



25th - 26th February, 2026

**National Conference on
Industrialisation, Employment
Creation & Economic Development
in Nigeria**



Theme: Industrialisation and Innovation:
Pathways to Employment and Sustainable
Economic Development in Nigeria

ABSTRACTS & PROCEEDINGS

Niger Delta University (NDU), Bayelsa State - Nigeria





NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIALISATION, EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

THEME: Industrilisation and Innovation: Pathways to Employment and Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria
DATE: Wednesday 25th – Thursday 26th February, 2026 | **TIME:** 10:00am
VENUE: Niger Delta University (NDU), Bayelsa State, Nigeria

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIALISATION, EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY ONE – Wednesday 25th February, 2026

Arrival of Guest/Conferees/Delegates

DAY TWO – Thursday 26th February, 2026

OPENING SESSION/AWARD/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
Plenary Session	- 10:30am – 12noon
Launch Break/Group Photograph	- 12noon – 1:00pm
Plenary Session 2	- 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Policy Review Session	- 4:00pm – 5:00pm

DAY THREE – Friday 27th February, 2026

Departure of Guest/Conferee/Delegates



Welcome to
Niger Delta University (NDU)

Established in 2000, the Niger Delta University (NDU) is a Bayelsa State Government funded university which is located in Wilberforce Island (an island of great historic significance) about 30 kilometers from Yenagoa – Bayelsa State capital. Our logo reflects the riverine and petroleum-rich milieu of the State, while the Vision and Mission are summarized in the motto (Creativity, Excellence, Service). The biodiversity of the extensive surrounding landscape opens opportunities for various collaborative research activities. Since academic activities started in 2001/2002 session, we have grown from an intake of 1039 students to a thriving population of more than 20,000 students and 3518 academic and non-academic staff with a main campus and a College of Health Sciences campus in Wilberforce Island and a satellite campus housing the Faculty of Law in the State capital. In NDU we provide our students with the opportunity to change their lives in a friendly environment. Our academic and non-academic staff are creating a conducive academic environment focusing on the development of the abilities of students. The existing twelve faculties provide diverse opportunities.

I invite you to explore our website (<https://www.ndu.edu.ng/>), where you can learn more about our university and the many opportunities for you to get involved. Should you have ideas, concerns, or suggestions that you would like to share with us you may contact me at vc@ndu.edu.ng

Welcome Address:

National Conference on Industrialisation, Employment Creation & Economic Development in Nigeria

Theme: “**Industrialisation and Innovation: Pathways to Employment and Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria.**”

Distinguished keynote speakers, respected scholars, policymakers, captains of industry, development partners, Staff and Students of the Niger Delta University, members of the press, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is with great honour and profound pleasure that I welcome you all to this historic **National Conference on Industrialisation, Employment Creation and Economic Development in Nigeria**.

Today, we gather at a critical moment in our nation's history. Nigeria stands at the crossroads of opportunity and responsibility. With a youthful population, abundant natural resources, and immense entrepreneurial potential, our country possesses all the ingredients necessary for economic transformation. Yet, the challenges of unemployment, under-industrialisation, infrastructure deficits, and global competitiveness remain pressing concerns.

This conference, with its timely theme — “*Industrialisation and Innovation: Pathways to Employment and Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria*” — speaks directly to the future we desire and the actions we must take.

Industrialisation is not merely about factories and machinery; it is about building productive capacity, fostering innovation, creating decent jobs, strengthening institutions, and ensuring inclusive growth. It is about transforming our raw materials into finished products, empowering our people with skills, and positioning Nigeria as a competitive player in the global economy.

Over the course of this conference, we shall engage deeply with key sub-themes that are fundamental to national development:

- i. **Industrial Policy & Economic Transformation** – examining how strategic policies can catalyse structural change and long-term growth.
- ii. **Employment Creation & Inclusive Growth** – exploring sustainable strategies for job creation, youth empowerment, and poverty reduction.
- iii. **Innovation, Technology & the Future of Work** – understanding how emerging technologies are reshaping industries and redefining skills for tomorrow.
- iv. **Infrastructure, Energy & Industrial Growth** – recognising that power, transport, and digital connectivity are the backbone of industrial expansion.
- v. **Trade, Investment & Global Competitiveness** – positioning Nigeria within regional and global value chains.
- vi. **Industrialisation & Rural Economic Empowerment** – ensuring that development is not urban-centred but inclusive of rural communities.

vii. Governance, Policy & Institutional Frameworks – strengthening the structures that sustain economic progress.

In addition, we are proud to feature a **Research Training Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Research Innovation**, a forward-looking initiative that reflects our commitment to knowledge-driven development.

This workshop will focus on:

- i. Introduction to AI tools for academic research;
- ii. Using AI for literature review, data analysis, and thesis development;
- iii. Ethical considerations in AI-assisted research;
- iv. Research productivity tools and digital publishing.

