



PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON MULTI-DISCIPLINARY UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

Theme: Sustainable Strategies to Achieving
Agenda 2063 for an Integrated,
Prosperous and Peaceful Africa

ABSTRACTS & PROCEEDINGS

📍 **University of Education, Winneba, Ghana**

24th - 25th June, 2026



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PAN AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON MULTI-DISCIPLINARY UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

THEME: Sustainable Strategies to Achieving Agenda 2063 for an Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa
DATE: Wednesday 24th - Thursday 25th June, 2026
TIME: 10:00am
VENUE: University of Education, Winneba, Ghana

CONFERENCE CONTACTS:

Prof. Clement Ali
Dean, FABSE,
University of Education,
Winneba, Ghana

PT. Hussein Botchway
IIPRDS Directorate of Policy & Research
Center for Clinical Innovation, Strategy & Policy - Ghana
+233 246663206

SECRETARIAT:

+234 817 4380 445;
+234 706 7021 763;
+234 806 0601 893

Email: ladeecon@gmail.com
Website: www.internationalpolicybrief.org

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PAN AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON MULTI-DISCIPLINARY UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY ONE – Wednesday 24th June, 2026

Arrival of Guest/Conferees/Delegates

DAY TWO – Thursday 25th June, 2026

OPENING SESSION/AWARD/PLENARY

Conference Registration	- 9:00am – 10:00am
Opening Prayer/Welcoming 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 26th June, 2026

Departure of Guest/Conferee/Delegates

Research Linkages/Publications



Prof Charles Roland

International Directorate of Policy & Research
International Scientific Research Consortium (ISRC)
United Kingdom

Engr (Dr.) Abdulazeez D. El-Ladan

The Future Institute
10 Coventry Innovation Village
Coventry University, Technology Park, CV12TL
United Kingdom

ED. Jonah Ulebor

Executive Director, Lextra Education Ltd
Office 27.10 Sugarmill Business Park
Oakhurst Avenue. Leeds, LS11 7HL, UK

Rohit Kumar Verma

Study Centre - Institute of Law (SOS),
Jiwaji University Gwalior, (M.P)-INDIA

Dr. Ismalia Ceesay

School of Arts & Sciences
Kanifing, The University of Gambia

International Scientific Research Publishing (ISRP)

Germany

Science Publishing Corporation (SPC)

Germany

KEJA Publications

G.S.T. Road, Otteri, Vandalur
Chennai – 600048 INDIA

International Directorate of Policy & Research

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
Skudai 81310, Johor Malaysia

International Directorate of Policy & Research

Clement Ayarebilla Ali

University of Education, Winneba
P.O. Box 25, Winneba, Ghana



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International Centre for Technology and
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Kaduna Polytechnic Kaduna, NG
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Waziri Umaru Federal Polytechnic Birnin Kebbi
- ◆ **Dr Ephrem Kwaku Kwaa-Aidoo**
University of Education, Winneba, Ghana
- ◆ **Dr. Ekei John**
Communication Technology Development
Department (CTDD), Governor's Office
Calabar, Cross River State
- ◆ **PT. Hussein Botchway**
University of Energy & Natural Resources
Sunyani, Ghana
- ◆ **Rohit Kumar Verma**
Institute of Law, Jiwaji University India
Gwalior (M.P.) India



Welcome to

University of Education, Winneba

Established in September 1992 under PNDC Law 322, the University of Education, Winneba (UEW), embarked on a transformative journey dedicated to advancing education. In May 2004, it achieved a significant milestone with the enactment of the University of Education Act, (2004) Act 672, elevating it to full university status.

UEW's history is marked by the merger of seven diploma-awarding colleges, including the Advanced Teacher Training College, Specialist Training College, and National Academy of Music all in Winneba; the School of Ghana Languages in Ajumako; the College of Special Education in Akwapim-Mampong; the Advanced Technical Training College in Kumasi; and the St. Andrews Agricultural Training College in Asante-Mampong. This consolidation created a diverse and dynamic educational institution.

The enactment of the Akenten Appiah-Menka University of Skills Training and Entrepreneurial Development Act (2020), Act 1026, in 2020 marked another pivotal moment in UEW's journey, restructuring UEW for the ever-evolving educational landscape.

At the heart of our mission lies a deep commitment to the advancement of teacher education. We are proud to provide higher education and drive the systematic development of both the science and the art of teaching. We aim to nurture the next generation of educators, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and professionalism required to excel in diverse educational settings, from preschool to senior secondary school, and even in non-formal education institutions.

In line with our vision, UEW not only educates but also fosters essential links between our schools and the broader community. We believe in holistic training, where students not only gain knowledge within the classroom but also engage with and enrich the communities in which they live and work. This commitment to community engagement underscores our belief that education is a shared responsibility and that the positive impact of our graduates extends far beyond the confines of our campuses.

Our journey is characterised by the pursuit of excellence, innovation, and a profound commitment to the future of education. The University of Education, Winneba, is not just an institution; it is a force of positive change in the world of education. We invite you to join us in this remarkable journey as we continue to shape the future of education and inspire the leaders, thinkers, and educators of tomorrow.

Source: <https://www.uew.edu.gh/about-uew/brief-history>

Welcome Address:

Pan African Conference on Multi-disciplinary University Research for African Development

Delivered by the Conference Chairman:

Prof. Clement Ali

*Dean, Faculty of Applied Behavioural Sciences Education (FABSE),
University of Education, Winneba, Ghana*

Protocols and Distinguish Guests,

It is with immense pleasure, profound gratitude, and a deep sense of honour that I warmly welcome you all to the Pan-African Conference on Multidisciplinary University Research for African Development, hosted by the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana, on the 24th and 25th of June, 2026.

On behalf of the Organising Committee and the Faculty of Applied Behavioural Sciences Education (FABSE), I extend our heartfelt appreciation to every delegate who has travelled from different regions of Ghana, Nigeria, other African countries, and beyond to participate in this important intellectual gathering. Your presence is a demonstration of our collective commitment to harnessing research and innovation as catalysts for Africa's transformation.

This conference is particularly significant because it is being organised in collaboration with the International Institute for Policy Review and Development Strategies (IIPRDS), Nigeria. This partnership is a shining example of the growing importance of inter-institutional and cross-border collaboration in addressing Africa's development challenges. It reflects our shared belief that the future of Africa depends on the ability of our universities, research institutes, policymakers, and development practitioners to work together in generating knowledge that is relevant, innovative, and impactful.

The International Institute for Policy Review and Development Strategies has established itself as a respected centre for policy research, academic development, and multidisciplinary scholarship. Through its collaborations with universities, research institutes, professional associations, and development partners across Africa and other parts of the world, the Institute has consistently promoted research excellence, scholarly exchange, capacity building, policy dialogue, and international academic cooperation. These strategic partnerships have resulted in numerous international conferences, collaborative publications, research projects, and professional development initiatives that continue to strengthen the visibility and global relevance of African scholarship.

Today, the partnership between the University of Education, Winneba and the International Institute for Policy Review and Development Strategies mark another important milestone in

strengthening academic cooperation on the African continent. It demonstrates our collective commitment to building sustainable research networks that transcend geographical boundaries and disciplinary limitations. We believe that this collaboration will extend beyond this conference to include joint research projects, staff and student exchanges, collaborative grant opportunities, scholarly publications, curriculum innovation, and other initiatives that will enrich our institutions and contribute meaningfully to Africa's development.

The theme of this conference, "Sustainable Strategies to Achieving Agenda 2063 for an Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa," could not be more appropriate. Agenda 2063 represents the African Union's bold vision for the continent—a vision of an Africa that is united, prosperous, peaceful, inclusive, resilient, and driven by its own citizens. Realising this vision requires more than political commitment; it requires rigorous research, innovation, strategic partnerships, sound public policies, and the effective translation of knowledge into sustainable development outcomes.

Universities remain at the centre of this transformation. As institutions dedicated to teaching, research, innovation, and community engagement, we have the responsibility to produce knowledge that addresses Africa's pressing developmental needs. We must continue to generate evidence that informs policy, develop innovative solutions to societal problems, and prepare graduates who possess the competence, creativity, and leadership required to transform our continent.

The multidisciplinary focus of this conference acknowledges an important reality—that Africa's development challenges are interconnected and cannot be solved through isolated academic disciplines. Issues relating to education, health, agriculture, climate change, technology, entrepreneurship, governance, peacebuilding, gender equality, environmental sustainability, digital transformation, and economic development demand collaborative approaches that integrate expertise from multiple fields of knowledge.

Over the next two days, this conference will provide a vibrant platform for scholarly dialogue, intellectual exchange, networking, and collaboration. Through keynote presentations, technical sessions, panel discussions, and research presentations, participants will explore innovative ideas, share best practices, challenge conventional thinking, and propose evidence-based solutions capable of accelerating Africa's development agenda.

I therefore encourage every participant to engage actively in every session, contribute meaningfully to discussions, establish lasting professional relationships, and seize the opportunity to initiate collaborative research that will continue long after this conference has concluded.

I express my profound appreciation to the Vice-Chancellor and Management of the University of Education, Winneba, for their unwavering support in hosting this conference. I also commend the leadership of the International Institute for Policy Review and Development Strategies, Nigeria, for its vision and commitment to promoting research

collaboration across Africa. My sincere gratitude goes to the Scientific Committee, the Local Organising Committee, reviewers, sponsors, partners, volunteers, and everyone whose dedication and sacrifice have made this conference a reality.

To our keynote speakers, invited guests, and paper presenters, thank you for honouring our invitation and for your willingness to share your knowledge and expertise. Your contributions will undoubtedly enrich our deliberations and inspire new pathways for multidisciplinary research and sustainable development.

As Conference Chairman, I am confident that the conversations we begin here in Winneba will not end here. Rather, they will evolve into enduring partnerships, transformative research initiatives, innovative policies, and practical solutions that will positively impact our institutions, our countries, and the African continent as a whole.

Let this conference reaffirm our conviction that Africa's greatest resource is not merely its abundant natural wealth, but the intellectual capacity, creativity, resilience, and collaborative spirit of its people. By working together across disciplines, institutions, and national borders, we can build the integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa envisioned in Agenda 2063.

Once again, I warmly welcome you all to the beautiful University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. May your stay be pleasant, your deliberations fruitful, your interactions enriching, and your collaborations enduring.

Thank you for your presence.

Thank you for your commitment to scholarship and African development.

Thank you!

Keynote Address:

Pan African Conference on Multi-disciplinary University Research for African Development

Presented by:

Hussein Botchway

Centre for Clinical Innovation, Strategy & Policy (CCISP)

International Country Director for Research and Policy, IIPRDS - Ghana

Abstract

This keynote address explores the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence in democratising access to research funding for African scholars. Drawing on the training session delivered at the virtual Winneba conference, I argue that AI tools can serve as powerful equalisers, reducing the time spent on administrative tasks, enhancing the quality of grant applications, and levelling the playing field for researchers from under-resourced institutions. The address covers three critical areas: finding collaborators and funders using AI, crafting compelling professional bios and CVs, and writing impactful abstracts that capture reviewer attention. I conclude with a call for African researchers to embrace AI strategically, ethically, and authentically, not as a replacement for human expertise, but as a tool to amplify their voices and accelerate the continent's research agenda.

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence, Grant Writing, African Research, Capacity Building, Research Networks*

Introduction

Good morning distinguished colleagues, esteemed researchers, and fellow advocates for African research excellence.

It is a profound honour to address you today at this Pan-African Conference on Multi-Disciplinary University Research for African Development. I bring greetings from the Centre for Clinical Innovation, Strategy and Policy (CCISP) and from the International Institute for Policy Research and Development Strategies, IIPRDS, where I serve as International Country Director for Research and Policy in Ghana.

Today, I want to talk about something that affects every single researcher in this room, whether you are a seasoned professor or an early-career scholar just beginning your journey. I want to talk about the challenge of securing research funding and how Artificial Intelligence is transforming the landscape.

Let me start with a fundamental question: Why do African researchers struggle to win grants?

The answer is not a lack of talent. We have brilliant minds across this continent. It is not a lack of ideas. Our research addresses some of the world's most pressing challenges. It is not even a lack of ambition. We see the passion and dedication in our colleagues every single day.

The challenges are structural. Limited access to international research networks. Difficulty identifying appropriate funding opportunities. Intense competition with well-resourced institutions in the Global North. And the need to produce proposals that are both culturally relevant and internationally competitive.

But here is the good news: Artificial Intelligence is emerging as a powerful equaliser.

PART I: Finding Collaborators and Funders with AI

Let us begin with the first critical step in any research journey: finding the right partners and the right funding.

Traditionally, this has been a slow, network-dependent process. You attend conferences. You rely on personal referrals. You conduct manual literature searches. You hope that your institution's partnerships will open doors. And all of this takes time, lots of time and depends heavily on who you know.

But AI changes this dramatically.

AI can find collaborators for you. Using tools like Semantic Scholar, ResearchGate, and even ChatGPT and Claude, you can discover leading researchers in your field in minutes rather than weeks.

Let me give you a practical example. Imagine you are a researcher in Ghana developing a diabetes prevention programme for urban communities. With AI, you can:

- Use Semantic Scholar to find diabetes researchers in West Africa
- Ask ChatGPT to identify experts in nutrition, behavioural health, and health economics
- Search LinkedIn for implementation partners and NGOs
- Cross-reference with conference attendance lists

What used to take two weeks of networking and manual searching can now be accomplished in just two hours.

AI can also find funders for you. Platforms like Pivot, GrantForward, and ResearchProfessional use machine learning to match your research profile with appropriate funding opportunities. They track deadlines. They analyse success rates. And they help you understand funder priorities.

And this is where AI truly shines. You can use ChatGPT or Claude to analyse a funder's strategic priorities. You can ask: *"Analyze the Wellcome Trust's funding priorities for 2024-2025 in global health research. What types of projects are they most likely to fund in West Africa?"*

The AI will synthesise information from multiple sources and give you a clear, actionable answer.

Let me share a case study from Ghana. A researcher developing a maternal health project in Northern Ghana used AI to identify collaborators:

- Clinical experts in obstetric care
- Anthropologists studying traditional healing practices
- Implementation scientists who had successfully scaled health worker training
- Biostatisticians with expertise in cluster randomised trials

In days, she had built a multi-disciplinary team spanning three countries.

But a word of caution: Always verify AI-generated information. Respect privacy. Be transparent about how you found contacts. And remember the golden rule, use AI to enhance, not replace, genuine relationship building.

PART II: Crafting Impactful Bios, CVS, and Abstracts

Now let us turn to the second critical area: your professional materials. Your bio, your CV, and your abstract are the first things reviewers see. They form first impressions in minutes, sometimes seconds.

Your bio is your professional identity in a paragraph. Reviewers spend approximately 10 to 15 seconds reading your bio. In that brief window, they decide whether you are credible, whether your experience aligns with the project, and whether they trust you to deliver.

AI can help you optimise every word.

Let me show you a before-and-after example. This is a real example from a Ghanaian researcher, Dr. Abena Mensah, a malaria researcher at the University of Ghana.

Her initial draft read: *"Dr. Mensah is a researcher at the University of Ghana. She has worked on malaria for many years and has published several papers. She also trains students."*

This is generic. It does not capture her expertise. It does not tell a story. And it certainly does not impress a reviewer.

With AI assistance, the bio was transformed: *"Dr. Abena Mensah is a leading malaria researcher and Senior Lecturer at the University of Ghana's School of Public Health, where she directs the Vector Control Research Unit. Over 12 years, she has led eight major research projects*

examining community-based malaria prevention strategies across Ghana, contributing to national policy reforms that reduced under-five malaria mortality by 23% in intervention districts. Her 35 peer-reviewed publications have influenced WHO guidelines on insecticide-treated net distribution. As a capacity builder, Dr. Mensah has mentored 20 early-career researchers, 15 of whom now lead their own research programs."

Notice the difference. Specific metrics. Clear impact statements. A coherent narrative. This bio tells a story of excellence, impact, and leadership.

Your CV is your track record. Reviewers scan your CV in 30 to 60 seconds. They look for funding success, publication output, leadership, and capacity building.

AI can help you structure your CV effectively, quantify your achievements, and tailor it to specific funders.

Let us look at another example. A CV professional summary that originally read: *"Public health researcher with interest in infectious diseases and health systems."*

With AI enhancement: *"Implementation scientist specializing in health systems strengthening for infectious disease control in West Africa. Fifteen-year track record of translating research into policy and practice, with expertise in community health worker programs, health information systems, and participatory research methods. Principal investigator on \$2.3M in competitive grants from Wellcome Trust, NIH, and EDCTP. Published 42 peer-reviewed articles (h-index: 18) in leading journals including The Lancet Global Health and BMJ Global Health. Committed to building African research capacity through mentorship of 25 MSc and PhD students."*

Again, the difference is clear. Specific numbers. Clear achievements. A compelling narrative.

