means of eradicating another cholera and typhoid in the nearest future. Survey method was used to elicit information from selected respondents. Questionnaire was the instrument, Key Informant Interview (KII) and In-depth Interview (IDI) were the method used by the study. Functionalist perspective and socio-environmental model were the study's main theoretical guides. Some of the findings indicates that unhygienic water, open toilets, and open suck-away are the factors that contribute for the occurrence of cholera and typhoid in Yauri. The study recommends that, the Kebbi State Government and Local Government should put their eyes on public health community to conduct they work rigorously and if they cut individuals with offence of open toilet, open suck-away should sanction that person. In conclusion, the Kebbi State Government should put monthly sanitation in each local government of kebbi state, doing that will reduce the incidence and outbreak of airborne and waterborne disease in the State.

Keywords: *Cholera, Public health, Typhoid*

Note

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