In a rapidly evolving world, artificial intelligence is no longer optional; it is transformative. By equipping researchers, academics, and professionals with AI-driven tools, we are enhancing research quality, productivity, and innovation, as essential drivers of industrial and economic growth.

Distinguished participants, this conference is not just a gathering of ideas; it is a platform for action. The discussions, recommendations, and collaborations that emerge from here must translate into policies, partnerships, investments, and measurable outcomes.

Nigeria's future will not be built by chance. It will be built by vision, strategy, innovation, and collective commitment.

As we deliberate over the next sessions, I encourage open dialogue, bold thinking, and practical solutions. Let us challenge assumptions, share experiences, build networks, and forge partnerships that will advance industrialisation, create jobs, and secure sustainable economic development for our nation.

On behalf of the organising committee, I warmly welcome you all and declare this conference open for impactful deliberations.

Thank you, and may our discussions yield lasting solutions for Nigeria's prosperity.

Dr. Wisdom Selekekeme Krokeyi

Niger Delta University (NDU),

Bayelsa State



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Given this day 22nd February, 2019 at the University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

Bassey Anam
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Dated this day 5th November, 2019
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 Subharati University, Meerut, India.

Dr. Bassey Anam
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 - 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.
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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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Conference Abstracts

Contribution of Vocational Education to Reducing Unemployment in Nigeria

Muhammad Hafsat

Department of Economics,

Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai

Abstract

The study examined the contribution of vocational education to reducing unemployment in Nigeria. An ex post facto research design was adopted, relying on existing secondary data that could not be manipulated by the researcher. Annual time series data covering 1980–2024 were sourced from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2024) and included vocational education enrolment rate, unemployment rate, and population growth in Nigeria. To test the hypotheses, the Augmented Dickey–Fuller (ADF) test was conducted to determine data stationarity and prevent spurious regression results. After establishing the integration order, the Vector Autoregression (VAR) model was estimated. The findings revealed that vocational education significantly influences unemployment in Nigeria. While short-term enrolment slightly increases unemployment, the long-run effect is negative, indicating a decline as individuals acquire employable skills. Based on the findings, the study recommends that the government provide adequate funding and modern facilities to strengthen vocational education and enhance training quality.

Keywords: *Vocational Education, Unemployment, Population growth, Nigeria*

Macroeconomic Determinants of Food Price Inflation in Nigeria

Odishika Vivian Anietem

*Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences,
National Open University of Nigeria, Jabi - Abuja*

Abstract

Food price inflation remains a paramount concern for global economic stability, household welfare, and political security. This paper provides a comprehensive empirical analysis of the key macroeconomic determinants of global food price inflation over the period 1985-2024. The study employs an Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model on annual time-series data to investigate both the short-run and long-run relationships between food price inflation and a set of critical macroeconomic variables, including money supply growth, global energy prices, exchange rates, real GDP growth, and climate change proxies. The preliminary findings indicate that expansionary monetary policy, depreciating domestic currency, and surges in global oil prices are significant and persistent drivers of food price inflation in the long run. While economic growth exerts modest upward pressure, its effect is tempered by productivity gains. The study also identifies structural breaks coinciding with the 2007-08 global food crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the evolving nature of these determinants. The paper concludes with policy recommendations emphasizing the need for coordinated monetary, trade, and agricultural-sector policies to mitigate food price volatility and ensure food security.

Keywords: *Food Price Inflation, Macroeconomic Determinants, ARDL Model, Monetary Policy, Exchange Rate, Energy Prices, Climate Change*

Industrialisation and Entrepreneurship Development as Strategic Industrialization and Entrepreneurship Development as Strategic Drivers for Employment Creation and Sustainable Economic Growth in Nigeria

¹Williams Ishaku Adakye, ²Shitu Baraka Shehu, ³Faizah Abdullahi,
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⁵Department of Vocational and Technical Education

Abstract

This paper examines industrialisation and entrepreneurship development as interrelated strategies essential for addressing Nigeria's persistent unemployment and driving sustainable economic growth. It argues that the nation's long-term economic transformation depends on a deliberate alignment between industrial expansion and entrepreneurial innovation. Industrialisation provides the productive base and infrastructure for large-scale growth, while entrepreneurship injects creativity, adaptability, and market dynamism needed to sustain that growth. Drawing insights from Nigeria's industrial experiences, policy reforms, and comparative lessons from emerging economies, the paper highlights the need for coherent policies that link education, industry, and enterprise development. It contends that without a strong entrepreneurial framework, industrial initiatives risk stagnation, and without industrial support, entrepreneurship remains small-scale and vulnerable. The paper concludes by advocating for institutional reforms, targeted skill development, and stronger public-private partnerships to harness industrialisation and entrepreneurship as strategic drivers for employment generation and inclusive, sustainable economic progress in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Industrialisation, Entrepreneurship Development, Employment Creation, Economic Growth, Policy Integration*

Application of Linear Programming Concept to Raw Materials Optimization and Profit Maximization in Bakery Industry

¹Amusa, S. O., ²Owonikoko, H.M., ³Ganiyu, Y. A., & ⁴Idowu, E. O.