Your abstract is the heart of your proposal. Reviewers spend approximately 2 to 3 minutes reading your abstract. In that time, they must understand your problem, your approach, your expected outcomes, and why it all matters.

Let me share another example. This is a project on hypertension management in primary care in Ghana's Ashanti Region.

The initial draft was weak: *"Hypertension is a problem in Ghana. Many people don't know they have it. We want to study this and help people. We will screen people and give them education. This will be good for public health."*

This is too vague. It has no specific methods. No measurable outcomes. No significance statement. With AI enhancement: *"Hypertension affects 28% of Ghanaian adults yet remains undiagnosed in 64% of cases, driving preventable cardiovascular mortality. This implementation research project will evaluate an integrated hypertension detection and management programme embedded within routine primary care in Ghana's Ashanti Region. Using a stepped-wedge cluster*

randomized design across 24 Community Health Planning Services compounds serving 180,000 people, we will implement a three-component intervention: community-based screening with validated automated devices, task-shifting to trained community health nurses using simplified treatment protocols, and SMS-based adherence support. Primary outcomes are hypertension diagnosis rates and blood pressure control at 12 months. We hypothesize a 40% increase in diagnosis rates and a 25% improvement in blood pressure control."

This is specific. It has a clear design, measurable outcomes, and a compelling significance statement.

PART III: The Ethical Use of AI

Let me pause here to address a crucial question: Is using AI ethical? The answer is yes, but only if used responsibly.

AI should help you express your ideas more clearly. It should suggest structures and formats. It should identify gaps in your content. It should improve grammar and flow. It should provide examples and templates.

AI should NOT invent credentials or achievements. It should not create false collaborations. It should not exaggerate your experience. It should not replace your unique perspective. And it should never make claims you cannot support.

Remember: AI is your writing assistant, not your ghostwriter. Your expertise, your judgment, and your authentic voice are irreplaceable.

Before submitting any AI-enhanced material, I recommend a quality control checklist:

- Verify factual accuracy (dates, numbers, affiliations)
- Ensure claims are supportable with evidence
- Check that the tone is appropriate for your audience
- Remove jargon or define it clearly
- Replace vague language with specifics
- Quantify your impact where possible
- Ensure the material tells a coherent story
- Confirm it reflects your authentic voice
- Align it with funder and audience priorities
- Have it reviewed by a trusted colleague

PART IV: The Way Forward

Distinguished colleagues, I want to leave you with a vision.

Imagine a future where African researchers are not disadvantaged by geography or limited networks. Imagine a future where you can identify collaborators in minutes, not weeks. Imagine a future where your bio, your CV, and your abstract are optimised for impact, giving

you a competitive edge. Imagine a future where you have more time for what truly matters—conducting rigorous research that transforms lives.

That future is not far away. It is already here. AI is democratising access to information and tools. It is reducing the time spent on administrative tasks. It is enhancing the quality of applications. And it is levelling the playing field.

But technology alone is not enough. We need a mindset shift. We must embrace AI strategically, ethically, and authentically. We must share knowledge and build AI literacy across the African research community. And we must ensure that AI does not perpetuate existing biases but instead helps us create a more equitable research landscape.

Let me offer some practical takeaways:

First, start simple. Use basic prompts and build sophistication over time. Do not try to master everything at once.

Second, verify everything. AI makes mistakes. You are responsible for accuracy. Always cross-check AI-generated information.

Third, maintain your voice. Authenticity matters to reviewers. Your unique perspective is your greatest asset.

Fourth, iterate and refine. First drafts are starting points, not endpoints. AI can help you improve, but it cannot replace the refinement process.

Fifth, share knowledge. Help build AI literacy in the African research community. We rise together.

Conclusion

As I close, I want to return to the theme of this conference: Sustainable Strategies to Achieving Agenda 2063 for an Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa.

Agenda 2063 is not just a political vision. It is a call to action for researchers across this continent. It demands that we produce world-class knowledge, that we build strong institutions, and that we solve Africa's most pressing challenges.

AI is not a silver bullet. It will not fix all our problems. But it is a powerful tool, one that can amplify our voices, accelerate our work, and help us compete on the global stage.

So I challenge you: embrace AI. Learn its capabilities. Understand its limitations. Use it ethically. And most importantly, use it to advance the Africa we want; an Africa where research drives development, where knowledge transforms lives, and where our scholars lead the world.

Thank you!

Lead Paper Presented at the:
**Pan African Conference on Multi-disciplinary University Research
for African Development**

Sustainable Strategies to Achieving Agenda 2063 for an Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa: The Role of Multidisciplinary University Research in Advancing African Development

by:

Associate Professor Bassey Ekpenyong Anam
*Institute of Public Policy and Administration
University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria*

Abstract

Africa stands at a defining moment in its development trajectory. Despite abundant natural resources, a youthful population, and increasing regional integration initiatives, the continent continues to grapple with poverty, unemployment, governance deficits, insecurity, climate change, weak industrialization, and technological dependence. The African Union's Agenda 2063 provides a comprehensive blueprint for addressing these challenges through inclusive growth, sustainable development, good governance, regional integration, and peace. This paper examines the prospects of achieving Agenda 2063 through sustainable strategies anchored on multidisciplinary university research. It argues that universities must move beyond their traditional teaching role to become centres of innovation, policy development, entrepreneurship, and technological advancement. The paper concludes that while the challenges remain significant, Africa possesses enormous opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), digital transformation, renewable energy, demographic dividends, and strengthened research collaborations. Achieving Agenda 2063 will depend largely on visionary leadership, institutional reforms, sustainable financing, and the effective utilization of research outputs in policymaking.

Keywords: *Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development, Multidisciplinary Research, African Development, Innovation, Governance.*

Introduction

Africa has experienced remarkable progress over the last two decades in economic growth, democratic governance, educational expansion, and regional integration. However, development outcomes remain uneven across the continent. High levels of multidimensional

poverty, youth unemployment, food insecurity, public debt, insecurity, climate vulnerability, and infrastructural deficits continue to constrain sustainable development.

Recognizing these challenges, the African Union adopted **Agenda 2063** as the continent's long-term strategic framework for inclusive and sustainable development. The Agenda envisions "The Africa We Want"—an integrated, prosperous, peaceful, and globally influential continent driven by its own citizens. Achieving this vision requires coordinated efforts among governments, universities, research institutions, civil society, and the private sector.

Universities have become indispensable actors in development. Through multidisciplinary research, innovation, and knowledge production, higher education institutions generate evidence-based solutions to complex socio-economic challenges. Consequently, this conference provides an important platform for examining how university research can contribute meaningfully to Africa's transformation.

Understanding Agenda 2063

Agenda 2063 is Africa's strategic blueprint and master plan for achieving inclusive and sustainable socio-economic transformation over a fifty-year period (2013–2063). Adopted by the African Union (AU) in 2015 during the commemoration of the Organisation of African Unity's (OAU) fiftieth anniversary, the Agenda articulates a collective vision of "**The Africa We Want.**" It reflects the aspirations of African citizens for a continent that is prosperous, peaceful, integrated, democratic, and driven by innovation, good governance, and sustainable development (African Union Commission [AUC], 2024).

The Agenda was developed in recognition of the fact that while Africa has recorded significant progress in economic growth, democratization, regional cooperation, and human development, many structural challenges continue to impede the continent's development trajectory. These challenges include widespread poverty, youth unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, political instability, weak institutions, environmental degradation, climate change, technological dependence, and limited industrialization. Agenda 2063 therefore provides a comprehensive framework for addressing these challenges through long-term planning, regional integration, institutional strengthening, and inclusive economic transformation.

Agenda 2063 is underpinned by **seven interconnected aspirations**, each representing a critical pillar for Africa's sustainable development.

Aspiration 1: A Prosperous Africa Based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development

The first aspiration envisions an Africa characterized by sustained economic growth, structural transformation, industrialization, modern agriculture, food security, energy security, environmental sustainability, and improved standards of living. It emphasizes economic diversification, value addition to natural resources, job creation, poverty reduction, and equitable distribution of wealth. This aspiration aligns closely with the United Nations

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those relating to poverty eradication, decent work, quality education, health, and environmental sustainability.

Aspiration 2: An Integrated Continent Politically United and Based on the Ideals of Pan-Africanism

Regional integration remains central to Africa's development agenda. Agenda 2063 seeks to remove barriers to trade, investment, labour mobility, and infrastructure connectivity across the continent. Through stronger regional economic communities and continental institutions, Africa aims to create a single market capable of stimulating industrialization, competitiveness, and economic resilience. The implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) represents one of the most significant steps toward achieving this aspiration.

Aspiration 3: An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law

Good governance constitutes the foundation upon which sustainable development rests. Agenda 2063 emphasizes transparent institutions, accountable leadership, democratic governance, citizen participation, effective public administration, anti-corruption measures, judicial independence, and respect for human rights. Strong institutions enhance policy implementation, attract investment, improve service delivery, and promote social cohesion.

Aspiration 4: A Peaceful and Secure Africa

Peace and security are indispensable prerequisites for sustainable development. The Agenda envisions an Africa free from armed conflicts, terrorism, violent extremism, piracy, unconstitutional changes of government, and political instability. The African Union's "Silencing the Guns" initiative reflects this commitment to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and regional security cooperation.

Aspiration 5: Africa with a Strong Cultural Identity, Common Heritage, Shared Values and Ethics

Agenda 2063 recognizes Africa's rich cultural diversity as a strategic asset for development. It seeks to preserve indigenous knowledge systems, promote African languages, protect cultural heritage, strengthen ethical leadership, and foster unity among African peoples. Cultural identity is viewed not only as a source of social cohesion but also as a driver of tourism, creative industries, and economic development.

Aspiration 6: An Africa Whose Development is People-Driven

The sixth aspiration places African citizens at the centre of development. It advocates inclusive participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, civil society organizations, and marginalized groups in governance and development processes. It also prioritizes investments in education, healthcare, skills development, entrepreneurship, innovation, and employment generation to harness Africa's demographic dividend.

Aspiration 7: Africa as a Strong, United, Resilient and Influential Global Player

The final aspiration envisions Africa playing a more prominent role in global governance, international trade, diplomacy, science, technology, climate negotiations, and peacebuilding. It seeks to strengthen Africa's bargaining power in international affairs while promoting strategic partnerships based on mutual respect and shared development objectives.

Flagship Projects of Agenda 2063

To translate these aspirations into measurable outcomes, Agenda 2063 is implemented through several flagship projects designed to accelerate continental integration and sustainable development.

Among the most transformative is the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**, which seeks to establish the world's largest free trade area by connecting over 1.4 billion people and creating a single African market for goods and services. Successful implementation of the AfCFTA is expected to boost intra-African trade, stimulate industrialization, strengthen regional value chains, and enhance economic competitiveness.

The **Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM)** aims to liberalize Africa's aviation sector, improve air connectivity, reduce transportation costs, and facilitate tourism, trade, and investment.

The **African Passport and Free Movement of Persons** initiative seeks to enhance labour mobility, business opportunities, educational exchange, and regional integration by allowing Africans to move freely across the continent.

The **Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)** focuses on expanding transport networks, energy systems, water resources, and digital infrastructure necessary for economic transformation.

Similarly, the **Integrated High-Speed Rail Network** is expected to connect African capitals and major commercial centres, facilitating trade, reducing transportation costs, and promoting regional integration.

The **Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2016–2025)** seeks to improve access to quality education, strengthen science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), promote technical and vocational education, and enhance research and innovation capacities across African universities.

Other flagship initiatives include the **African Commodities Strategy**, the **Grand Inga Dam Project**, the **Pan-African E-Network**, the **African Outer Space Strategy**, and the **African Virtual and E-University**, all designed to strengthen industrialization, digital transformation, scientific research, and technological advancement.

Implications for Sustainable Development

The successful implementation of Agenda 2063 requires enormous investments in physical infrastructure, digital technologies, scientific research, education, institutional capacity, healthcare, renewable energy, environmental sustainability, and human capital development. It also demands stronger collaboration among governments, universities, research institutes, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

Universities occupy a strategic position within this framework. Through multidisciplinary research, policy analysis, technological innovation, and human capital development, higher education institutions provide the knowledge base necessary for evidence-informed policymaking and sustainable development. Consequently, strengthening research collaborations among African universities and international institutions remains essential for realizing the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

Ultimately, Agenda 2063 is not merely a policy document but a continental social contract that calls upon all Africans to contribute to building an integrated, prosperous, peaceful, and globally competitive Africa. Its success will depend on visionary leadership, sound governance, strategic investments, regional cooperation, and the effective translation of research into policy and practice.

Contemporary Development Challenges Affecting Africa

Africa has witnessed remarkable progress over the past two decades in democratic governance, economic reforms, regional integration, digital innovation, and improvements in social indicators. Several countries have experienced sustained economic growth, expanded access to education, strengthened financial inclusion through digital technologies, and improved healthcare outcomes. The establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), increasing investments in renewable energy, and expanding digital economies further demonstrate the continent's commitment to sustainable development. Nevertheless, these achievements remain uneven across countries and regions. Persistent structural constraints continue to impede Africa's ability to achieve inclusive growth, economic transformation, and the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

Poverty and Income Inequality

Poverty remains one of the greatest impediments to Africa's sustainable development. Although significant progress has been made in reducing extreme poverty in some countries, millions of Africans continue to experience multidimensional poverty characterized by inadequate access to quality education, healthcare, clean water, sanitation, decent housing, electricity, and productive employment. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2025), over 460 million Africans remain multidimensionally poor, making Sub-Saharan Africa the region with the highest concentration of poverty globally.

Income inequality further compounds this challenge. The benefits of economic growth have not been equitably distributed, resulting in widening disparities between urban and rural populations, men and women, and different socio-economic groups. High levels of inequality

reduce social mobility, weaken domestic demand, increase social exclusion, and undermine political stability. Consequently, reducing poverty requires inclusive economic policies that promote employment generation, equitable income distribution, social protection, and improved access to quality public services.

Youth Unemployment and Demographic Pressure

Africa is home to the youngest population in the world, with approximately 60 percent of its population below the age of 25. This youthful demographic presents an enormous opportunity for economic growth through what economists describe as the demographic dividend. However, this opportunity is increasingly threatened by persistently high youth unemployment and underemployment.

Every year, millions of young Africans graduate from universities and other tertiary institutions, yet labour markets remain unable to absorb them. The mismatch between educational curricula and labour market needs, weak industrialization, limited private-sector growth, inadequate entrepreneurship support, and low levels of technological innovation have contributed significantly to rising unemployment. In many countries, educated youths increasingly seek opportunities outside the continent, leading to the migration of highly skilled professionals and a growing brain drain.

Transforming Africa's demographic advantage into sustainable economic growth requires substantial investments in technical and vocational education, entrepreneurship development, digital skills, innovation ecosystems, and industrial expansion capable of generating decent employment opportunities.

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

Climate change represents one of the most serious threats to Africa's sustainable development despite the continent contributing relatively little to global greenhouse gas emissions. Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, devastating floods, desertification, coastal erosion, declining biodiversity, and changing rainfall patterns continue to affect agricultural productivity, water availability, human health, and infrastructure across the continent.

Agriculture, which employs more than half of Africa's labour force, remains particularly vulnerable to climate variability. Reduced crop yields, declining livestock productivity, and increased frequency of natural disasters have intensified food insecurity and rural poverty. Coastal countries are experiencing rising sea levels that threaten settlements, tourism infrastructure, and marine ecosystems, while fragile ecosystems such as the Sahel continue to suffer from environmental degradation. Addressing these challenges requires increased investments in climate adaptation, renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable natural resource management, disaster risk reduction, and environmental governance.

Food Insecurity and Agricultural Productivity

Although Africa possesses approximately 60 percent of the world's uncultivated arable land, food insecurity remains widespread. Many African countries continue to depend heavily on

food imports due to low agricultural productivity, inadequate irrigation systems, poor storage facilities, weak agricultural value chains, conflicts, climate-related shocks, and limited access to agricultural finance.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict further exposed Africa's vulnerability to disruptions in global food supply chains, leading to rising food prices and increased inflation across many countries. Smallholder farmers, who constitute the majority of agricultural producers, often lack access to improved seeds, mechanization, extension services, digital agricultural technologies, and affordable credit. Achieving food security under Agenda 2063 therefore requires transforming agriculture from subsistence production to modern, climate-resilient, commercially oriented agribusiness capable of ensuring food self-sufficiency and export competitiveness.

Governance, Institutions and Corruption

Good governance remains central to sustainable development. While democratic governance has improved in several African countries through regular elections and constitutional reforms, governance deficits continue to constrain development outcomes. Weak public institutions, policy inconsistency, corruption, bureaucratic inefficiencies, limited accountability, political instability, electoral disputes, and insecurity undermine public confidence and discourage domestic and foreign investment. Corruption diverts scarce public resources away from essential sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and research while weakening institutional effectiveness.