^{1,2,3&4}Department of Statistics,
Yaba College of Technology, Yaba-Lagos State

Abstract

Linear programming is a mathematical method for optimizing a linear objective function subject to linear equality and inequality constraints and is widely used for resource allocation decisions in production, finance, marketing, and distribution. This study applies linear programming to the profit maximization problem of Prestigious Confectionaries in Ogun State, Nigeria, with the objective of determining the daily production quantities of four bread sizes (small, medium, family, and jumbo) that maximize profit subject to raw material constraints. Secondary data on raw material usage per loaf and daily availability were obtained from company records, the model was formulated with profit as the objective function, and solved using WinQSB software. The optimal solution from the model indicates that producing 500 units of medium-size bread per day yields a maximum daily profit of ₦102,500. The study recommends that management concentrate on medium-size bread at the identified optimal level and, if it intends to profitably produce other sizes, relax raw-material constraints through increased supply or more efficient utilization.

Keywords: *Optimization, Constraints, Maximization, Simplex Algorithm, Linear programming*

Sustainable Building Construction: Optimizing Geotechnical Properties of Makurdi Shale Soil Using Soybean Pod Ash

¹Musa Attah Usman, ²Thomas Terna Aule, & ³Martins Terzungwe Amough

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²Department of Architectural Technology, Federal Polytechnic Kuara Namoda - Nigeria

³Department of Architecture, Baze University, Abuja - Nigeria

Abstract

This study investigates the geotechnical properties of Makurdi shale soil (MSS), a problematic soil prevalent in Benue State, Nigeria. It also explores the potential optimization using soybean pod ash (SBPA) and Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) as additives. MSS poses significant challenges to the region's construction and infrastructure development due to its negative characteristics. The research begins with an analysis of the geotechnical attributes of MSS, highlighting its limitations for various engineering and architectural applications. The study also examines the chemical properties of SBPA, OPC, and MSS, revealing their respective structural potential applications based on oxide composition. SBPA emerges as a promising soil amendment or fertilizer, while OPC exhibits qualities suitable for construction and as a binding agent. Furthermore, the research identifies optimal mix proportions of SBPA and OPC to enhance the geotechnical properties of MSS. Sample five, with a 30% California Bearing Ratio (CBR) and a Compressive Strength of 761.59 kilopascals per square meter (K/m²), is identified as the most optimized mix proportion. These findings offer practical insights for soil improvement in regions with problematic soils like MSS, emphasizing the potential of locally available materials to provide cost-effective and sustainable solutions. The research contributes valuable knowledge to inform decision-making for construction professionals, researchers, and policymakers, ultimately supporting the development of resilient and sustainable infrastructure in MSS-affected areas.

Keywords: *Cement additives, Geotechnical properties, Makurdi shale soil, Soil improvement, and Soybean pod ash*

Exploring Job Opportunities Available in Business Education to Curb Unemployment in Nigeria

¹Baraka Shehu Shitu, ²Avong Paulinus, ³Williams Ishaku Adakye & ⁴Muhammad Abdussamad

^{1,2,3&4}*Department of Business Education & General Education,
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Abstract

The State of unemployment in Nigeria is at the verge of catastrophe and several attempts by government at all levels to tackle this problem has proved abortive over the years, no wonder the current insecurity threats and the incidence of petty and serious crimes pronounced among the youths. The study has two objectives, research questions and hypotheses. It adopted simple descriptive survey and percentages for the purpose of data analysis and Chi-Square statistics was used to test the hypotheses. The study revealed among others that, Business education as a programme equip these youths with salable skills that will make them self-reliant and become job creators. The paper concluded that business education is a veritable tool for curbing youth's unemployment and recommended among others that Federal and State Government should encourage these graduates by providing the capital base using funds and other means of financing.

Keywords: *Unemployment, Business Education, Job Opportunities*

The Structural Transformation Paradox: A Sectoral Analysis of Employment Elasticities in Nigeria

¹Dr. Itoro P. Ubi-Abai & ²Alex Oisaozoje Iriabije, PhD

¹Department of Economics, Akwa Ibom State University, Nigeria.

²Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Uyo, Uyo

Abstract

This study will investigate the perplexing disconnect between economic growth and employment generation in Nigeria - a phenomenon conceptualized as the "Structural Transformation Paradox." While the Nigerian economy has undergone significant structural change since 1980—marked by a declining share of agriculture and a rising dominance of services in GDP—this shift has not yielded the expected dividends of productive mass employment. Instead, the economy exhibits symptoms of "premature de-industrialization," with a stagnant manufacturing sector failing to act as a primary engine of job creation, leading to widespread underemployment and growth that is not inclusive. The primary objective of this research is to empirically diagnose this paradox by quantifying the relationship between sectoral output growth and employment generation over the period 1980-2023. Employing a longitudinal research design and secondary time-series data from the World Development Indicators (WDI), the study will analyze trends in sectoral GDP and employment shares. The core of the analysis involves estimating and comparing the employment elasticity of output for the agriculture, industry, and services sectors using log-linear regression models. By pinpointing the sectors with high and low employment intensity, the findings will offer evidence-based guidance for recalibrating Nigeria's industrial and economic policies. This abstract is submitted for consideration for presentation at the National Conference on industrialization, Employment Creation & Economic Development in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Transformation Paradox, Sectoral analysis, Employment and Elasticities*

Public Sector Institutions and Sustainable Industrial Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined the role of public sector institutions in fostering sustainable industrial development in Nigeria. Despite the establishment of numerous public institutions and policy interventions aimed at driving economic transformation, Nigeria's industrial sector still faces several structural challenges that hinder sustainable development. The study adopted Douglass C. North's Institutional Theory as its theoretical framework and used a descriptive survey design, analyzing secondary data from government publications and institutional reports. The study found that Nigeria has a robust institutional framework covering policy formulation, financing, regulation, environmental governance, and infrastructure development. However, the effectiveness of these institutions is limited by issues such as policy inconsistency, poor coordination, inadequate infrastructure, and weak institutional capacity. The study recommends that the government improve inter-agency coordination and ensure policy continuity to promote sustainable industrial growth in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Public Sector Institutions, Sustainable Industrial Development*

Dance Export and the Effect of Globalization: A Survey of *Epkara* Dance

Adams, Godwin Sambo
*Kaduna State University,
Kaduna, Nigeria.*

Abstract

Since the ancient times, humans have sought distant places to settle, produce and exchange goods enabled by improvements in technology and transportation and the Adara people of Kaduna State are few amongst these humans. As a people, globalization has affected their material culture in so many ways, both positively and negatively and Dance is not an exception. As a phenomenon, the word globalization was not coined until the second half of the twentieth century. Its origin has been traced back to the period between 1450-1500 AD, a period referred to as the mercantilist period and characterized by the development of trade in the quest for commercial empires to broaden their markets. Since then, propelled by incredible advancements in transportation and information technology, globalization has practically shrunken the world to one global village. It is on this basis that this paper seeks to project the *Epkara* dance of the Adara people as an export material.

Keywords: *Dance export, Globalization and Epkara dance*

Diagonistic Teaching of Chemistry for Economic Enhancement

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Abstract

This study examined diagnostic teaching of Chemistry in Delta State for economic enhancement. The aim was to provide information that would bring improvement in the abilities of learners with learning difficulties in chemistry which is a science subject that occupies a special position in the scientific and technological growth of all nations in the world today. Quasi-experimental pre-test, post-test research design of non-equivalent groups was adopted in the study. A sample of 200 SSI students was selected and assigned to the experimental (diagnostic) and control (conventional) groups using purposive sampling technique. Two research questions and two corresponding null hypotheses guided the study. Data were collected using a test tagged diagnostic Basic chemistry test (DBCT) while Lesson Plans for Basic chemistry (LPBC) aided the treatment. Data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions and t-test to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The major finding was that diagnostic teaching had significant effects on learners with learning difficulties in chemistry. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended, among other things that teachers of chemistry in senior secondary school one (SSS1) should apply the diagnostic teaching method in the first few weeks of learner's enrolment into the SSSI classes to improve learners learning ability and teachers teaching effectiveness.

Keywords: *Diagnostic Teaching, Chemistry, Economic Enhancement*

Role of Infrastructure, Energy, and Industrial Growth for Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Nigeria's pursuit of sustainable economic development is fundamentally constrained by a critical nexus of deficiencies in infrastructure, energy, and industrial growth. The nation's over-reliance on a hydrocarbon-based economy has failed to generate inclusive growth, resulting instead in vulnerability to global oil price shocks, high unemployment, and a stunted manufacturing sector. Resolving the perennial energy crisis is the primary catalyst for breakthrough. Unlocking Nigeria's diverse energy mix, including renewable sources, is imperative to powering homes and industries, reducing operational costs, and spurring productivity. Simultaneously, strategic public and private investment in core infrastructure including transportation networks, logistical corridors, and digital connectivity is essential to facilitate trade, reduce inefficiencies, and enhance national competitiveness. This reinforced foundation will enable a crucial pivot from a resource-extractive model to a value-additive, diversified industrial economy. Such diversification is vital for job creation, technological acquisition, and building resilience against external shocks. Ultimately, the paper posits that sustainability must be the central tenet of this transformation. Policies must explicitly incentivize green technologies, energy efficiency, and circular economy principles within the industrial framework. Therefore, Nigeria's path to resilient and inclusive prosperity hinges on a strategically integrated approach that synergizes robust infrastructure, stable and sustainable energy, and a revitalized, diversified industrial sector. This holistic strategy is non-negotiable for achieving long-term economic resilience and self-reliance.