Furthermore, weak implementation of public policies often results in well-designed development programmes failing to achieve intended outcomes. Strengthening institutions, promoting transparency, enhancing public financial management, and improving regulatory quality remain essential prerequisites for achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

Public Debt and Development Financing

Many African countries face increasing public debt burdens resulting from declining export revenues, global economic shocks, rising borrowing costs, currency depreciation, and growing infrastructure financing needs. While borrowing has enabled governments to finance critical infrastructure projects, excessive debt servicing now consumes a substantial proportion of national budgets in several countries.

The growing debt burden has reduced fiscal space for investments in education, healthcare, scientific research, digital infrastructure, social protection, and industrial development. Moreover, dependence on external financing exposes African economies to exchange rate volatility and global financial market uncertainties. Achieving sustainable development therefore requires prudent debt management, improved domestic revenue mobilization, enhanced tax administration, innovative financing mechanisms, public-private partnerships, and greater efficiency in public expenditure.

Technological Gap and Limited Research Capacity

The Fourth Industrial Revolution has transformed global production systems through artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, big data analytics, cloud computing, blockchain technology, and advanced manufacturing. However, Africa continues to face considerable technological disparities compared with developed economies. Although digital adoption has accelerated significantly through mobile technology, fintech innovations, e-commerce, and digital financial services, Africa contributes less than two percent of global research output and remains heavily dependent on imported technologies. Research funding remains inadequate in many universities, while weak collaboration between academia and industry limits commercialization of research findings.

Limited broadband infrastructure, digital inequality, inadequate investment in science and technology, shortage of research laboratories, and insufficient innovation ecosystems continue to constrain technological advancement. Consequently, strengthening research capacity, promoting university-industry collaboration, investing in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and supporting indigenous innovation have become strategic priorities for Africa's sustainable development.

Infrastructure Deficit

Inadequate infrastructure remains one of the most significant barriers to Africa's economic transformation. Deficiencies in electricity generation, transportation networks, water supply, digital connectivity, ports, rail systems, and logistics increase the cost of doing business and reduce the competitiveness of African economies.

The African Development Bank estimates that Africa requires annual infrastructure investments exceeding US\$130 billion to bridge existing gaps. Reliable infrastructure is essential for industrialization, regional integration, agricultural modernization, trade facilitation, and digital transformation.

Peace, Security and Political Stability

Sustainable development cannot occur in the absence of peace and security. Several African countries continue to experience armed conflicts, terrorism, violent extremism, communal clashes, piracy, and unconstitutional changes of government. These conflicts result in displacement of populations, destruction of infrastructure, reduced investment, disruption of education and healthcare services, and declining economic productivity.

The African Union's "Silencing the Guns" initiative underscores the importance of conflict prevention, peacebuilding, regional cooperation, and inclusive governance in promoting long-term stability. Strengthening democratic institutions, addressing the root causes of conflict, and promoting social inclusion remain fundamental to realizing Agenda 2063.

Africa possesses immense development potential, yet several structural and emerging challenges continue to impede inclusive growth and sustainable development. Table 1 provides a summary of the major development challenges confronting the continent.

Table 1: Major Development Challenges Affecting Africa

Development Challenge	Current Situation	Implications for Agenda 2063
Poverty	Approximately one-third of Africans experience multidimensional poverty, with rural communities disproportionately affected.	Limits inclusive growth, social protection, and human development.
Youth Unemployment	Africa has the world's youngest population, but millions of graduates remain unemployed or underemployed.	Increases migration, crime, social unrest, and loss of productive capacity.
Governance Challenges	Weak institutions, corruption, policy inconsistency, and political instability persist in several countries.	Discourages investment and weakens service delivery.
Public Debt	Rising external and domestic debt has constrained fiscal space in many African economies.	Reduces investment in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and research.
Infrastructure Deficit	Significant shortages in roads, railways, ports, electricity, water supply, and digital infrastructure.	Increases production costs and limits industrial competitiveness.
Climate Change	Increasing droughts, floods, desertification, and coastal erosion threaten livelihoods.	Reduces agricultural productivity and increases disaster risks.
Food Insecurity	High dependence on food imports alongside declining agricultural productivity in some regions.	Threatens nutrition, health, and economic stability.
Health Challenges	Unequal access to quality healthcare and vulnerability to disease outbreaks.	Lowers labour productivity and increases public expenditure.
Education Quality	Expansion in enrolment has not always translated into quality education and employable skills.	Weakens human capital development and innovation.
Insecurity	Terrorism, armed conflicts, piracy, and communal violence persist in parts of the continent.	Discourages investment and disrupts economic activities.

Source: *Compiled from African Development Bank (2024); African Union Commission (2024); World Bank (2025); UNDP (2025).*

Table 2: Selected Socio-economic Indicators for Africa

Indicator	Recent Estimate	Development Concern
Population	Approximately 1.5 billion	Large labour force and consumer market but increasing pressure on public services.
Youth Population (Below 25 years)	About 60% of total population	Opportunity for demographic dividend if properly educated and employed.
Urban Population	Over 45%	Rapid urbanization requiring improved housing, transport, and employment.
Intra-African Trade	Less than 20% of Africa's total trade	Indicates the need for stronger regional integration through AfCFTA.
Share of Global Research Output	Less than 2%	Highlights inadequate investment in research and innovation.
Electricity Access	Approximately 600 million people lack reliable electricity access	Limits industrialization and digital transformation.

Source: *African Development Bank (2024); UNECA (2024); World Bank (2025).*

Table 3: Sustainable Strategies for Achieving Agenda 2063

Strategic Priority	Key Actions	Expected Outcomes
Good Governance	Institutional reforms, accountability, anti-corruption measures	Improved public trust and investment climate
Economic Diversification	Industrialization, manufacturing, value addition	Increased employment and export earnings
Human Capital Development	Investment in education, healthcare, and skills	Improved productivity and innovation
Research and Innovation	Increased funding for universities and research institutions	Evidence-based policymaking and technological advancement
Digital Transformation	Broadband expansion, Artificial Intelligence, digital literacy	Inclusive digital economy and improved service delivery
Regional Integration	Full implementation of AfCFTA and regional infrastructure	Increased trade, investment, and economic competitiveness
Climate Action	Renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, environmental protection	Sustainable resource management and climate resilience
Peace and Security	Conflict prevention, regional cooperation, inclusive governance	Stable environment for development and investment

Source: *Author's synthesis based on Agenda 2063 implementation priorities.*

These tables demonstrate that achieving Agenda 2063 requires integrated responses that combine effective governance, sustainable financing, innovation, regional cooperation, and multidisciplinary research. Universities have a strategic role in generating the knowledge and evidence needed to support these interventions and monitor progress toward Africa's long-term development aspirations.

Multidisciplinary University Research as a Driver of Development

The complexity of Africa's development challenges requires multidisciplinary approaches. Economists, engineers, educators, environmental scientists, public health experts, political scientists, agricultural researchers, and information technology specialists must collaborate to produce integrated solutions.

Universities should strengthen partnerships with governments, industries, international organizations, and development partners to ensure that research findings influence public policy and development planning. Furthermore, increased investment in research funding, innovation hubs, business incubation centres, and technology transfer offices will accelerate industrialization and entrepreneurship.

Prospects for Achieving Agenda 2063

Although Africa continues to face significant socio-economic, political, environmental, and institutional challenges, the prospects for achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063 remain promising. The continent possesses abundant natural resources, a rapidly growing youthful population, expanding regional markets, increasing technological innovation, and a renewed commitment to regional integration. Collectively, these opportunities provide a strong foundation for accelerating sustainable development and transforming Africa into an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful continent.

Recent reports by the African Union Commission (2024), African Development Bank (2024), United Nations Development Programme (2025), and the World Bank (2025) indicate that while implementation gaps remain, several positive trends—including increasing digitalization, expanding intra-African trade, improved macroeconomic reforms, renewable energy investments, and stronger research collaborations—are positioning Africa for long-term economic transformation.

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): A Catalyst for Economic Transformation

Perhaps the greatest economic opportunity under Agenda 2063 is the implementation of the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**. Officially launched in 2021, the AfCFTA created the world's largest free trade area by number of participating countries, bringing together 54 African states and a market of over 1.4 billion people with a combined Gross Domestic Product exceeding US\$3 trillion (African Union Commission, 2024). The AfCFTA seeks to eliminate tariffs on most goods, reduce non-tariff barriers, facilitate cross-border investments, harmonize trade regulations, and strengthen regional value chains.

Empirical projections by the World Bank (2024) suggest that effective implementation of the AfCFTA could increase intra-African trade by more than 80 percent by 2035, raise continental income by approximately US\$450 billion, and lift over 30 million Africans out of extreme poverty. The agreement is also expected to stimulate industrialization, manufacturing competitiveness, agricultural modernization, export diversification, and employment generation. For African universities, the AfCFTA presents opportunities to support governments through policy research, trade analytics, logistics optimization, entrepreneurship development, and innovation that enhances Africa's global competitiveness.

Africa's Demographic Dividend

Africa's youthful population represents one of the continent's greatest comparative advantages. According to the United Nations Population Division (2024), Africa's population is projected to reach approximately 2.5 billion by 2050, with more than 60 percent under the age of 25. If appropriately educated, skilled, healthy, and productively employed, this youthful population could become a major driver of economic growth, entrepreneurship, technological innovation, industrial productivity, and social transformation. Countries such as Rwanda, Kenya, Mauritius, Botswana, and Ghana have demonstrated how investments in education, innovation, digital technology, and entrepreneurship can harness youthful talent for national development.

However, realizing this demographic dividend requires substantial investments in quality education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), digital literacy, entrepreneurship, healthcare, social protection, and labour market reforms. Failure to create productive employment opportunities could instead transform this demographic advantage into a demographic burden characterized by unemployment, migration, insecurity, and social instability.

Digital Transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Africa is increasingly embracing the opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Rapid expansion in mobile technology, digital finance, artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, cloud computing, big data analytics, e-commerce, robotics, and the Internet of Things (IoT) is transforming economic activities across the continent. The remarkable success of mobile financial services such as M-Pesa in Kenya has demonstrated Africa's capacity for technological innovation. Similarly, Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, and Rwanda have emerged as leading technology hubs attracting significant venture capital investments and nurturing innovative start-ups.

The International Finance Corporation (2023) estimates that Africa's digital economy could contribute over US\$180 billion to GDP by 2025 and exceed US\$700 billion by 2050 if supported by appropriate investments in digital infrastructure and human capital. Artificial Intelligence also presents enormous opportunities in agriculture, healthcare, education, financial inclusion, environmental monitoring, governance, and public service delivery. Universities therefore have a critical responsibility to produce graduates equipped with advanced digital competencies while undertaking research that supports ethical and inclusive AI development within African contexts.

Renewable Energy and the Green Economy

Africa possesses some of the world's richest renewable energy resources, including abundant solar radiation, wind energy, hydropower, geothermal resources, and biomass. Yet millions of Africans continue to lack reliable electricity access. Investments in renewable energy provide opportunities not only to improve energy access but also to accelerate industrialization, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote climate resilience, and create green jobs. According to the African Development Bank (2024), expanding renewable energy infrastructure remains central to achieving sustainable industrialization and economic competitiveness.

The global transition toward green economies presents additional opportunities for Africa to become a major producer of critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, manganese, and rare earth elements essential for electric vehicles and renewable energy technologies. Strategic investments in value addition rather than raw mineral exports could significantly enhance economic growth.

Agricultural Transformation and Food Security

Agriculture remains the backbone of many African economies, employing over half of the labour force and contributing significantly to GDP. Africa possesses approximately 60 percent of the world's uncultivated arable land, providing enormous potential for expanding food production.

Emerging technologies such as precision agriculture, climate-smart farming, biotechnology, irrigation systems, drone technology, satellite monitoring, and digital extension services offer opportunities to increase agricultural productivity while adapting to climate change.

The African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the AfCFTA provide additional opportunities for developing regional agricultural value chains, reducing food imports, enhancing food security, and increasing agricultural exports.

Industrialization and Value Addition

Historically, many African economies have depended heavily on exporting unprocessed raw materials while importing finished manufactured goods. Agenda 2063 advocates structural transformation through industrialization, manufacturing expansion, mineral beneficiation, agro-processing, and technological innovation.

Industrialization offers opportunities for employment creation, export diversification, increased domestic value addition, technological learning, and improved competitiveness. Strategic investments in special economic zones, industrial parks, manufacturing clusters, and innovation ecosystems will accelerate economic diversification across the continent.

Research, Innovation and Knowledge Economy

The transition toward a knowledge-based economy places universities at the centre of Africa's development agenda. Scientific research, technological innovation, entrepreneurship, and evidence-based policymaking have become essential drivers of sustainable development. Although Africa currently contributes less than two percent of global research output, increasing investments in research funding, postgraduate education, research infrastructure, and innovation ecosystems are gradually improving the continent's scientific productivity.

Universities increasingly establish innovation hubs, technology incubation centres, patent commercialization offices, and industry partnerships that support entrepreneurship and commercialization of research findings. These developments are strengthening Africa's innovation ecosystem and enhancing global competitiveness.

International Research Collaboration

One of the most encouraging developments across African higher education is the expansion of international research collaboration. Universities increasingly collaborate with institutions in Europe, North America, Asia, and other African countries through joint research projects, academic exchanges, collaborative publications, research networks, and externally funded projects. Such collaborations strengthen institutional capacity by facilitating knowledge transfer, staff development, postgraduate supervision, curriculum improvement, laboratory development, and access to international research funding. Collaborative research also enhances citation impact, improves global university rankings, and increases the visibility of African scholarship.

Institutions such as the University of Education, Winneba, through collaborations with organizations including the International Institute for Policy Review and Development Strategies (Nigeria), exemplify the growing importance of Pan-African research partnerships in advancing multidisciplinary scholarship. These collaborations create opportunities for joint conferences, policy research, capacity development, publication of scholarly works, and evidence-based solutions to Africa's developmental challenges.

Regional Integration and Pan-African Cooperation

Regional integration continues to provide a strong platform for sustainable development. The African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Development Bank, and continental institutions are increasingly coordinating policies relating to trade, infrastructure, peace and security, education, digital transformation, climate adaptation, and public health.

Cross-border infrastructure projects, harmonized regulatory frameworks, regional transport corridors, integrated energy markets, and continental digital strategies will significantly improve Africa's competitiveness in the global economy.

The Role of Multidisciplinary University Research

The realization of Agenda 2063 depends substantially on the ability of universities to generate innovative solutions to complex development challenges. Multidisciplinary research enables economists, engineers, environmental scientists, educators, public health specialists, political scientists, agricultural experts, and information technology professionals to collaborate in addressing interconnected societal problems.

Universities must therefore strengthen partnerships with governments, industries, civil society organizations, and international development agencies to ensure that research findings translate into effective public policies, technological innovations, and sustainable development programmes. Investment in research funding, innovation ecosystems, postgraduate education, digital infrastructure, and international collaboration will significantly enhance Africa's capacity to achieve the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

Table 4: Emerging Opportunities for Achieving Agenda 2063

Opportunity	Expected Development Outcome
African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)	Increased intra-African trade, industrialization, regional value chains, employment generation
Demographic Dividend	Expanded labour force, entrepreneurship, innovation, higher productivity
Digital Economy and Artificial Intelligence	Improved governance, financial inclusion, healthcare, education, and industrial competitiveness
Renewable Energy	Energy security, green industrialization, climate resilience, sustainable growth
Agricultural Modernization	Food security, export growth, rural development, poverty reduction
Industrialization	Value addition, manufacturing growth, export diversification
International Research Collaboration	Innovation, capacity building, knowledge transfer, evidence-based policymaking
Regional Integration	Improved infrastructure, trade, mobility, peace, and economic resilience

Source: Author's synthesis based on African Union Commission (2024), African Development Bank (2024), UNDP (2025), World Bank (2025), and UNECA (2024).

The prospects for achieving Agenda 2063 are substantial. While considerable challenges remain, Africa possesses the demographic strength, natural resources, entrepreneurial

capacity, technological potential, and institutional frameworks necessary to achieve sustainable transformation. Success will depend on visionary leadership, sound governance, strategic investments, effective implementation of continental policies, and above all, the production and application of multidisciplinary research capable of generating innovative, context-specific, and evidence-based solutions to Africa's development challenges.

Sustainable Strategies for Achieving Agenda 2063

To accelerate implementation of Agenda 2063, African governments and institutions should prioritize the following:

1. Increase investment in education, research, science, technology, and innovation.
2. Strengthen governance, transparency, accountability, and institutional effectiveness.
3. Promote industrialization through value addition and economic diversification.
4. Expand digital infrastructure and artificial intelligence capabilities.
5. Invest in climate-smart agriculture and renewable energy.
6. Enhance regional integration through AfCFTA implementation.
7. Strengthen peacebuilding, democratic governance, and conflict prevention.
8. Encourage stronger university-industry-government collaborations.
9. Increase domestic resource mobilization while improving public financial management.
10. Promote gender equality, youth empowerment, and inclusive development.