Keywords: *Infrastructure, Energy Crisis, Industrial Growth, Nigeria, Economic Diversification, Sustainable Economic Development*

Gender Difference on Biology Students' Academic Performance Among Senior Secondary Schools in Katsina Zonal Education Quality Assurance (ZEQA)

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Abstract

The study investigated gender differences in academic performance, particularly in biology subjects among senior secondary students in Katsina Zonal Education Quality Assurance. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. A population total of 310 Senior Secondary School II (SSS II) biology students (190 males and 120 females) were selected using stratified random sampling techniques. Students' end-of-term biology examination scores were collected and analyzed using mean, standard deviation, and independent samples t-test at 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that female students had a slightly higher mean score than male students; however, the difference was not statistically significant. The study concludes that gender does not significantly influence biology academic performance within the Katsina Zonal Education Quality Assurance framework. It was therefore, recommends sustained gender-inclusive instructional practices and strengthened quality assurance monitoring mechanisms to maintain equity in Biology education.

Keywords: *Gender, Biology Students, End of Term Examination Scores*

Green Industrialization and Sustainable Employment: Prospects for Nigeria's Low-Carbon Economic Transition

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Abstract

Nigeria's pursuit of industrialisation remains central to its national development agenda; however, the country's dependence on carbon-intensive production patterns poses serious environmental and employment sustainability concerns. This paper examines the prospects of green industrialisation as a viable pathway for achieving both economic diversification and sustainable employment in Nigeria's transition toward a low-carbon economy. Anchored on the political economy framework, the study interrogates how industrial policy, institutional quality, and technological innovation interact to facilitate or constrain the adoption of environmentally responsible production systems. Drawing on secondary data from national policy documents and reports of international development agencies, the paper analyses the nexus between renewable energy deployment, green manufacturing, and job creation. It argues that while Nigeria's industrial policy frameworks acknowledge the need for environmental sustainability, weak institutional coordination, limited investment in clean technologies, and policy inconsistencies hinder effective implementation. The study recommends a coherent policy architecture that links industrial growth with environmental governance through incentives for green entrepreneurship, public-private partnerships in renewable energy, and targeted skills development for green jobs. It concludes that embedding sustainability principles in Nigeria's industrial transformation agenda offers a pragmatic route toward inclusive, innovation-driven, and climate-resilient economic development.

Keywords: *Green industrialization, innovation, low-carbon economy, Nigeria, sustainable employment*

Multiple Linear Regression of Factors Influencing Housing Prices

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Abstract

This study analyzes the determinants of housing prices in a dataset of 545 observations. Employing statistical analysis, the study finds a significant relationship between several key factors and housing prices. The average rent price stands at approximately #4,766,729.25, with area, number of bedrooms, number of stories, air-conditioning, and furnishing status emerging as crucial predictors. The analysis reveals that the model explains around 53.6% of the variability in housing prices, highlighting its strong predictive power. Notably, all considered independent variables except semi-furnished and furnished houses significantly influence housing prices. This suggests that while larger houses with more bedrooms, stories, and amenities like air conditioning tend to command higher prices, semi-furnished and furnished properties are associated with a decrease in predicted housing prices. Based on these findings, the study recommends that stakeholders, including potential buyers, sellers, and real estate professionals, consider the size, number of bedrooms, stories, and amenities when pricing or valuing houses. Additionally, further investigation is suggested to understand the specific aspects of semi-furnished and furnished properties that contribute to their lower predicted prices. This research holds valuable insights for various stakeholders in the housing market, aiding in informed decision-making and potentially leading to more accurate pricing strategies in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Modelling, Linear Regression, Housing-Prices, Independent-Variables, Statistical Analysis*

Exploring Collaboration Across Institutional Affiliations for Sustainable Housing Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Housing is a fundamental human need, and this problem is particularly severe in developing nations like Nigeria. This study focuses on the critical issue of housing provision in Nigeria, which has become increasingly pertinent due to the country's growing housing deficit. The research utilized the Scopus database to analyze 1,045 materials and identify research themes, prominent authors, and emerging trends in the housing sector. The VOSviewer software was employed as a bibliometric tool to visualize these themes and connections systematically. The study revealed five key themes in housing provision: physical development, environmental concerns, socio-economic matters, living conditions, and locational contexts. Notably, the majority of emerging keywords were related to environmental sustainability. While trends in sustainable development, urbanism, residential satisfaction, affordable housing, and informal settlements were already prominent, the 2020s introduced themes such as COVID-19, gender issues, climate change, air pollution, energy efficiency, thermal comfort, lighting, and electricity utilities. The study recommends that researchers and stakeholders focus on these emerging themes to effectively address Nigeria's persistent housing problems. By tackling these issues, policymakers and scholars can work toward concrete solutions that improve housing conditions and meet the housing needs of Nigeria's growing population. This research contributes valuable insights for addressing housing challenges in Nigeria and similar developing contexts globally.

Keywords: *Bibliometric review, Co-authorship collaborations, Emerging trends, Institutional affiliations, Nigerian housing, Sustainable development, and VOS viewer tool*

Employment Creation and Inclusive Growth: A Panacea to Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Fostering employment creation and inclusive growth is the indispensable panacea for achieving sustainable economic development in Nigeria. Despite periods of aggregate economic expansion, the benefits have not been broadly shared, resulting in persistently high youth unemployment, widespread poverty, and deepening inequality. This exclusionary model undermines social cohesion, fuels instability, and is inherently unsustainable. The prevailing, narrow focus on macroeconomic indicators without corresponding investment in human capital and equitable opportunity has created a critical developmental impasse. This paper posits that the pathway to sustainability is through a deliberate, multi-sectoral strategy centered on generating mass, dignified employment. This necessitates a fundamental shift towards economic diversification away from oil dependency, with targeted support for sectors with high job-creation potential such as agriculture, manufacturing, and the digital economy. Concurrently, promoting SME development is crucial, as these enterprises are the primary drivers of employment. Furthermore, achieving genuine inclusivity requires dismantling barriers to participation by investing in vocational training, enhancing access to finance for women and youth, and fostering entrepreneurship. Ultimately, sustainable development is not merely an economic outcome but a social contract. By placing job creation and inclusivity at the core of national policy, Nigeria can harness its vast human capital, build a resilient and productive workforce, and ensure that economic progress translates into improved well-being for all citizens. This approach is the foundational strategy for long-term stability, poverty reduction, and self-reliant growth.

Keywords: *Employment Creation, Inclusive Growth, Youth Unemployment, Economic Diversification, SME Development, Vocational Training, Sustainable Economic Development*

Institutions, Financial Inclusion, and Economic Development in Nigeria: A Synergistic Analysis

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Abstract

Insufficient institutional frameworks and restricted financial access have stifled Nigeria's economic development. Institutional strengthening and financial inclusion can help to unlock economic potential, alleviate poverty, and promote long-term growth. This study explores how institutional quality and financial inclusion have influenced Nigeria's economic development between 2000 and 2023. The Generalised Method of Moments (GMM) examined the relationship between these factors and economic growth. The findings are clear: strong, effective institutions significantly contribute to economic progress. Additionally, financial inclusion emerged as an important driver of growth, especially in areas where institutions are performing well and providing a stable foundation. Together, these two factors, good governance and broader access to financial services, can help promote growth. In Nigeria, strengthening institutions and improving access to finance are essential for reducing poverty and building a stable, resilient economy. The research suggests, among other things, that the government pursue measures that promote financial inclusion, such as mobile banking and agent banking, and increase judicial effectiveness and the rule of law.

Keywords: *Institutional Quality, Financial Inclusion, Economic Development, Nigeria, Synergy*

Governance, Corruption and Economic Growth: A Regression Analysis

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Abstract

This study investigates the relationship between governance, corruption and economic growth in Nigeria, focusing on how government effectiveness index, voice and accountability influence economic growth and development trajectory. Using annual times series data from Nigeria to examine GDP growth rate as the dependent variable, while government effectiveness index, voice and accountability, corruption perception index, and human capital index which is proxied by education enrolment rate serves as the key independent variables. The analysis will apply ARDL regression techniques to capture time variations in governance and corruption indicators. A-priori expectations suggest that improvements in government effectiveness, and voice and accountability are positively associated with economic growth, while higher corruption levels are expected to impede growth performance. Human capital development is also anticipated to play a complementary role by enhancing productivity. The study aims to provide empirical evidence on the extent to which governance can stimulate sustainable economic growth in these selected Africa countries through the stated objectives (determination of the effect of government effective index, voice and accountability, corruption perception index and human capital index on the economic growth of Nigeria). The findings will offer useful policy insights for Nigerian governments, international organization, partners and policy makers in the bid to strengthen and improve institutions, reduce corruption and help promote inclusive economic growth cum development across the country.