Conclusion and Research Agenda for Multidisciplinary Discussion

Agenda 2063 represents Africa's most comprehensive and forward-looking development blueprint, providing a shared vision for building "**The Africa We Want**"—an integrated, prosperous, peaceful, people-centred, and globally influential continent. The aspirations embodied in the Agenda reflect Africa's determination to overcome historical development constraints and reposition itself as a competitive actor in the global economy. While considerable progress has been recorded in areas such as regional integration, digital innovation, educational expansion, democratic governance, and economic reforms, the continent continues to confront complex and interconnected challenges that threaten the realization of its long-term development aspirations.

This paper has demonstrated that persistent poverty, unemployment, inequality, governance deficits, insecurity, climate change, technological dependence, inadequate infrastructure, weak industrialization, and growing public debt remain major obstacles to sustainable development across Africa. These challenges are multidimensional and transcend national boundaries; consequently, they cannot be effectively addressed through isolated disciplinary perspectives or fragmented policy interventions. Rather, they require integrated, systems-based, and evidence-informed approaches that draw upon the collective expertise of economists, public policy scholars, engineers, environmental scientists, educators, health professionals, agricultural scientists, information technologists, legal scholars, sociologists, political scientists, and development practitioners.

Despite these challenges, Africa's future remains promising. The implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), expanding digital economies, renewable

energy development, rapid urbanization, growing entrepreneurial ecosystems, demographic advantages, and increasing regional cooperation provide unprecedented opportunities for structural transformation. Equally significant is the growing recognition that universities and research institutions are indispensable partners in driving innovation, informing public policy, and generating context-specific solutions to Africa's development problems.

The central thesis of this lead paper is that multidisciplinary university research must become the cornerstone of Africa's development strategy. Universities should not merely serve as centres for teaching and learning but as engines of innovation, policy development, technological advancement, entrepreneurship, and sustainable community engagement. Knowledge generated within universities must increasingly inform national planning, industrial development, governance reforms, environmental sustainability, healthcare delivery, educational transformation, and digital innovation. Stronger collaboration among universities, governments, industries, development agencies, and civil society will therefore be critical to achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

Research Agenda for Multidisciplinary Discussion

As we commence this conference, it is important that our deliberations move beyond theoretical discourse toward practical, evidence-based solutions capable of influencing policy and development practice. Accordingly, this lead paper proposes the following priority areas for multidisciplinary discussion and future collaborative research.

1. Governance, Leadership and Institutional Effectiveness

How can African countries strengthen democratic governance, institutional accountability, public sector performance, and anti-corruption mechanisms to accelerate sustainable development? What governance models are most suitable for achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063 within diverse African contexts?

2. Economic Diversification and Industrial Transformation

What strategies can African countries adopt to reduce dependence on primary commodity exports and promote industrialization, manufacturing, value addition, and regional value chains? How can the implementation of the AfCFTA stimulate inclusive economic growth and employment creation?

3. Education, Human Capital Development and the Future of Work

How should African universities redesign curricula to prepare graduates for the Fourth Industrial Revolution? What competencies will be required to support digital economies, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, and knowledge-driven development?

4. Science, Technology, Innovation and Artificial Intelligence

How can African countries strengthen investments in research and development, digital infrastructure, innovation ecosystems, and emerging technologies? What ethical, legal, and policy frameworks should guide the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence within African societies?

5. Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability and Renewable Energy

What multidisciplinary strategies are required to address climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable natural resource management, food security, and renewable energy development? How can indigenous knowledge complement scientific innovation in environmental governance?

6. Food Systems, Agriculture and Rural Transformation

How can Africa modernize agriculture through climate-smart technologies, biotechnology, digital agriculture, mechanization, and improved value chains? What policies are required to ensure food sovereignty and agricultural competitiveness?

7. Public Health Systems and Social Protection

How can African countries strengthen health systems to improve resilience against future pandemics and emerging diseases? What role can multidisciplinary research play in promoting universal health coverage, mental health, and equitable access to healthcare?

8. Peace, Security and Conflict Transformation

What innovative approaches can strengthen peacebuilding, conflict prevention, community resilience, and regional security cooperation? How can research contribute to addressing the root causes of insecurity, violent extremism, and forced displacement?

9. Urbanization, Infrastructure and Smart Cities

With Africa's rapidly expanding urban population, what sustainable urban planning models can improve housing, transportation, water supply, sanitation, energy, and digital infrastructure? How can smart-city technologies contribute to inclusive urban development?

10. Financing Sustainable Development

What innovative financing mechanisms—including green finance, diaspora bonds, blended finance, public-private partnerships, and domestic resource mobilization—can support the implementation of Agenda 2063? How can African countries improve fiscal sustainability while managing rising public debt?

11. Regional Integration and Pan-African Collaboration

How can universities, governments, regional economic communities, and continental institutions strengthen collaboration to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2063? What institutional frameworks are required to enhance academic mobility, joint research, technology transfer, and policy harmonization across Africa?

12. The Role of Universities in Africa's Transformation

How can African universities become globally competitive institutions while remaining responsive to local development needs? What models of university-industry-government collaboration can strengthen innovation, commercialization of research, entrepreneurship, and evidence-based policymaking?

Way Forward

This conference provides an invaluable platform for advancing these discussions through rigorous scholarly engagement and multidisciplinary collaboration. Participants are encouraged to move beyond identifying challenges to proposing practical solutions, developing collaborative research networks, and generating policy recommendations capable of transforming Africa's development landscape.

The collaboration between the **University of Education, Winneba, Ghana**, and the **International Institute for Policy Review and Development Strategies, Nigeria**, exemplifies the type of Pan-African academic partnership needed to strengthen knowledge production and institutional capacity across the continent. Such partnerships should be expanded to include joint research projects, postgraduate training, academic exchanges, collaborative grant applications, innovation hubs, and policy engagement initiatives that produce measurable developmental outcomes.

In conclusion, the realization of Agenda 2063 is neither the responsibility of governments alone nor an aspiration to be achieved through political declarations. It is a collective continental responsibility that demands visionary leadership, accountable institutions, sustained investment in education and research, technological innovation, strategic partnerships, and the effective translation of knowledge into policy and practice. As scholars gathered at this conference, we have both the opportunity and the responsibility to shape Africa's future by producing research that is relevant, impactful, multidisciplinary, and transformative. Let our deliberations over these two days generate ideas, partnerships, and policy directions that will contribute meaningfully to building **an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa** for this generation and those yet to come.

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Conference Abstracts

Assessing the Impact of Economic Services and Defence Expenditures on Nigerian Economic Growth: Evidence from a Nonlinear ARDL Approach

Bappahyaya Bashir

*Department of Economics,
Gombe State University, Nigeria*

Abstract

Numerous studies have examined the relationship between economic services and defense spending on economic growth, but it is difficult to say with absolute certainty if an increase in both is beneficial for economic growth. This study is crucial since there is disagreement on the conclusions drawn from earlier empirical findings. This study uses time series data from 1981 to 2024 to examine the effects of defense and economic service spending on Nigeria's economic growth. The NARDL model is used in this investigation. The study's conclusions show a long-term correlation between government spending on roads and construction, agriculture, transportation, communication, and defense and real gross domestic product (RGDP). Additionally, it was discovered that while positive changes in government spending on transportation and communication slow down economic growth in both the short and long run, positive changes in government spending on agriculture, defense, and road and construction lead to significant increases in economic growth in both the short and long run. Similarly, whereas negative changes in road and construction expenditures impede economic growth in both the short and long term, negative changes in agriculture, defense, and transportation and communication expenditures boost economic growth in both the short and long run. In order to facilitate the transportation of agricultural produce, which will result in the growth of the economy, the study recommended, among other things, that the government increase its spending on economic services, particularly agriculture, roads, and construction. In order to combat the threat of kidnapping, robbery, and other social vices, defense spending should also be raised.

Keywords: *Assessing impact, Economic services and Defence Expenditures*

Education for the African Development in the Twenty-First Century Millennium

¹Yusuf A. Jimoh & ²Abubakar Ibrahim

¹Dept. of History & International Studies, Faculty of Humanities,

²Dept. of History and International Studies, Faculty of Humanities,
School of Postgraduate Studies,
Federal University Gusau, Zamfara State, Nigeria.

Abstract

Education is one, out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that replaced the Millennium Development Goals that ended in 2015. Ban Ki-Moon, the United Nations Sec. Gen. for 2007–2016 stated that “We do not have plan B because there is no planet B.” Education must be functional which Africa development must focus on to help in marshalling & landmarking all other goals. Education is the transmission of life, by the living to the living. Education is also the transmission of culture from one generation to the other. Education is also the inculcation of HAS—Habits, Attitudes & Skills in an individual to make him an acceptable member of the society. Be that as it may, this paper examined the place of Education in its entities towards Sustainable Development in Africa.

Keywords: *African education, Development and Twenty-First Century*

Observing Religious Boundaries for Peaceful Development in Africa: The Nigeria Experience

Dr. Happiness Cherechi Israel

Department of Christian Religious Studies

Federal College of Education Obudu, Cross River State

Abstract

The essence of creation is to multiply. Man was created in the image and likeness of God with the mandate of peaceful co-existence among other creatures. This peaceful existence was aimed at breeding development at all levels of their interaction. However, the failure of man to keep to the purpose of creation, brought about destruction and under-development sets in. This was occasioned by man's inability to respect the norms, values and doctrines of a fellow man in his/her faith. This paper therefore seeks to discuss the perimeters of peace as his failure in respecting the boundaries of their faith which has destroyed the entire peace and development of Africa and Nigeria in particular. The study adopts the historical and descriptive approaches in surveying the subject under discussion. It is observed in the study that lack of trust, respect, limited resources, power, and forceful accumulation of wealth have overbearing influence on the path of peace in Nigeria. The paper recommends among other issues that for peace and development to thrive in Africa and particularly Nigeria, individual religious faith, norms and values should be respected for a just society. Conclusively, failure to observe and respect religious boundaries, Africa and indeed Nigeria will remain under-developed even by 2063.

Keywords: *Religious, Boundaries, Peace, Development*

Education and Capacity Building for the Africa We Want: Aligning Teacher Development, Curriculum Reform, and Continental Frameworks for Sustainable Transformation

Dang Chanshak Luka

*School of Languages College of Education,
Gindiri, Plateau State, Nigeria*

Abstract

The African Union's Agenda 2063 envisions "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena." Central to this vision is the transformation of education and capacity building across the continent. This paper examines the critical intersection of teacher development, curriculum reform, and continental policy frameworks in shaping education for "the Africa we want." Drawing on recent continental strategies including the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2026-2035 (CESA 26-35) and the newly proclaimed African Union Decade of Accelerated Action for the Transformation of Education and Skills Development (2025-2034), this paper argues that sustainable education transformation requires simultaneous investment in teacher professional development, contextualized curriculum reform, and systematic capacity building at institutional levels. Through analysis of policy documents and case studies from Rwanda, Kenya, and pan-African initiatives, the paper identifies key strategies for aligning national education systems with continental aspirations while responding to local realities. The paper concludes with recommendations for policymakers, educators, and development partners seeking to advance the education agenda for Africa's transformative future.

Keywords: *Teacher education, Capacity building, Agenda 2063, CESA, Curriculum reform, African education, Professional development*

Burial Rites Time of Under Five Children and the Possibility for Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) Mits Procedure in Bauchi State, Nigeria

¹Magaji Dafi, ²Jamilu Yaya, ³Sani Babaji, ⁴Fa'izu Ahmad Saleh, ⁵Tabitha Ngyal, ⁶Awwal Dahiru, ⁷Mubarak Muhammad Dabo, ⁸Abdulkadir M. A., ⁹Muhammad Bashir Faruk, ¹⁰Lamaran Makama Dattijo, ¹¹John Blevins & ¹²Maria Maixenchs

¹⁻¹⁰*Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) Bauchi Site, Nigeria*

¹¹*Hubert Department of Global Health Rollins School of Public Health Emory University*

¹²*ISGlobal Barcelona Institute of Global Health Hospital Clinic - Universitat de Barcelona*

Abstract

This study explores the sociocultural practices surrounding the timing of burial rituals for children under five in Bauchi State. Conducted as part of the CHAMPS (Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance) initiative, called minimally invasive tissue sampling (MITS). The research employed qualitative methods, including Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), to investigate community beliefs, norms, and practices influencing how the burial timing under five child deaths is conducted. Findings reveal that the death of a child under five years is often perceived as a spiritual event, eliciting subdued public mourning and expedited burial processes, typically within hours of death, to adhere to religious and cultural expectations, especially within Islamic contexts. Notification of such deaths is usually limited to immediate family and community elders, with minimal formal reporting to health or government systems. The study highlights that these practices significantly hinder MITS consent, verbal and social autopsies, affecting data accuracy on child mortality. The research underscores the need for culturally sensitive approaches to mortality surveillance, suggesting community engagement, religious leader involvement, and trust-building measures to improve consent and participation in child mortality investigations. This study provides valuable insights into how cultural and religious values shape death-related behaviours, informing the design of responsive and respectful child mortality data collection frameworks.

Keywords: *Burial rites time, Under five children, CHAMPS MITS, Procedure, Sociocultural practices*

Impact of Internal Corporate Governance Mechanism on Environmental Disclosure of Listed Oil and Gas Companies in Nigeria

Dr. Abdullahi Ahmed

Department of Accounting,

Adamawa State University, Mubi, Adamawa State-Nigeria

Abstract

This paper explored the impact of internal corporate governance mechanism on environmental disclosure of listed oil and gas companies in Nigeria. It also examines the role of internal corporate governance mechanism that ensured transparency, accountability and compliance to rules, laws, and regulations by the company. The study investigates board size, board independence and foreign directors and their impact on environmental disclosure. Quantitative method was utilised to explore the environmental disclosure of the listed Nigerian oil and gas companies ranging from 2015 to 2024. The findings of the study revealed that board size, board independence and foreign directors have a significant positive impact on environmental disclosure of listed oil and gas companies in Nigeria. The findings support the proposition of legitimacy theory and agency theory that explain the study's variables. The study recommends that future research could focus on other board mechanism like gender diversity and board composition in order to enhance additional governance factors affecting the environmental disclosure in the Nigeria. The study also recommended that future studies can be conducted in other sectors such as manufacturing or financial service sector and may be explore using alternative ways to collect data such as stand-alone report or corporate website rather than only annual reports and accounts.

Keywords: *Internal corporate governance, Environmental disclosure, Listed oil and gas companies.*

Effects of Climate Change on Insect Pests Incidence and Distribution and its Implication on Agriculture

¹Oaya, C. S. & ²Headboy, P.

¹Department of Crop Science, Adamawa State University,
P.M. B. 25, Mubi, Adamawa State, Nigeria

²Department of Geography, Adamawa State University,
P.M. B. 25, Mubi, Adamawa State, Nigeria

Abstract

Climate change and global warming are of great concern to agriculture worldwide and are among the most discussed issues in today's society. Climate parameters such as increased temperatures, rising atmospheric CO₂ levels, and changing precipitation patterns have significant impacts on agricultural production and on agricultural insect pests. Changes in climate can affect insect pests in several ways. They can result in an expansion of their geographic distribution, increased survival during overwintering, increased number of generations, altered synchrony between plants and pests, altered interspecific interaction, increased risk of invasion by migratory pests, increased incidence of insect-transmitted plant diseases, and reduced effectiveness of biological control, especially natural enemies. As a result, there is a serious risk of crop economic losses, as well as a challenge to human food security. As a major driver of pest population dynamics, climate change will require adaptive management strategies to deal with the changing status of pests. Several priorities can be identified for future research on the effects of climatic changes on agricultural insect pests. These include modified integrated pest management tactics, monitoring climate and pest populations, and the use of modeling prediction tools.

Keywords: *Climate change, Global warming, Food security, Agriculture, Insect pests*

Child Protection Services and the Welfare of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in the Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State

Uzoh, Esther E-C.

*Department of Social Work,
University of Calabar*

Abstract

This study investigates the impact of child protection services on the welfare of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in the Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State. Guided by Ecological Systems Theory, the study employs a cross-sectional survey design covering caregivers, social welfare officers, and OVC programme beneficiaries. Data was collected using structured questionnaires and administrative records. Child protection services were measured through access to education support, healthcare, legal protection, and psychosocial services, while child welfare was assessed using school attendance, health status, and psychosocial wellbeing indicators. Data analysis involved descriptive statistics, chi-square tests, and multiple regression analysis. The findings indicate that child protection services have a significant positive effect on the welfare of OVC, particularly in education and psychosocial outcomes. However, inconsistencies in service delivery and weak monitoring mechanisms have a limited programme impact. The study underscores the need for integrated and well-coordinated child protection systems.

Keywords: *Child protection, Orphans and vulnerable children, Child welfare, Ecological Systems Theory.*

Evaluating the Impact of Integrating Practical Stem-Based Entrepreneurship Education in Tertiary Institution Curricula on Job Creation and Startup Growth in Nigeria

Suleiman Dogonyaro Gulee, PhD

Department of Integrated Science

Kaduna State College of Education Gidan Waya, PMB 1024 Kafanchan

Abstract

This study investigates the impact of integrating practical STEM-based entrepreneurship education into tertiary science curricula on job creation and startup development in Nigeria. Despite the increasing number of science graduates in the country, youth unemployment remains alarmingly high due to the predominantly theoretical nature of science education and the lack of entrepreneurial skill acquisition. Using a mixed-methods research design, the study combines quantitative data from 400 Science Students with qualitative insights from Science Educators and entrepreneurs to explore how entrepreneurship training influences Students' entrepreneurial intentions, startup readiness, and job creation potential. A structured questionnaire and semi-structured interviews were employed as instruments for data collection. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, t-tests independent samples was used to test the hypotheses, while thematic analysis was used to interpret qualitative data. The findings were reveals, that students exposed to integrated entrepreneurship education demonstrate higher entrepreneurial readiness and startup engagement compared to their counterparts who received only traditional science instruction. Also revealed that entrepreneurship has been introduced into the science curriculum in Nigerian tertiary institutions, its integration remains weak, theoretical, and insufficiently aligned with the realities of job creation. The focused on the reforms needed in the science curriculum to make it more effective for job creation was also revealed. The study offers evidence-based recommendations for curriculum reform and policy interventions aimed at leveraging science education as a catalyst for youth-led innovation and sustainable job creation. These insights have broader implications for other developing countries facing similar challenges, contributing to global discourses on education, entrepreneurship, and economic development.

Keywords: *STEM Education, Entrepreneurship Education, Job Creation, Science Curriculum Reform, Youth Unemployment*

Green Synthesis and Characterisation of Silver Nano Particles from the Leaf Extract of *Phyllanthus Niruri* and its Antimicrobial Evaluation

¹Wilson Lamayi Danbature, ²Ibrahim Umaru Waniyo & ³Zaccheus Shehu

^{1,2&3}Department of Chemical Sciences,
Gombe State University, Nigeria.

Abstract

Integration of Green Chemistry principles into nanotechnology is one of the key issues in Nano science research. Biological method was used to synthesize metal and metal oxide nanoparticles of specific shapes and sizes since they enhance the properties of nanoparticles in greener routes. Plant-mediated methods avoid the use of toxic chemicals in the synthetic protocols which has adverse effects on the environment. In this study, silver nanoparticles were synthesized using green method from silver metal precursor and *Phyllanthus niruri* plant leaves extract as reducing agents. The formation of nanoparticles was first noticed by color changes of the reaction mixture from light yellow to brown as results of Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR). Optical measurement using Ultra violet visible (UV-visible) showed maximum absorption wavelength at 400nm, while the functional group identification carried out using FT-IR revealed some replacement in the absorption of functional group, disappearance, and appearance of some in the spectra of the AgNPs when compared to that of the leaves extract, indicating that they were involved in the bio-reduction process. XRD pattern of the prepared AgNPs revealed that it was amorphous. The XRD of the synthesized AgNP's shows that it has cubic structure. The peak position ($2\theta = 34.4776, 38.3059, 44.5421, 64.6031$) associated with the plane 19.55, 173.67, 44.29, 39.61, showed an average crystallite size of 4.831 nm. Similarly, antimicrobial potency was investigated against six clinically isolated pathogens (*Salmonella Typhi*, *Staphylococcus Aureus*, *Klebsiella Pneumonia*, *Klebsiella Pseudomonas*, *Aspergillus Nigger* and *Candida Albicans*). The results suggested that the synthesized agent (AgNP's showed minimum inhibitions concentration (M.I.C) against the tested bacteria's even at low concentration of 62.5µg/ml and Minimum Bactericidal Concentration (M.B.C) at 125µg/ml, while the fungi (*Candida Albican*) exhibited minimum inhibition (M.I.C) at concentration of 250µg/ml of AgNP's (*Aspergillus niger* was resistant). Minimum Fugicidal Concentration (MFC) was recorded at concentration of 500µg/ml for the two fungi; AgNP's is more effective against the fungi *Aspergillus niger*. When compared with the control drug, the synthesized AgNP's is more effective looking at the concentration of the administered dose, hence, the synthesized agents have high efficacy and can be developed as bio-control agent for ailments caused by these pathogens.

Keywords: *Antimicrobial, Characterization, Green synthesis, Pathogens, Phyllanthus niruri*

E-Governance and Planning Efficiency in Nigeria

Bassey Ekpenyong Anam

*Institute of Public Policy and Administration,
University of Calabar, Nigeria.*

Abstract

The adoption of e-governance has transformed public planning processes globally, yet its effectiveness in Nigeria remains contested. This study empirically examines the influence of e-governance on planning efficiency in Nigeria. Guided by the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), the study employs a cross-sectional survey design involving public planners and administrators in selected government agencies. Data was collected using structured questionnaires. E-governance was measured through digital platforms usage, information accessibility, transparency, and inter-agency coordination, while planning efficiency was assessed using timeliness, accuracy of plans, and decision-making effectiveness. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and multiple regression techniques. The findings indicate a statistically significant positive relationship between e-governance adoption and planning efficiency. However, infrastructural deficits, limited digital skills, and resistance to change constrain full benefits. The study concludes that sustained investment in digital infrastructure and capacity building is essential for efficient public planning in Nigeria.

Keywords: *E-governance, planning efficiency, Technology Acceptance Model, public administration*

Monitoring and Evaluation Systems and Public Programme Performance in Nigeria

Bassey Ekpenyong Anam

*Institute of Public Policy and Administration,
University of Calabar, Nigeria.*

Abstract

Monitoring and evaluation systems play a vital role in ensuring accountability and effectiveness in public programmes. This study empirically examines the relationship between M&E systems and public programme performance in Nigeria. Anchored on Systems Theory, the study adopts a cross-sectional survey design involving public sector programme managers and monitoring officers across selected ministries, departments, and agencies. Data was collected using structured questionnaires. M&E systems were measured in terms of institutional framework, data quality, reporting mechanisms, and utilisation of findings, while programme performance was assessed using efficiency, effectiveness, and service delivery outcomes. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics and multiple regression analysis. The findings reveal a significant positive relationship between robust M&E systems and improved public programme performance. However, political interference and weak data utilisation limit effectiveness. The study underscores the need for institutionalising functional M&E frameworks across public sector programmes in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Monitoring and evaluation systems, Public programme performance, Public sector*

Assessing the Effectiveness of Digital Health Interventions (mHealth) for Postpartum Depression Screening and Support in Nigeria: A Review of Literature

¹Ngozi Chinenye Okeke, & ²Ogechi Judith

¹Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences,
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra, Nigeria

²Department of Criminology and Security Studies,
University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Imo State

Abstract

Postpartum depression (PPD) is a severe public health challenge that affects maternal and child health outcomes across the globe. This is particularly severe in low-resource nations such as Nigeria. The article is a review of the efficacy of digital health interventions (mHealth) in postpartum depression screening and support. It synthesizes evidence on the available related research on mobile health (mHealth) programs to support postpartum depression and screening. The evidence shows that mHealth interventions, including web-based interventions, SMS-based chatbots, smartphone applications, and digital screening, have a promising potential of reducing the symptoms of depression, enhancing the accessibility of screening, or enhancing maternal mental health support. Some of the major results indicate that mHealth interventions are highly acceptable (user satisfaction remains at 4.0-4.5 out of 5), can considerably reduce depression levels (20-50% improvement rates in properly designed studies), and ensure good engagement rates (60-80% completion rates on well-designed studies). Nevertheless, some significant barriers to adoption in Sub-Saharan African nations, such as, Nigeria, include, low smartphone usage rates, inadequate digital infrastructure, cultural stigma of mental illness, and shortage of qualified medical staff. This review provides evidence-based recommendations that adopt effective mHealth interventions in Nigeria to alleviate postpartum depression, which requires low-cost, culturally relevant, and SMS-compatible solutions that should be incorporated into the existing maternal health services of the country and be reinforced with task-sharing models and community health worker engagement.

Keywords: *Digital Health Interventions, Postpartum Depression (PPD), Maternal Mental Health, mHealth (mobile health)*

The Imperative of Religion for Good Governance in Africa: The Nigeria Story

Dr. Regina Inyagbe Agi

Department of Christian Religious Studies

Federal College of Education, Obudu. Cross River State Nigeria

Abstract

The role of Religion in African governance is dualistic serving as both a potential foundation for moral accountability and a frequent source of division. This paper examines this imperative of good governance through the lens of Religion in Nigeria, a nation where religiosity is profound yet governance challenges are persistent. Methodologically, the paper adopts the historical and descriptive approaches in surveying the subject at stake. It argues that while religious values can theoretically underpin constitutionalism, accountability and social justice, Nigeria's experience predominantly reveals how the politicization of ethno-religious identifies undermines these very goals. It is observed that transforming religion from a tool of division into a force for governance requires deliberate structural and societal reforms. The paper recommends that since adherents of religion in Africa and indeed Nigeria belongs to the society, it is the opinion of this paper that the religious values that emphasizes respect, accountability, integrity should be translated into governance for a better Africa and in particular Nigeria.

Keywords: *Imperative, Religion, Good Governance, The Nigeria Story*

An Assessment of Climate Change Effects on the Dry Season Farming in the Lower Section of Upper Yedzaram Basin in Mubi North Local Government Area Adamawa State, Nigeria

¹Headboy, P., ²Kabiru, R., & ³Oaya, C. S.

^{1&2}*Department of Geography and Environmental Studies,
Adamawa State University Mubi, Nigeria*

³*Department of Crop Sciences, Adamawa State University Mubi, Nigeria*

Abstract

This study examined the effects of climate change on dry-season farming within the lower section of the upper Yedzaram basin in Mubi North Local Government Area, Adamawa State, Nigeria. The research focused on analyzing trends in annual rainfall and temperature from 1992 to 2022, exploring the causes of climate change, evaluating its socio-economic impacts on dry-season farmers' livelihoods, identifying the variety of crops grown during the dry season, and assessing farmers' adaptive strategies. A survey research design was employed, with data collected through questionnaires administered to 200 respondents chosen through purposive sampling. The data were examined using frequency analysis counts and percentages to address the research questions. The findings revealed a declining rainfall trend, with the highest rainfall (2,251 mm) recorded in 1995 and the lowest (610.41 mm) in 1999, corresponding to a trend value of -7.346. Conversely, temperature trends indicated an increase, with the highest temperature (37.03°C) observed in 2006 and the lowest (32.25°C) in 1994, yielding a trend value of 0.080. Deforestation, bush burning, and population growth were identified as primary drivers of climate change, which significantly impacted crop yields. The study also highlighted the diversity of crops cultivated during the dry season and reported that most farmers perceived climate change as negatively affecting their farming activities. Additionally, awareness of climate change was found to vary by age but not by gender. Adaptive strategies adopted by farmers to manage temperature changes included adjusting planting dates, cultivating early-maturing and improved crop varieties, and improvement in irrigation farming techniques. Recommendations included establishing weather observation stations, training personnel in data monitoring and analysis, and providing farmers with timely climate information. Furthermore, the development of supplementary irrigation systems was suggested to mitigate the effects of intra-seasonal dry spells and ensure adequate water supply during critical crop growth stages.

Keywords: *Climate Change, Effects, Dry Season Farming, Upper Yedzaram Basin, Mubi North Local Government Adamawa State Nigeria.*

Administrative Ethics in Islam: A Panacea for Sustainable Development in Our Societies/Communities

Associate Prof. Ja'afar Agaji Abdullahi

Department of Islamic Studies

Federal University Gusau, Zamfara State-Nigeria.

Abstract

The concept of administration in Islam is quite different from that of the Western perception, this is because Islam as a complete way of life encompass all human endeavours and considers life as a constant struggle to overcome Satanic propensities running in human blood. Islam strictly expounds that an administrator should keep a strict watch over his thoughts and actions. It emphasizes inner purity of soul so as to provide social harmony in the society/community and engenders self-discipline. It is in line with the above that this paper examines the Islamic Leadership Ethics as it relates to the development of our societies/communities and Sustainable Development Goals in general. The paper recommends among other things that it is only when Islamic administrative ethics are applied then we can ever attain sustainable development in out societies/communities world-wide.

Keywords: *Islam, Administration, Ethics, Sustainable-Development, Society*

Impact of Agricultural Export Diversification on Economic Growth in Nigeria

¹Udenta Blessing Nancy, ²Anuli Regina Ogbuagu, ³Irene Ukamaka Nwiboko & ⁴Emeka Atuma

^{1,2&3}*Department of Economics and Development Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State, Nigeria*

⁴*Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Ebonyi State University Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, Nigeria*

Abstract

This paper examined the impact of agricultural exports diversification on the economic growth of Nigeria. Secondary data from the World Bank Development Indicators (WDI) and FAOSTAT (for agricultural export data) were collected for a period of thirty-three years, 1990 to 2023. The objectives of this study are to evaluate the impact of palm product exports, nut exports and cocoa exports on economic growth in Nigeria. Ex-post facto research design was utilized and data collected were analyzed using the autoregressive distributed lag model (ARDL). The findings revealed that palm product exports (PPE), nut exports (GACE) and Trade openness (TOP) have positive and significant effect on economic growth in Nigeria both in the long run and the short run. However, cocoa exports (CE) have a positive and insignificant impact on economic growth in Nigeria as at the time of the study. Exchange rate (EXR) has negative and significance impact on economic growth in Nigeria both in the long run and the short run. Based on the findings, the study recommends that Nigerian government should invest in agro-processing zones, support smallholder farmers with modern equipment, credit, logistics and link producers of these agricultural products to viable markets and processing industries, so as to enable them have good returns on their investments, which will as well result to economic growth and development of the country.

Keywords: *Agricultural Export, Diversification, Economic Growth, Nigeria*

African Free Trade Zone and Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities

¹Adamu Jibir, PhD & ²Musa Abdu, PhD

^{1&2}Department of Economics, Gombe State University – Nigeria

Abstract

The relevance of free trade in sustainable development has been well established in the development literature. Realization of this fact gave birth to several initiatives aimed at ensuring free flow of goods and services. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) represents a historic and transformative initiative aimed at fostering economic integration and trade across African countries. However, much of the discourse emphasized efforts at continental level, neglecting specific challenges and opportunities of national governments, which are fundamental pillars in the attainment of free trade and sustainable development. To address this lacuna, the paper explores the intersection of free trade and sustainable development within the context of Africa, with emphasis on case studies of national governments. Specifically, the paper identifies and assesses the challenges and opportunities that abound in African Free Trade and sustainable development. The paper also analyzes the current state of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and its implications on social, economic and political landscape of the continent and to conduct case studies and comparative analyses of some selected countries to provide practical insights on successes and challenges. The paper unveiled a notable surge in intra-regional trade within the African continent after the AfCFTA's implementation, suggesting improved economic integration and free movement of goods and services – paving way for technology transfer, knowledge sharing, job creation, innovation and industrial development in key sectors. These gains appeared to have benefited some countries in different ways especially countries where industrial parks and clusters were established. These findings underscored the potential of the free trade zone to drive sustainable economic growth in Africa. The paper pinpointed specific challenges to trade, including complex customs procedures and regulatory inconsistencies, hindering the smooth operation of the AfCFTA in Africa. While at national levels like Nigeria – issues such as poor infrastructure, weak political will and insecurity continue to bedevil activities of industries despite several efforts by the government. These challenges highlight the complexity of the AfCFTA's objectives and the need for comprehensive policies and strategies to overcome them and fully realize the trade zone's potential for sustainable development in Africa.

Keywords: *Trade, Free Trade Zone, Sustainable Development, Africa*

African Indigenous Knowledge of Healing: Lack of Openness as a Factor in the Transfer of Knowledge

Ighodalo Joseph Ejemheare, PhD

Centre for General Studies,

Federal Polytechnic Ekowe, Bayelsa State

Abstract

Africa was marked by sophisticated knowledge across different African civilizations before European penetration. In medicine, metallurgy, architecture, textiles, and tools, Africans used their local knowledge and technology to meet their local needs. One of the area African people have demonstrated high ingenuity is in the field of medicine. Various health challenges, including those affecting the eyes, stomach, skin, and bones, as well as spiritual challenges, were addressed using the African traditional method of healing. It cannot be denied that scholars have interrogated the challenge of the lack of openness in African indigenous knowledge. The fact that Africa's traditional healing practices remain shrouded in secrecy calls for a re-examination of openness. On this note, the paper examines the lack of openness as a factor in the transfer of African indigenous knowledge of healing. The paper argues that because Africans with the knowledge want to enjoy a monopoly, the process of preparing it is shrouded in secrecy. The result is that when the person dies, the knowledge dies with the person. Using a qualitative research method, the paper recommends openness in African indigenous knowledge of healing if it is to be transferred to the next generation.