Keywords: *Voice and Accountability, Corruption perception index, GDP growth, government effectiveness index, Regression*

Towards Sustainable Construction Materials: Systematic Review of Cocoa Pod Ash Nanoparticles in Sawdust Ash–Blended Concrete

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Abstract

This study systematically reviews recent advances in the application of natural nanoparticle additives in construction materials, with a particular focus on cocoa pod ash (CPA) incorporated into sawdust ash (SDA)-modified concrete. Using the PRISMA framework, relevant publications were retrieved from Scopus, Google Scholar, and other open-access databases, restricted to the years 2020–2025. The search keywords included Nano AND (Technology OR Material) AND Concrete. The review critically analysed experimental methodologies, material compositions, mix designs, and analytical tools employed in previous studies, identifying both methodological strengths and limitations. Results indicate that while synthetic nanoparticles such as nano-silica and carbon nanotubes dominate construction materials research, agro-waste-derived nanoparticles remain underutilised. Specifically, CPA has demonstrated promising pozzolanic properties when integrated into SDA-blended systems, improving compressive strength, durability, and resistance to aggressive agents like chlorides and sulfates. Nonetheless, knowledge gaps persist regarding long-term performance, optimisation of CPA–SDA ratios, and applicability in large-scale construction projects. This review underscores CPA's potential as a sustainable and low-cost alternative in green building, offering pathways to reduce cement dependency and environmental impact. Practical recommendations and future research directions are provided to advance sustainable construction practices through natural nanoparticle innovation.

Keywords: *Nanoparticles; Cocoa Pod Ash; Sawdust Ash; Sustainable Construction; Building Materials*

Harnessing Local Foodstuffs and Indigenous Farming for National Economic Growth and Global Recognition

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Abstract

This paper explores the critical role of local foodstuffs and indigenous farming practices in driving national economic development and enhancing global recognition. agriculture remains the backbone of many economies, and prioritizing locally produced food resources can create significant opportunities for growth, employment, and poverty reduction. by investing in local farming, supporting smallholder farmers, and encouraging value addition to agricultural products, nations can strengthen domestic markets while producing goods that meet international standards. indigenous farming practices, when combined with modern techniques, can promote sustainable production, environmental conservation, and resilience against global supply chain disruptions. the paper argues that respecting and promoting local food systems not only improves food security but also positions local products for global competitiveness. furthermore, fostering a culture of local consumption and innovation stimulates entrepreneurship, reduces dependency on imports, and generates foreign exchange. ultimately, the paper highlights the interconnectedness of local empowerment and international recognition, demonstrating that sustainable economic growth begins with valuing homegrown resources. policymakers, researchers, and industry stakeholders are encouraged to develop strategies that enhance local agricultural production, optimize supply chains, and promote the global visibility of indigenous foodstuffs, thereby transforming local farming into a catalyst for economic development and global prominence

Keywords: *Harnessing, Local Foodstuffs, Indigenous Farming, National Economic Growth, Global Recognition*

Multi-Objective Optimization of Workability and Durability Properties of Eco-Friendly Lightweight Concrete Incorporating Rice Husk Ash and Sheep Wool Fibre

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Abstract

The increasing demand for sustainable construction materials has encouraged the incorporation of agricultural and natural fibres into cementitious composites. This study investigates the combined influence of Rice Husk Ash (RHA), a pozzolanic agro-waste, and Sheep Wool Fibre (SWF), a renewable natural fibre, on the durability properties of lightweight concrete. The experimental program employed Response Surface Methodology (RSM) with a Central Composite Design (CCD) to optimize the mix proportions of RHA (5–25% replacement of cement) and SWF (0.5–2.5%) by weight. Key performance indicators including workability, water absorption and resistance to acid attack were evaluated. X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis confirmed the presence of amorphous silica in RHA, indicating high pozzolanic potential, while SWF exhibited crystalline patterns characteristic of structural reinforcement rather than chemical reactivity. Significant correlations were found in the responses that were successfully predicted by RSM generated quadratic models. The ideal combination of 2% SDA and 10% CNS was found by multi objective optimization, which maximized the workability (126.5mm) and minimized the water absorption at 14 Days (5.01%) and at 28 Days (9.21%) then Acid attack at 14 Days (13.1MPa) and at 28 Days (19.602MPa) with an overall desirability of 75.1%. The experimental validation of this result revealed that the discrepancy between the predicted and experimental results was less than 5%. This indicates the potential of RHA-SWF lightweight concrete for adoptable, affordable and environmentally friendly construction in areas with limited resources.