Keywords: *African Indigenous Knowledge, Healing, Lack of Openness, Factor in the Transfer, Knowledge*

Financial Development, Inclusion and Informal Sector Growth in Nigeria: Socioeconomic Drivers and Developmental Outcomes

¹Anuli Regina Ogbuagu, ²Precious Ifeanyi Ohalet, ³Chibuikem Dibor-Alfred, & ⁴Blessing Nancy Udent

^{1,2&4}*Department of Economics and Development Studies, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State, Nigeria*

³*Department of Economics, Near East University, Nicosia, Cyprus*

Abstract

Nigeria's informal sector accounts for a large share of output and employment, yet remains constrained by financial exclusion, weak institutions, and labour market frictions. This study examines how financial development and financial inclusion affect informal sector growth in Nigeria, and how governance quality and unemployment condition these relationships. Using annual time-series data and the Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) bounds-testing approach, informal sector activity is proxied by informal sector GDP, while rural commercial bank deposit ratio (LCBDR), stock market capitalisation (LSMC), political stability/governance index (LPOL2), and unemployment rate (LUNEMP) capture financial inclusion, financial development, institutional quality, and labour market conditions, respectively. Unit root tests indicate a mix of I(0) and I(1) variables, and the ARDL bounds F-statistic ($F = 10.46$) confirms long-run cointegration. Short-run and long-run estimates show that rural financial inclusion significantly reduces informality: a 1% increase in LCBDR lowers informal sector output by about 0.02% in the long run (coefficient = -0.0198 ; $p < 0.05$). Governance quality raises informal sector activity (coefficient = 0.282 ; $p < 0.01$), while unemployment strongly expands informality in the long run (coefficient = 0.395 ; $p < 0.01$), consistent with the informal sector's role as residual labour absorber. Stock market development has no significant long-run effect. The error-correction term ($ECM = -0.854$; $p < 0.01$) indicates rapid adjustment, with over 85% of deviations from equilibrium corrected annually. Diagnostic tests confirm normality, absence of serial correlation and homoscedasticity, while CUSUMSQ results support parameter stability. The findings highlight the need for deeper grassroots financial inclusion, employment-centred growth, and institutional reforms that lower formalization barriers to harness the informal sector for inclusive development.

Keywords: *Financial Inclusion; Financial Development; Informal Sector; Governance; Nigeria*

Language Policy and the Status of Hausa in Multilingual African Education Systems

Danat Blessing Bitrus PhD

*Department of Hausa,
College of Education, Gindiri*

Abstract

Language policy significantly influences the status and sustainability of indigenous languages in African education systems. Hausa, widely spoken across West and Central Africa, is often marginalized in formal education due to policies favoring English. This study examines the role of language policy in shaping Hausa's status, explores challenges to its inclusion in multilingual education systems, and proposes strategies for strengthening its sustainability. Using qualitative analysis of policy documents, literature review, and case studies in Northern Nigerian schools, the study identifies gaps between policy and practice, resource limitations, and teacher preparedness as major barriers. Findings highlight the need for coherent policy implementation, curriculum development, teacher training, and digital integration to promote Hausa literacy and cultural identity. The study contributes to discussions on multilingual education, linguistic justice, and indigenous language preservation in African education systems.

Keywords: *Hausa; Indigenous language; Language policy; Literacy; Multilingual education*

Cultural Renaissance and African Identity: Reclaiming Heritage, Reshaping Futures for the Africa We Want

Bentu Inusa

*School of Language, College of Education, Gindiri
Plateau State, Nigeria*

Abstract

The African Union's Agenda 2063 envisions "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena." Central to this vision is Aspiration 5: "An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics." This paper examines the concept of cultural renaissance as a foundational pillar for the Africa we want, arguing that sustainable development, political liberation, and economic transformation remain incomplete without corresponding cultural reclamation and identity affirmation. Drawing on continental frameworks including Agenda 2063, the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, and the Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries, this paper explores the historical context of cultural disruption, the contemporary resurgence of African cultural expression, and the challenges and opportunities for embedding cultural identity in Africa's development trajectory. Through analysis of policy documents and case studies from the Return of Cultural Heritage project, the FESPACO film festival, and contemporary African fashion and music movements, the paper identifies strategies for harnessing culture as a driver of economic development, social cohesion, and continental integration. The paper concludes with recommendations for policymakers, cultural practitioners, educators, and development partners seeking to advance the cultural renaissance agenda for Africa's transformative future.

Keywords: *Cultural renaissance, African identity, Agenda 2063, cultural heritage, decolonisation, creative industries, pan-Africanism, cultural policy*

Chemical Synthesis of Nickel Ferrite Nanoparticles with Potential Catalytic Reduction and Oxidation Studies

¹Zaccheus Shehu, ²Wilson Lamayi Danbature & ³Danladi Cornelius

^{1,2,3}Department of Chemical Sciences,
Gombe State University, Nigeria

Abstract

In this work, NiFe_2O_4 was synthesized using co-precipitation method and characterized using UV/visible spectrophotometer, FTIR, SEM and XRD analysis. The UV/visible spectrophotometer result shows the highest peaks at 400 nm. FTIR shows the presence of aromatic hydrocarbon, alcohol, phenols and alkyl halides, SEM shows mono dispersed spherical and partially dispersed spherical morphology while XRD shows Face Centered Cubic (FCC) structure. The catalytic reduction and oxidation studies were investigated on the synthesized nickel nanoparticle catalyst. From the investigations, the experimental parameters at optimum conditions of pH (2), contact time (120 min), temperature (120°C) and catalyst dose (0.4g) for potential effect on the efficiency of Congo red dye adsorption was found to be 93.81%. The kinetic studies conducted shows that the adsorption process of NiFe_2O_4 followed pseudo first order model. The oxidation studies conducted on H_2O_2 in which the evolution of oxygen gas was monitored at different time intervals shows that as the time increases the volume of oxygen gas collected increases rapidly with the increase in rate. It could be concluded that the synthesized NiFe_2O_4 is a good adsorbent and catalyst for the decomposition of H_2O_2 .

Keywords: Adsorption, Congo red, Hydrogen peroxide, Kinetics, Oxidation

Facile Organic Synthesis of Monometallic Silver, Iron and Bimetallic Silver/Iron Nanoparticles, Using *Ficus Congensis* (Stem Bark), Characterization, Cytotoxicity and Antimicrobial Studies

¹Patrick Ayim, ²Harami. M. Adamu, ³Usman F. Hassan, ⁴Doris Ezekiel A. Boryo & ⁵Theresa. P Ayim

¹Department of Chemical Sciences, Faculty of Science; ²Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, Gombe State University, Gombe, Gombe State, Nigeria.

^{2,3&4}Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi, Bauchi State, NG.

Abstract

Facile organic synthesis of monometallic silver, iron and bimetallic silver/ iron nanoparticles were synthesized using *Ficus congensis* and characterized. The Fourier Transmission Infrared (FTIR) spectra revealed the presence of various secondary metabolite absorbed at different frequencies responsible for the bioactivity of the plant. The FT-IR spectrum for crude methanolic stem bark extract of *Ficus congensis* revealed absorption bands around 3300.00 cm⁻¹ which indicates the presence of OH stretching, absorption peak at 2942.52 cm⁻¹ shows the presence of C-H bonds due to CH₃ stretching, the absorption peak at 2830.60 cm⁻¹ indicates the presence H-C=O stretching due aldehydes while the absorption peak at 1447.26 cm⁻¹ assigned to CH₂ bending with low intensity. FT-IR of synthesized silver nanoparticles using *Ficus congensis* revealed values at different absorption frequencies. The peaks of absorption at 3322 cm⁻¹ corresponds to O-H stretching due to carboxylic group, peaks at 1605 cm⁻¹. 1518 cm⁻¹ indicates the presence of C=C stretching due to aromatics ring stretch and 1440 cm⁻¹ band which corresponds (CH₂) bending, the absorption band around 1282 cm⁻¹ and 1108 cm⁻¹, corresponds to C-O stretching vibrations. Also, Iron nanoparticles functionalized with *Ficus congensis* found absorption peaks recorded are 3255 cm⁻¹, 1612 cm⁻¹, 1443 cm⁻¹, 1263 cm⁻¹, and 1104 cm⁻¹. The peaks of absorption presented at 3255 cm⁻¹ corresponds to O-H stretching due to phenol or alcohol group, peaks at 1612 cm⁻¹, indicates C=C stretching due to alkene, peak at 1443 cm⁻¹ corresponds to CH₃ due to methyl, while peaks at 1263 cm⁻¹, and 1104 cm⁻¹, corresponds to C-O stretching vibrations. For synthesized Silver-Iron bimetallic nanoparticles using *Ficus congensis* The most prominent absorption peaks recorded were 3331 cm⁻¹ which corresponds to O-H stretching due to phenol or alcohol group, peaks at 1613 cm⁻¹, indicates C=C stretching due to alkene conjugated, absorption peak at 997 cm⁻¹ corresponds to benzonyl C-H, the peaks at and 963 cm⁻¹ indicated the presence of aromatic C-H. Energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy- scanning electron microscopy (EDX-SEM) also confirmed the surface morphologies of the synthesized nanoparticles with their respective elemental percent abundance. For silver nanoparticles (AgNPS), scanning electron microscopy (SEM) imaging found a partially spherical distributed AgNPs which are irregular in shape with some degrees of aggregation. Its X-ray diffraction (XRD) peak pattern revealed the diffraction peaks at (111), (200), (220), (311), and (222) lattice planes which corresponds to 2θ = 38.262°, 44.473°, 64.713°, 77.741°, and 81.910° respectively. And has a crystal particles size of 13.94 nm. On the same premise, iron nanoparticles (FeNPS) SEM image depict a cluster or an agglomerated particles irregular, spherically distribution in shape with some degrees of aggregation. The X-ray diffraction (XRD) peak pattern showed diffraction peaks of (111), (200), and (220) lattice planes were observed at 2θ = 45.78°, 53.379°, and 78.870°. With a crystal particles size of 19.16 nm. And then for silver-iron nanoparticles (Ag-FeNPS) bimetallic nanoparticles, its SEM image revealed a partially spherical in shape with some form of intercalation. The XRD peaks pattern of the biosynthesized Ag-FeNPS revealed the diffraction peaks of the (111), (220), (311), (222), (320), (400), (410), (422), (333), (440), (530), (540), (533) and (551) lattice planes observed at 2θ = 18.239°, 30.065°, 35.165°, 36.650°, 38.101°, 42.824°, 44.370°, 53.547°, 56.783°, 62.260°, 64.678°, 71.403°, 73.997°, and 81.506° respectively. The result suggests a crystal system to be cubic structure, with a crystal particles size of 30.49 nm. The bio synthesized nanoparticles were subjected to antimicrobial studies using few bacteria isolates; *Proteus vulgaris*, *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and fungi (*Candida auris*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Candida albicans*). The research revealed some zones of inhibition and potency of the synthesized nanoparticles more on the fungi than the corresponding bacteria isolates. The cytotoxicity assay for AgNPS, FeNPS and Ag-FeNPS found the nanoparticles to be cytotoxic since the LC50 are less than 1000 µg/mL (< 1000 µg/mL). Hence, it suggests that the biosynthesized nanoparticles may likely be good candidates for anticancer drugs.

Keywords: Facile organic, Synthesis, Nanoparticles, Antimicrobial, Cytotoxicity assay, Monometallic, Bimetallic, *Ficus congensis*

Synergistic Effect of Hydrogen Bonding and Dynamic Covalent Chemistry in Lignin and Chitosan Reinforced Self-Healing Polyurethane Foam

¹Rifkatu Kambel Dogara, ²Wilson Lamayi Danbature, ³Michael Emmanuel,
⁴Shehu Zaccheus & ⁵Zainab Hamma

^{1,2,3&4} *Department of Chemistry, Gombe State University, Nigeria*

⁵ *Science Laboratory Department, Gombe State University, Nigeria*

Abstract

Polymer design with special ability to restore or regenerate after damage has now attracted attention in recent years with great emphasis toward sustainability and minimal to zero environmental impact. The self-healing polyurethane was synthesized by incorporation of lignin-chitosan as the source of dynamic covalent bond. The process began with depolymerized of lignin into phenol and aldehyde through a microwave assisted acidolysis. Hydrogen bond and dynamic covalent bond were created via Schiff base reaction. The Synergistic effect were studied through FTIR, SEM, DSC. The FTIR confirm the disappearance of the of N-C-O bond at 2273.68 cm^{-1} and appearance of new bond at 1653.08 cm^{-1} , the morphology showed a noticeable rough surface due to increase in hydrogen and the DSC gave base line Tg shift below $200\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ indicating the $(-C=N-)$ high bonding ability and a hydrogen bonding. The polyurethane gave an excellent mechanical property with tensile strength of 10.5 MPa and 376% elongation at break. The self-healing property was improved when heated to $70\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. It gave an excellent structural relationship proven that hydrogen bonding and dynamic covalent chemistry established by lignin and chitosan improved the self-healing property and also open a direct interest for development of antimicrobial self-healing polyurethane coatings.

Keywords: *Synergistic, Hydrogen bond, Dynamic Covalent, Lignin, Chitosan, Self-Healing and Polyurethane Foam*

Legitimacy, Duties, State Negligence and the Need to Strengthen Governance Against Insecurity and Resource Control Challenges in Northeast Nigeria

¹Abang, Titus Tawo, ²Moko, Finian Igbede, & ³Agube Ntami Emmanuel

¹Department of Political Science, University of Calabar, Nigeria.

²Department of Philosophy and Leadership Studies, University of Calabar, Nigeria.

³Faculty of Law, University of Calabar, Nigeria.

Abstract

The performance of state duties in Northeast Nigeria remains a critical measure of the legitimacy, sovereignty, and authority of the Nigerian state. The persistence of insecurity, terrorism, farmer-herder conflicts, and resource governance challenges in the region has raised fundamental questions regarding the capacity of the state to fulfil its constitutional and moral obligations to protect citizens, maintain order, and promote justice. This study presents a philosophical analysis of state legitimacy, duties, and governance failure, examining how weaknesses in governance structures have contributed to prolonged insecurity and resource-related conflicts in Northeast Nigeria. It interrogates the extent to which the Nigerian state has fulfilled key responsibilities, including the duty of care, duty to protect, duty to provide security, and duty to ensure justice for victims of violence and displacement. Drawing from philosophy of law and political science, the study adopts a critical realist approach, emphasizing the relationship between theoretical claims of state authority and practical realities of governance. Through textual analysis of both library and non-library sources, the study argues that persistent insecurity and resource governance challenges are linked to institutional weaknesses, ineffective policy implementation, governance deficits, and inadequate commitment by political leadership. The study concludes that strengthening state legitimacy requires renewed attention to accountable governance, effective legal institutions, responsive security systems, and the protection of citizens' rights. Sustainable peace and development in Northeast Nigeria depend on the ability of the state to transform its authority from formal sovereignty into effective and responsible governance.

Keywords: *State Legitimacy, State Duties, Governance Failure, Political Authority, Insecurity, Resource Governance, Northeast Nigeria, Philosophy of Law, Strengthening Governance*

Trade-Led Structural Transformation Under AfCFTA: Pathways to Achieving Agenda 2063 in Africa

Sallau Audu Gebe

College of Education,

Gindiri, Plateau State, Nigeria

Abstract

Africa's long-term development vision under Agenda 2063 emphasizes economic transformation, trade expansion, and regional integration as key drivers of sustainable growth. The launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) provides a historic opportunity to strengthen intra-African trade, promote industrialization, and enhance regional value chains. Despite this potential, empirical evidence on the linkage between AfCFTA implementation and structural economic transformation remains limited. This study investigates how trade liberalization and regional integration can drive structural transformation across African economies between 2015 and 2025. Using a mixed-methods approach, secondary data from selected countries across major Regional Economic Communities are analyzed with panel regression techniques. The model examines the impact of intra-African trade, manufacturing value added, infrastructure, and institutional quality on GDP growth. Findings reveal that increased intra-African trade significantly promotes industrial growth and overall economic performance, especially in countries with robust infrastructure and strong institutions. Regional integration also mitigates vulnerability to external shocks and facilitates the development of regional value chains. The study concludes that trade-led structural transformation is a critical pathway toward realizing an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa as envisioned in Agenda 2063. Policy recommendations include accelerated domestication of AfCFTA protocols, coordinated industrial strategies, investment in cross-border infrastructure, digital trade facilitation, and institutional strengthening to maximize the benefits of regional integration.

Keywords: *Trade-led transformation; AfCFTA; regional integration; industrialization; Agenda 2063; policy pathways*

Digital Learning Adoption and Academic Performance in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions

Mary Mark Ogbeche

*Department of Education Management,
University of Calabar*

Abstract

The increasing integration of digital technologies into higher education has reshaped teaching and learning practices globally, yet empirical evidence on its academic impact in Nigerian tertiary institutions remains limited. Anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), this study empirically examines the relationship between digital learning adoption and academic performance in selected Nigerian tertiary institutions. Using a cross-sectional survey design, data were collected from undergraduate students and academic staff in federal and state-owned universities and polytechnics. Digital learning adoption was measured through access to digital infrastructure, frequency of learning management system usage, digital pedagogical practices, and students' digital competencies, while academic performance was assessed using self-reported cumulative grade point averages and perceived learning outcomes. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and multiple regression techniques. The findings indicate a statistically significant positive relationship between digital learning adoption and academic performance, with regular use of learning management systems and interactive digital tools emerging as significant predictors. However, inadequate internet connectivity, limited institutional support, and unequal access to digital resources constrain effective adoption. The study concludes that digital learning enhances academic performance when supported by enabling institutional and infrastructural conditions.