Keywords: *Rice Husk Ash, Sheep wool Fibre, Response Surface Methodology, Fresh properties, Durability Property, Lightweight Concrete*

Financial Inclusion and Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria

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Abstract

This study empirically investigates the nexus between financial inclusion and poverty alleviation in Nigeria from 1990 to 2022. Financial inclusion is defined as the process of ensuring access to, and availability of, useful and affordable financial products and services such as payments, savings, credit, and insurance for all individuals and enterprises, delivered responsibly and sustainably. Employing a quantitative research design, the analysis utilizes secondary time-series data and a suite of advanced econometric methodologies. These include unit root tests, co-integration analysis, Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression, and Error Correction Modelling (ECM) to ascertain both short- and long-run dynamics. The findings reveal a statistically significant relationship between key financial inclusion indicators and poverty levels, proxied by per capita income (PCI). Specifically, the expansion of commercial bank branches (CBB) and increased provision of loans and advances (LAA) exhibit a positive and significant effect on PCI. Conversely, inflation (INF) is identified as a detrimental factor, exerting a negative influence on per capita income. The study concludes that strategic enhancements in financial inclusion are a critical driver for economic advancement, underscoring the imperative for policymakers to prioritize robust financial inclusion frameworks to foster sustainable growth and achieve meaningful poverty reduction.

Keywords: *Financial Inclusion, Poverty Alleviation, Per Capita Income, Commercial Bank Branches, Error Correction Model (ECM)*

Governance, Policy and Institutional Frameworks: Pathways to Industrialization and Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Industrialization remains a fundamental pathway to employment generation, technological advancement, and sustainable development. Yet, in Nigeria, persistent governance deficits, policy inconsistency, and institutional fragility continue to undermine industrial transformation efforts. This paper interrogates the nexus between governance quality, policy coherence, and institutional capacity in shaping Nigeria's industrial trajectory. The study pursues four core objectives: (1) to examine the structural governance constraints affecting industrialization; (2) to analyze the role of policy stability and regulatory predictability in fostering innovation; (3) to assess the institutional performance of key development agencies such as the (NDDC) and the (BOI); and (4) to propose actionable reforms for strengthening Nigeria's industrial governance architecture. The paper is anchored on Institutional Theory and the Developmental State framework, which emphasize the centrality of capable, autonomous, and accountable institutions in driving structural transformation. Theoretically, it situates Nigeria's industrial challenges within the broader discourse on state capacity, governance legitimacy, and policy credibility in emerging economies. The central argument advanced is that sustainable industrialization in Nigeria is not merely a function of capital investment or innovation rhetoric, but fundamentally contingent upon transparent governance systems, policy continuity, rule-based administration, and institutional professionalism. Weak enforcement mechanisms, politicization of development agencies, and discontinuous industrial policies have collectively constrained industrial competitiveness. The study recommends comprehensive institutional reforms focused on strengthening regulatory independence, enhancing inter-agency coordination, institutionalizing long-term industrial policy frameworks insulated from political cycles, and embedding performance-based accountability mechanisms within development institutions. Furthermore, digital governance tools and public-private sector collaboration must be systematically integrated into industrial policy execution. The paper concludes that without deliberate governance restructuring and institutional consolidation, Nigeria's aspirations for innovation-driven industrialization and sustainable development will remain structurally constrained.

Keywords: *Governance, Industrial Policy, Institutional Capacity, Developmental State, Innovation, Nigeria.*

Perceived Impact of New Tax Policies on the Profitability of Deposit Money Banks in Nigeria: A Study of Selected Deposit Money Bank in Ebonyi State

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Abstract

This study examined the perceived impact of new tax policies on the profitability of deposit money banks in Nigeria: a study of selected deposit money bank in Ebonyi state. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design and made use of a sample of 154 respondents drawn from the population of 250 staff of the selected deposit money banks using proportionate stratified sampling technique. Data were collected using a questionnaire tagged “Perceived Impact of Tax Policy on Bank Profitability Questionnaire (PITPBQ)” structured by the researcher. The instrument was face validated by three experts from the department of Economics, Ebonyi state University. The reliability of the instrument was determined by conducting a pilot study using 20 respondents from a bank in Enugu state not included in the main study. Data collected was analyzed using Cronbach's Alpha coefficient and that yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.84. Data were collected by the researcher through a direct delivery method in administering the questionnaire with the help of two research assistants. Data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation for answering the research questions while the hypotheses were tested using multiple regression at 0.05 level of significance. The findings showed that the new tax policies affecting deposit money banks in Nigeria include increase in Corporate Income Tax, introduction/Adjustment of Minimum Tax, increase in VAT rate, VAT on digital or financial services and stricter tax compliance requirements; the new corporate income tax has reduced the profitability of the deposit money banks in Nigeria; the new corporate income tax has significant effect on the profitability of deposit money banks in Nigeria; and that the new VAT adjustments have significant effect on the profitability of deposit money banks in Nigeria. it was therefore recommended among others that the government should review the fiscal policy and introduction of tax reforms that allow adequate tax incentives for banks especially during financial crises and to cope with liquidity challenges; and the government should introduce a mechanism that would ensure Value Added Tax and Corporate income tax policy transparency, and considering incentives or exemptions to maintain industry stability.

Keywords: *Perceived, Impact, Tax policies, Profitability, Deposit money banks*