Keywords: *Digital learning, Academic performance, Tertiary institutions, Educational technology*

The Effects of Chloroform-Methanol Extract of Abrus Precatorius Bean Seed on Alloxan-Induced Diabetic Rabbits

Mohammed Zanna Malilima

Department of Biology, Umar Ibn Ibrahim Elkanemi College of Education Science and Technology P.M.B 16, Bama, Borno State.

Abstract

This study examined the antidiabetic potential of chloroform–methanol extract of *Abrus precatorius* bean seeds in alloxan-induced diabetic rabbits. Diabetes was experimentally induced using alloxan, after, the animals were divided into three groups: a treatment group administered chloroform–methanol extract of *Abrus precatorius* seed (50 mg/kg body weight), a reference group treated with glibenclamide (a standard sulfonylurea antidiabetic drug), and a control group given normal saline. Baseline blood glucose levels before alloxan administration were 127.80 ± 2.55 mg/100 ml, 114.36 ± 4.17 mg/100 ml, and 123.60 ± 1.47 mg/100 ml for the extract, glibenclamide, and control groups respectively. Following oral administration of treatments, blood glucose levels were monitored at 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 60, and 68 hours. Both the plant extract and glibenclamide produced significant reductions in blood glucose levels compared with the control group. Percentage reductions observed for glibenclamide were 13.8%, 32.3%, 60.3%, 53.5%, 46.8%, and 46.2%, while the chloroform–methanol extract produced reductions of 42.9%, 58.7%, 67.1%, 67.9%, 56.6%, and 51.8% during the experimental period. The highest reduction was recorded at 30 hours (69.1%) for the plant extract and at 20 hours (61.3%) for glibenclamide. The findings indicate that chloroform–methanol extract of *Abrus precatorius* seeds has antidiabetic activity comparable to glibenclamide, suggesting its potential therapeutic management of diabetes mellitus.

Keywords: *Abrus-precatorius, Alloxan, Antidiabetic, Chloroform–methanol extract, Glibenclamide, Rabbits.*

Strengthening National Integration Through Civic Education in Ethnically Diverse African Societies

Oyedokun Mary Ajibuwa

*Department of Social Studies, School of Arts and Social Sciences,
Federal College of Education (Technical), Omoku*

Abstract

Africa's rich ethnic diversity remains both a strength and a persistent challenge to national integration and sustainable development. Ethnic tensions, weak civic values, and limited citizen participation continue to undermine social cohesion, peace, and good governance in many African states. This paper examines the role of civic education as a strategic instrument for strengthening national integration in ethnically diverse African societies, in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063 for an integrated, peaceful, and prosperous Africa. Anchored on social learning and civic republican theories, the study adopts a qualitative approach, drawing on policy documents, curriculum analyses, and existing empirical studies across selected African countries. Findings reveal that well-structured civic education promotes shared national identity, democratic values, tolerance, and active citizenship by fostering respect for diversity, rule of law, and collective responsibility. However, the paper identifies persistent challenges, including ethnically biased narratives, weak curriculum implementation, inadequate teacher preparation, and limited youth engagement. The study argues that revitalizing civic education through African-centered content, participatory pedagogy, and digital civic learning can significantly enhance national integration. It further emphasizes the critical role of universities and teacher education institutions in bridging the gap between civic knowledge and democratic practice. The paper concludes by recommending policy reforms, curriculum redesign, and capacity-building initiatives aimed at repositioning civic education as a cornerstone for peacebuilding, social cohesion, and inclusive governance in Africa. By strengthening civic education, African societies can harness their ethnic diversity as a resource for unity and sustainable development.

Keywords: *Civic Education; National Integration; Ethnic Diversity; Social Cohesion; Peacebuilding; Good Governance; Agenda 2063*

Optimizing Supply Chain Networks for Sustainable Development in West Africa: An Operations Research Approach to Achieving Agenda 2063

Musa, Yakubu Yeldu

Department of Statistics,

Waziri Umaru Federal Polytechnic, Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State, Nigeria

Abstract

West Africa's sustainable development depends critically on efficient supply chain networks that can support economic transformation, regional integration, and improved quality of life. This paper examines the application of operations research (OR) methodologies to optimize supply chain networks across West Africa, particularly in the context of achieving Agenda 2063 objectives and ECOWAS regional integration. Using a mixed-integer linear programming (MILP) model, the paper analyzes supply chain optimization challenges in the West African corridor, focusing on transportation network design, inventory management and facility location problems across Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. The study reviews current literature on OR applications in African logistics, identifies key bottlenecks including port congestion, inadequate road infrastructure and cross-border delays and proposes a comprehensive optimization framework. The methodology integrates mathematical modeling, simulation techniques and data analytics to address multi-objective optimization problems balancing cost minimization, service level maximization and environmental sustainability. Using sample data from the West African trade corridor, the paper demonstrates that strategic application of OR techniques can reduce logistics costs by 22-35%, improve delivery reliability by 31%, and reduce carbon emissions by 19%. The findings validate that West Africa's unique challenges including the Lagos-Abidjan corridor congestion and port inefficiencies can be effectively addressed through systematic optimization. It is concluded that investing in OR capabilities, digital infrastructure and collaborative platforms is essential for achieving sustainable supply chain networks that advance West Africa's development agenda.

Keywords: *Operations Research, Supply Chain Optimization, West Africa, ECOWAS, Agenda 2063, Mathematical Modeling, Regional Integration*

Green Growth and Environmental Justice: Addressing Environmental Victimization in Imo State, Nigeria

¹Ogechi Judith Ofoegbu, ²Prof. Ogadimma Chukwubueze Arisukwu, ³Chinedu Chimamkpa Ajokubi & ⁴Dr. Kelechi Cynthia Madu

^{1,2,3&4}*Department of Criminology and Security Studies,
University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Umuagwo.*

Abstract

Environmental degradation in developing economies is often a reflection of deeper structural inequalities which have disproportionately exposed vulnerable communities to environmental harm thereby leading to widespread environmental victimization. Like most states in Nigeria, Imo State is persistently challenged by environmental harm such as climate-induced flooding, indiscriminate waste disposal and deforestation, these challenges are further heightened by weak regulatory enforcement. The emergence of green growth has served as a strategic pathway for the achievement of economic development and social equity while keeping environmental degradation to the barest minimum. Drawing on the perspective of green criminology, this study examines the intersection of green growth and environmental justice in addressing environmental victimization in Imo State, Nigeria. The study interrogates how existing patterns of economic development and weak environmental governance contribute to environmental harms such as pollution, flooding, and poor waste management, which collectively constitute forms of environmental victimization. Using a mixed method, data was collected through a cross-sectional survey of affected households with key informant interviews across selected communities in Imo State, complemented by policy and documentary analysis. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, while qualitative data was subjected to thematic analysis. Findings indicate that socio-economically marginalized communities bear the greatest burden of environmental risks. The study further reveals limited integration of green growth principles into local development planning, thus constrains their potential to deliver environmental justice outcomes. Evidence argues that inclusive green growth strategies such as environmentally responsible economic practices, sustainable waste management, climate-resilient infrastructure, community participation and inclusive governance, can significantly reduce environmental harm. The paper argues that green growth, when informed by green criminological insights, offers a viable pathway for preventing environmental victimization and advancing sustainable and equitable development in Imo State.

Keywords: *Green Criminology, Green Growth, Environmental Justice, Environmental Victimization*

Impacts of Population Growth and Economic Activities on Environmental Degradation in Selected Sub-Saharan Africa

¹Shehu Garba Saleh, ²Dr. Mustapha Yusuf Kabara & ³Dr. Dankumo Ali Madina
^{1,2&3}Federal University of Kashere,
Gombe State, Nigeria

Abstract

Population explosion can be seen as a threat to environmental sustainability due to its effects on forest resources particularly trees. On the other hand, the increase in economic activities might be due to growth in population that might in turn to hike in demand for forest species. This study aimed to find the impact of population growth and economic activities on environmental deforestation in twenty five selected sub-Saharan African countries, using annual data covering 2001 to 2023. The panel was analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics-correlation matrix analysis, random effect model as guided by Hausman Specication test. The findings of the study revealed that, population growth has negative and significant impacts on deforestation. A 1% increase in population growth leads to 600% decrease in forest area which implied deforestation. The coefficient of economic activities (proxied by GDP), suggested negative and significant effect on forest area which indicates a decrease in economic activities lead to increase in forest area. The coefficient of renewable energy consumption has been positive and significant to forest area which indicated an increase in renewables energy consumption would not lead to deforestation in SSA. Lastly, the coefficient of rule of law was negative and significant on forest area which indicated that, an increase in adherence to rule of law by SSA countries did not reduce the rate of deforestation. It is recommended that, government should take measures to stabilize the growth in population in such a way that population would not cause harm to the environmental resources. Government should also revisit how institutional/ governance indicators worked or regarded in SSA, so that their effect would reflect in maintaining the environment.

Keywords: *Population, Deforestation, Environmental Degradation, Rule of Law*

Integrating Cultural and Religious Contexts into Child Mortality Surveillance: Evidence from Champs-Atbu Bauchi, Northern Nigeria

¹Jamilu Y., ²Magaji D., ³Sani B., ⁴Tabitha N., ⁵Amina A., ⁶Aisha M. Z.,
⁷Idris M.B., ⁸Abubakar U., ⁹Ahmad M.S., ¹⁰Abubakar M.S., ¹¹Lamaram D.M. &
¹²Muhammad B. F.
CHAMPS-ATBU

Abstract

Background: Nigeria experiences one of the highest under-five mortality rates globally (105 deaths per 1,000 live births), yet precise causes of child deaths remain poorly understood. The Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) program utilizes Minimally Invasive Tissue Sampling (MITS) to identify definitive causes of death. However, successful implementation in northern Nigeria requires careful integration cultural and religious frameworks that govern death rituals and burial practices. Objective: To examine how the integration of cultural and religious contexts influences community acceptance and successful implementation of child mortality surveillance. Methods: A qualitative formative study was conducted in three Local Government Areas (Bauchi, Dass, and Ganjuwa), using ethnographic and phenomenological methods. Data collection involved 28 key informant interviews with traditional and religious leaders, policymakers, and health professionals, alongside 8 focus group discussions with community members. Thematic analysis was applied to identify key patterns, perceptions, and contextual insights relevant to the study. Results: Communities demonstrated strong acceptance of MITS when cultural and religious practices are appropriately integrated into implementation. Key facilitators included compatibility with Islamic and Christian burial timelines, engagement of influential religious leaders, respect for cultural rituals and gender sensitivities, and the widely held belief that while death is predestined, its causes can be explored. Effective implementation was further supported by early family involvement, close collaboration with religious and traditional authorities, use of gender-matched personnel, transparent communication, and strict adherence to burial protocols. These culturally sensitive strategies have been fully embedded into the project's operational approach and are delivering the expected outcomes. Conclusions: The study concludes that successful implementation of MITS and pregnancy surveillance in northern Nigeria hinge on genuine integration of cultural and religious contexts. It shows that beliefs in divine predestination do not conflict with scientific inquiry when communities are informed about the preventive value of such interventions. Key enablers include early community engagement, collaboration with religious and traditional leaders, transparent communication, and strict respect for burial customs. The findings demonstrate that scientific progress and cultural values can align through mutual respect. This has global relevance for implementing public health interventions in similar culturally sensitive contexts.

Keywords: *Child mortality surveillance, Minimally invasive tissue sampling, MITS, Cultural and religious practices.*

Governance, Security, And Peace: Leveraging Universities and Regional Partnerships for Development

¹Kwaba Onyinyechi Vivian & ²Ogechi Oforegbu Judith

^{1&2}*Department of Criminology and Security Studies, University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (UAES), Umuagwo, Ohaji, Imo State, Nigeria*

Abstract

Peace, security, and good governance are fundamental pillars for sustainable development and democratic stability in contemporary societies. Persistent conflicts, violent extremism, and governance deficits continue to undermine social cohesion, economic progress, and institutional effectiveness, particularly in developing and fragile states. This article examines the interconnected role of peace, security, and good governance through three key perspectives: addressing conflicts, extremism, and governance deficits; the contribution of universities and civic engagement to policy and democracy; and the importance of regional cooperation for peace and development. Drawing on a conceptual and analytical review of existing literature and policy frameworks, the study highlights how inclusive governance, strong institutions, and respect for the rule of law are central to conflict prevention and long term stability. The article further emphasizes the strategic role of universities in promoting democratic values, evidence-based policymaking, and active civic participation through education, research, and community engagement. Additionally, it underscores the significance of regional cooperation in managing transnational security threats, fostering economic integration, and reinforcing shared norms of good governance. The article concludes that sustainable peace and development are best achieved through integrated approaches that strengthen governance structures, empower educational institutions, and promote regional collaboration, thereby enhancing resilience and collective prosperity.

Keywords: *Peace, Security, Good Governance, Extremism, Regional Partnership, Democracy, Sustainable Development*

Multicultural Education: A Tool for Combating Insecurity in Plateau State, Nigeria

Mashingil Malo Mafwal

*Department of English,
College of Education, Gindiri, Plateau State, Nigeria*

Abstract

This paper investigates how multicultural education can help reduce and or combat insecurity in Plateau State, Nigeria. Through the concepts of multicultural and critical multicultural education, education aids in the reduction of insecurity. Plateau State insecurity may be significantly reduced if multicultural and critical multicultural education were taught in schools. All students should receive this kind of education in order to instil in them the multicultural understanding necessary to coexist peacefully and make meaningful contributions to society. This study critically assesses their contribution to reducing insecurity in Plateau by drawing on pertinent research findings and theoretical frameworks. The study begins by reviewing pertinent research on multicultural and critical multicultural education. The second section of the articles looks at the multicultural and critical multicultural perspectives on curricula in education as a way to reduce insecurity. Finally, the study looks at how citizenship education, which is a component of critical intercultural education, might help reduce insecurity in Plateau State, Nigeria.

Keywords: *Conflict resolution; Cultural diversity; Critical-multicultural education; Citizenship; Peacebuilding.*

Discrimination by Language in a Multicultural Society

Jonathan Ladi Mashi

Department of Hausa,

College of Education, Gindiri

Abstract

In a multicultural culture, language serves as both an identifying characteristic and a discriminatory element. To demonstrate that fact, a wealth of research on the topic combined with firsthand observation and firsthand experience produced information that is here explained in the context of constructivism theory. Language is a vital instrument for communication amongst people wherever on the face of the globe. In a society where people speak several different languages, language becomes a crucial factor in identifying its members. A person's speech pattern can reveal a lot about their origins, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, and other characteristics. In such a community, numerous languages coexist, yet there is frequently a dominant language that everyone speaks or should speak. This essay maintains that those who are unable to speak that language or who speak it differently, such as by accentuating words or changing their intonation, are the ones who run the danger of experiencing linguistic discrimination, or glottophobia. The suggestion backs strategies for managing or treating glottophobia in a multicultural setting. We concluded that language discrimination is nothing more than a death sentence, despite the fact it is a legitimate wish for everyone to have their language spoken correctly, even by complete strangers.

Keywords: *Language bias; Language diversity; Linguistic identity; Language policy; Social exclusion*

The Advantages and Difficulties of Multicultural Education in Fostering Equality in a Variety of Classroom Settings in Government Secondary Schools of Plateau State, Nigeria: A Case Study of Mangu Local Government

Amos Meshach

Department of English,

College of Education, Gindiri, Plateau State, Nigeria

Abstract

More and more, multicultural education is necessary to ensure equity in classrooms. This study looks at the benefits and drawbacks of intercultural education from the viewpoints of educators and learners. Simple random sampling was employed in this study to select 200 participants from Government Secondary Schools in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State. Students that receive multicultural education are more respectful, empathetic, and knowledgeable of other cultures, which can increase diversity. In the classroom, multicultural education enhances brainstorming, problem-solving, and critical thinking. With the help of multicultural education, educators and students were able to challenge preconceived notions and get a new perspective on the world while and also understanding and appreciating many cultures, languages, and faiths. In diverse classrooms, multicultural education also promotes bonding. Inclusion in the classroom and students' relationships were enhanced via multicultural education. The study also discovered that educators lack the tools necessary to successfully include multicultural education and feel unprepared to teach in diverse classrooms. Students also claim that access to knowledge was flooded with multicultural education. Additionally, because intercultural education addresses delicate subjects like culture and identity, some people think it is pointless and unsettling. The advantages and disadvantages of intercultural education in fostering equality in varied classrooms are shown by this study. In addition, teachers require additional support and training in order to implement multicultural education in the classroom and provide students with relevant resources and guidance. It is recommended encouraging and stressing the use of a variety of teaching techniques in the classroom despite these drawbacks.

Keywords: *Equity pedagogy; Multicultural education; Multiethnic education; Nigeria, Prejudice reduction*

Gender Norms and Modern Healthcare Utilization Among Rural Women in Gombe State

Mohammed Ahmad

*Department of Sociology,
Gombe State University, Gombe, Gombe State*

Abstract

Gender norms play a crucial role in shaping women's health-seeking behavior, especially in rural areas where sociocultural expectations often dictate access to and usage of healthcare services. This study explores the connection between gender norms and the utilization of modern healthcare among rural women in Gombe State, Nigeria. The objective is to evaluate how factors like decision-making power, spousal support, mobility limitations, and gendered views of illness influence women's use of modern healthcare services such as antenatal care, skilled delivery, postnatal care, and primary healthcare facilities. A mixed-methods cross-sectional approach was utilized, incorporating a structured household survey along with focus group discussions and in-depth interviews. Quantitative data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics meanwhile, qualitative data was used to support the quantitative data in the analysis to offer contextual insights into the experiences of women. The study revealed that restrictive gender norms particularly limited autonomy in household decision-making and reliance on male approval pose significant obstacles to timely and adequate access to modern healthcare services. The findings aim to enhance understanding of the sociocultural factors affecting women's health in rural northern Nigeria and provide evidence that can inform gender-sensitive health policies and community-based interventions. By emphasizing the impact of gender norms, the study aims to promote strategies that enhance women's autonomy and improve equitable access to modern healthcare services in Gombe State.

Keywords: *Gender Norms, Modern Healthcare Utilization, Rural Women*

Multiculturalism and the Drive to Learn Foreign Languages

Fwangpup Nentok Monday

Department of Hausa,

College of Education, Gindiri, Plateau State, Nigeria

Abstract

The essential component of all educational endeavours, including learning a foreign language, is motivation. Strong tools are needed to establish and sustain motivation in learners, as there are many distractions that might have a detrimental impact on their motivation. Coexisting in the same environment with different cultures is known as multiculturalism. Because they feel a sense of ownership over the relevant culture, people are generally naturally interested in things linked to their cultures. Due to the genuine, eye-catching, and colourful nature of cultural objects and instruments, this article explores the positive relationship between multiculturalism and motivation. Therefore, it is recommended to use cultural differences or similarities to boost learners' motivation in a citadel of learning.

Keywords: *Multiculturalism; Extrinsic motivation; Foreign language learning; Intrinsic motivation; Motivation.*

Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Democratic Governance in Bama Local Government Area of Borno State (2020–2026)

Mustapha Goni

Lecturer, Department of Public Administration

Kashim Ibrahim University, Maiduguri, Borno State. Nigeria

Abstract

This study examines the impact of post-conflict reconstruction on democratic governance in Bama Local Government Area of Borno State, Nigeria between 2020 and 2026. Following prolonged insurgency, Bama experienced extensive infrastructural destruction, institutional collapse, weakened public service delivery, and erosion of public trust. Post-conflict reconstruction initiatives including infrastructure restoration, institutional rebuilding, public service recovery, and security stabilization are designed to restore governance capacity and strengthen democratic processes at the local level. Adopting a quantitative research design, the study proposes to collect primary data through structured questionnaires administered to residents of Bama LGA. The data will be analyzed using multiple linear regression to examine the relationship between key reconstruction dimensions (independent variables) and democratic governance outcomes (dependent variable), measured through indicators such as governance effectiveness, public trust, accountability, and citizen participation. It is hypothesized that infrastructure restoration and institutional rebuilding will significantly predict improvements in democratic governance. The study seeks to generate empirical evidence on the governance dividends of post-conflict reconstruction and contribute to policy debates on democratic consolidation in post-insurgency settings. The findings are expected to provide policy-relevant insights for sustainable recovery and resilience-building in conflict-affected regions.

Keywords: *Post-conflict reconstruction; Democratic governance; Bama Local Government Area; Multiple linear regression; Governance effectiveness*

Delay in Trial and Overcrowding of Inmates in Nigerian Correctional Institutions: A Study of Bauchi Correctional Centre, Bauchi State, Nigeria

Magaji Dafi, PhD

*Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic,
Bauchi, Bauchi State, Nigeria*

Abstract

The essence of incarceration is for correctional purposes; however, the ineffectiveness of the Nigerian Criminal Justice System (NCJS) has denied most inmates the privilege of enjoying these correctional privileges. This study examines the delay in trials and overcrowding of inmates in Nigerian correctional institutions. A study of Bauchi Correctional Centre, Bauchi State. The main objective of this study is to examine the delay in trials and overcrowding of inmates in Nigerian Correctional Institutions with reference to the Bauchi State Correctional Centre. Four research questions were formulated to guide the study. This study adopted a descriptive research design. A-25-item questionnaire was designed and used for gathering data for the study. The institutional scope of this study is the Bauchi Correctional Centre, while the geographical scope is Bauchi State, Nigeria. Data was generated from two hundred and forty-nine (249) respondents, consisting of inmates and officers. The respondents were randomly selected. The data generated from this study was analyzed using Simple percentage. The findings indicated that delays in trials of cases lead to the large number of persons awaiting trial in Custodial Centers, continual transfer of investigating officers during trials, and inadequacy of the courts and personnel amount to overcrowding of inmates in Bauchi Correctional Centre, Bauchi State. The study recommended that comprehensive national strategies be developed that are evidence-based, respond to local circumstances and needs, and foresee an alternative response to crime, with imprisonment being seen as a measure of last resort, in accordance with international standards. Access to education, fair and supportive social policies, strategies to increase employment, crime prevention measures, and support to vulnerable groups in the community are typically elements of such strategies, developed jointly by all the relevant ministries, other key state agencies, and civil society groups, and most especially, non-custodian services to decongest the custodial center.

Keywords: *Trail, Overcrowding, Inmate, Incarceration, Correctional Centre.*

Universities' Role in Bridging the Research–Policy Gap: The Case of University of Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria

Dr. Egong Mathew Mike
*Sociology Department,
University of Calabar*

Abstract

The persistent disconnect between academic research and public policy continues to undermine development outcomes in Nigeria. Despite the increasing volume of research outputs from universities, their translation into policy remains limited, thereby constraining evidence-based governance. This paper critically examines the role of universities in bridging the research–policy gap, with specific reference to the University of Calabar. Drawing on recent scholarly literature and contextual analysis, the study identifies structural, institutional, and epistemological barriers that hinder research uptake in policymaking. It further advances the argument that Nigerian universities must evolve from passive knowledge producers into active policy actors through institutionalized engagement mechanisms. Anchored on Knowledge Utilization Theory and the Triple Helix Model, the paper demonstrates that weak collaboration, limited knowledge translation, and inadequate incentives for policy-relevant research constrain the research–policy interface. The study concludes by proposing actionable strategies to enhance the role of universities in promoting evidence-based policymaking in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Universities' Role, Bridging Gap and Research–Policy*

Assessment of French Reading Interest Among Senior Secondary School Students in Federal Government Colleges in North Central Zone in Nigeria

Dalyop, Retogwi Diana

Department of English,

College of Education, Gindiri, Plateau State, Nigeria

Abstract

The study assessed French reading interest among Senior Secondary School students in Federal Government Colleges. The study specifically looked at how often and when senior secondary school students in Federal Government Colleges, North Central Nigeria read, how much they read, how teachers' attitudes affect their reading habits and/or interest, and how to increase students' reading interest. The research was directed by four objectives and four research questions. In this study, a survey-style descriptive research design was used. All senior secondary school students at Federal Government Colleges in North Central Nigeria made up the study's population. The Reading Interest Questionnaire (RIQ), a self-structured questionnaire, was used to collect pertinent data for the study; also, Questionnaire on Students' Interest to French Reading Environment (QSIFRE) based observation checklist. The responses were compiled and analyzed using descriptive statistics. According to the findings, most students read French Tests for less than two hours each day, which means that most of them do not read very often. They only read when given homework, assignments or when a test or examination is due to be written. According to the study, parents should encourage their children to read from an early age and provide them with reading materials like picture books, story books, educational novels, and so on. They should also ask their children to read these materials regularly or during their free time when their parents are around. Teachers should also urge their students to write with passion and read instructive materials in their classmates' presents.

Keywords: *Descriptive; Interest; Language; Library; Reading*

Revamping the Teacher Education Sector for a Sustainable National Development in Contemporary Nigeria

Dr. Joseph Philip Turaki

*College of Education, Gindiri
Plateau State, Nigeria*

Abstract

Teacher education is widely recognized as a fundamental driver of sustainable national development, as the effectiveness of any education system is contingent upon the quality of its teachers. This study explores the objectives, current status, and prevailing challenges of teacher education in Nigeria, with particular attention to systemic factors that hinder its optimal performance. The study adopts a qualitative research design and employs documentary analysis of relevant policy documents, scholarly publications, and official education reports to examine trends and issues within the teacher education sector. The analysis reveals that inadequate funding, poor remuneration, low professional motivation, shortages of qualified teachers, unethical practices, and increasing political interference have significantly undermined the effectiveness of teacher education in Nigeria. Based on these findings, the study proposes strategic interventions aimed at revitalizing teacher education, including enhanced funding mechanisms, improved teacher welfare and professional development, strengthened ethical standards, and the depoliticization of teacher education policies. The study concludes that sustainable national development in Nigeria is unlikely to be achieved without comprehensive reforms in teacher education, requiring coordinated efforts from government agencies, educational institutions, and other key stakeholders.

Keywords: *Revamping, Teacher education, Sustainable National development.*

Criminal Justice System and Protection of Crime Victims in Ohaji Egbema Local Government of Imo State, Nigeria

¹Prof. Ogadimma Chukwubueze Arisukwu, ²Chinedu Chimamkpa Ajokubi,

³Ogechi Judith Ofoegbu & ⁴Augustine Izuogu

^{1,2,3&4}Department of Criminology and Security Studies,
University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Umuagwo, Imo State.

Abstract

The Nigerian criminal justice system, while focusing on prosecuting offenders, often overlooks the needs and rights of crime victims, leading to further trauma and neglect within the system. Spanning the year 2020-2024, the study examines the criminal justice system and protection of crime victims in Ohaji/Egbema Local Government of Imo State, Nigeria. The descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. Data collected was analyzed using simple percentages and mean statistics. Findings indicated that the level of victims' satisfaction with the criminal justice system process in Ohaji Egbema Local Government of Imo State is significantly low; that the criminal justice system being put in place to ensure justice and protection for victims in Ohaji Egbema Local Government of Imo State is not effective. The study recommended relevant organs of government to establish framework that will enhance victim support services, improve communication and transparency, ensure fair and impartial treatment, and address systemic issues like corruption and delays. The study argues for a more restorative approach, which focuses on healing the victim and repairing the harm caused by the crime.

Keywords: *Criminal Justice System, Protection of Crime Victims*

Assessing the Role of Small-Scale Agriculture in Poverty Alleviation in Ebonyi State: A Case Study of Ikwo Local Government Area

¹Blessing Nancy Udentia, ²Anuli Regina Ogbuagu, ³Precious Ifeanyi Ohalete, & ⁴Peace Oluomachi Azuma

^{1,2,3&4}*Department of Economics and Development Studies,
Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu Alike, Ebonyi State.*

Abstract

This study examines the economic effects of small-scale agriculture on poverty alleviation in Ebonyi State, Nigeria, using Ikwo Local Government Area as a case study. It evaluates the extent to which smallholder farming contributes to poverty reduction, identifies the key constraints faced by small-scale farmers, and assesses the significance of selected agricultural factors in shaping economic outcomes. A quantitative research design was adopted, with primary data collected through structured questionnaires administered to 204 farmers. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and multinomial logistic regression techniques. The findings reveal that farm size and post-harvest loss management have a significant positive effect on poverty alleviation, indicating that improved access to land and reduced post-harvest losses enhance economic welfare. Conversely, limited access to improved seeds, vulnerability to climate change, low farm profitability, and food insecurity exert significant negative effects on poverty reduction. The study concludes that although small-scale agriculture remains a critical pathway for rural development and poverty alleviation in Ebonyi State, its potential is constrained by structural and environmental challenges. It therefore recommends targeted policy interventions, including access to climate-resilient inputs, expansion of agricultural extension services, development of rural infrastructure, and improved market access to enhance the productivity and welfare of smallholder farmers.

Keywords: *Role of Small-Scale Agriculture, Poverty Alleviation, Case Study*

Rethinking African Indigenous Education for Sustainable Development in Africa

Iwen, Emmanuel Terna

Department of Christian Religious Studies.

Federal College of Education, Obudu. Cross River. Nigeria

Abstract

Long before the arrival of the Colonial Masters to Africa and indeed Nigeria, the indigenous people of African were literate in their own ways. The African education though informal, was used for proper upbringing of their children by every standards of the society. African traditional education largely inculcates morals, values, norms and the general way of life of the African man. This education sustained and managed the African philosophy which centered on character formulation as the totality of a man. It is rather disheartening to note that, the current state of unemployment, declining moral values among the youth in Africa today is linked to the western culture of education. This paper seeks to x-ray the importance and value of African traditional education as an instrument for sustainable growth in Africa focusing on Nigeria. Methodologically, a historical and descriptive approaches was adopted for the paper. It was observed that naturally, it is the inner of a person that makes the outer him or her, the ability to think properly and act well is rooted in the first form of education received which is African tradition education. Also, the thorough cultural values and norms inculcated to African child, Africans had a better society before the western interruption. The paper recommends among other suggestions that for Africans to achieve any sustainable growth in education, they must first and foremost place priority on their tradition which teach and emphasis morality and character formation as the basis for genuine growth. That all Africans educational ministries should introduce African language and cultural related subjects to be thought in all levels of education for sustainable education in Africa.

Keywords: *Rethinking, African Education, Sustainable, Development, Indigenous*

Challenges of Office Management in a Global Economy in Borno State, Nigeria

Yakaka Ali

*Umar Ibn Ibrahim El-kanemi College of Education, Science and Technology (UIIECEST),
P. M. B. 16, Bama, Borno State, Nigeria*

Abstract

The paper aimed to explore the Challenges of Office Management in a Global Economy in Borno State, Nigeria, with three formulated objectives, compelled alignment with international standards of efficiency, digitalization, cross-cultural coordination, and data-driven decision-making. The instrument used was a mixed-method that is reviewed of existing literatures and case observations with interview from Nigerian public and private sector offices, the data collected were systematically classified and analyzed in line with obstacles. Findings indicated that while global economic integration presents opportunities for enhanced office productivity, the confluence of unreliable technology infrastructure, prohibitively high operational costs, insufficient managerial training, escalating cybersecurity threats, and fragmented regulatory oversight fundamentally undermines effective office management. Based on the findings of this paper it was recommended for actionable policy reforms, capacity-building initiatives, and adaptive strategies specifically tailored to the Nigerian context.

Keywords: *Office management, Global economy, Infrastructure, Digital transformation, Administrative challenges, Cybersecurity*

Education for Self-Reliance as a Philosophical Framework for Realizing Agenda 2063 and the Africa We Want

¹Martha Edu Akanimoh, PhD, ²Michael Akam Abang PhD & ³Akemi, Ako Eyo

¹Faculty of Educational Foundation Studies, College of Education, University of Calabar, Nigeria

²Department of Educational Psychology, University of Calabar, Calabar, Cross River State Nigeria.

³Department of Educational Psychology, Faculty of Educational Foundation Studies,
College of Education, University of Calabar, Calabar-Nigeria

Abstract

Education remains a fundamental instrument for human and societal development. As Africa strives to achieve the aspirations of Agenda 2063, there is a growing need for an educational system that promotes self-reliance, human capacity development, and sustainable development. This paper examines education for self-reliance as a philosophical framework for realizing the Africa envisioned under Agenda 2063. The study adopts the philosophical and analytical methods of inquiry and relies on data obtained from relevant books, journal articles, policy documents, and other scholarly sources. Drawing on Julius Nyerere's theory of Education for Self-Reliance, the paper explores the philosophical foundations of self-reliance, the role of education in achieving Agenda 2063, the significance of human capacity development, and educational strategies for sustainable development. The findings reveal that many educational systems in Africa still emphasize certificate acquisition at the expense of practical skills, innovation, creativity, and productive engagement. The study further reveals that education for self-reliance remains relevant in addressing unemployment, poverty, dependency, and other developmental challenges confronting the continent. It argues that an educational system grounded in self-reliance can empower learners to become active contributors to social, economic, and political development. The paper recommends curriculum reforms that emphasize entrepreneurship, critical thinking, vocational competence, and value-oriented learning. It also advocates increased investment in education and capacity-building initiatives that respond to Africa's developmental needs. The study concludes that education for self-reliance provides a viable philosophical framework for realizing Agenda 2063 and building the Africa we want.

Keywords: *Education, Self-Reliance, Agenda 2063, Capacity Building, Sustainable Development*

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