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Financial Planning for Retirement among Civil Servants in South-Western part of Nigeria

Adenike Florence Sijuade

School of Education,
Federal College of Education,
Iwo, Osun State, Nigeria

Corresponding author: olorinike3@Gmail.com, sijuadeaf@fceiwo.edu.ng

Abstract

Blissful retirement entails having the knowledge of how to prepare, and adequate planning in terms of saving and investment of earning while in active service. This study is an investigation into financial planning among civil servants in South-western part of Nigeria. The study population is all civil servants in federal, state and local government employment in the southwestern part of Nigeria. The study sample was 300 civil servants randomly selected from each of the 6 states in the southwest. 50 civil servants were selected in each state. Data was collected using a Financial Planning for Retirement Questionnaire (FIPRE-Q) designed and validated by the researcher. The questionnaire was validated by three experts in the field and was later pilot-tested, yielding 0.73 reliability coefficient. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency count, percentage, mean, and standard deviation. Findings shows poor knowledge of retirement planning ($\bar{X} = 1.45$; $N=300$), poor saving practice ($\bar{X} = 1.49$; $N=300$), and poor investment practice ($\bar{X} = 1.3$; $N=300$) among the workers. Based on the findings, the need for government to provide civil servants with education and support on retirement planning and investment, the need to offer civil servants access to affordable and accessible interest-free loan for investment and develop financial literacy programs for civil servants were recommended.

Keyword: Civil servants, Education, Financial planning, Investment, Retirements.

Trends and changing patterns of female genital mutilation in Nigeria: Using data from the Nigeria demographic health survey (NDHS 1999 - 2018)

David B. Ugal

Department of Sociology

Federal University of Lafia, Nigeria.

Corresponding author: daveugal@yahoo.com

Abstract

Despite the global condemnation of the negative effect of female genital mutilation and or cutting (FGM/C), there remains a diehard cultural anchorage of the continuous practice in most parts of the world generally and Africa particularly. This practice has exposed both girls and women to preventable fatalities and mortalities that have contributed to maternal death burden. The situation has remained speculative as to whether this practice was still ongoing with the different programmatic advocacy on its possible effect bordering on the maternal health of those who experience this procedure. It was following from here that the present study undertook to explore graphically the likely prevalence of FGM/C, the likely changing pattern of age at which the operation takes place, Pattern of those who engage in the performance of the operation and the attitudes of the people towards the continuation or otherwise of the practice. The study utilized data from five Demographic Health Surveys of Nigeria (1999 – 2018) to assess these trends. From the results, there was a dwindling prevalence of the practice as the rate of FGM/C dropped from about 45 percent in 1999 to about 20 percent in 2018. It follows that even though the practice is still on, the rate was dropping. The age at which FGM/C was undertaken was predominantly during infancy (age 1 – 5) throughout the five DHS and traditional circumcisers and traditional birth attendants were the major personnel engaged in the FGM/C procedure/operation and finally, a majority of those who experienced FGM/C were negatively dispose towards its continuation. Sine there was a general outcry about its continuation hence injurious cultural practices should be jettison in order to ensure good health for girls and women as it affects their sexuality and maternal health. This can be done through education of the traditional rulers on the dangers of this practice and religious leaders to preach against it.

Keywords: Female Genital Mutilation, FGM, , Trends, Patterns, Nigeria

Promoting intra-African trade through agenda 2063 to accelerate continental economic growth for sustainable development

Sello Selelo

University of South Africa, South Africa.

Corresponding author: eselels@unisa.ac.za

Abstract

According to the document as presented “Agenda 2063: Africa we want”, This document (Agenda 2063) is regarded as Africa’s blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future. It is the continent’s strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance. The genesis of Agenda 2063 was the realisation by African leaders that there was a need to refocus and reprioritise Africa’s agenda from the struggle against apartheid and the attainment of political independence for the continent which had been the focus of The Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the predecessor of the African Union; and instead to prioritise inclusive social and economic development, continental and regional integration, democratic governance and peace and security amongst other issues aimed at repositioning Africa to becoming a dominant player in the global arena. The realisation of the African continent potential to become a global powerhouse in terms of rapidly achieving sustainable development goals is through the promotion of Intra-African trade. The paper will argue that for Africa to achieve all sustainable development goals as enshrined in Agenda 2063, there is a need for African continent to shift more focus from external trading partners and promote intra-African trade. The paper will further argue that through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Africa can rapidly achieve its own sustainable development goals if the pact is to be fully implemented accordingly.

Keywords: Development, Economy, Regional Integration, Trade, Sustainable Development

Greywater Treatment Using Roughing Filters at Umkababa: A Sustainable Approach for Water Reclamation

Onyeka Nkwonta ¹, Phakamani Bhengu ²

^{1,2} Mangosuthu University of Technology, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: nkwonta@mut.ac.za

Abstract

The global demand for water conservation and sustainable wastewater management has led to the exploration of innovative technologies in treating greywater, particularly in regions facing water scarcity challenges such as Umkababa. This study investigates the efficacy of greywater treatment using roughing filters, a cost-effective and environmentally friendly solution.

The research conducted at Umkababa focuses on implementing roughing filters as a primary treatment method for greywater sourced from residential and commercial establishments. The filters, characterized by their simplicity and low maintenance requirements, prove to be well-suited for decentralized wastewater treatment systems in resource-constrained settings.

The study involves the assessment of the physical, chemical, and biological parameters of greywater before and after treatment using roughing filters. The efficiency of the roughing filters in removing suspended solids, organic matter, and pathogens is analyzed, providing valuable insights into the overall performance of the treatment system.

Furthermore, the environmental impact and feasibility of implementing roughing filters for greywater treatment in Umkababa are evaluated. Considerations such as land requirements, energy consumption, and potential for reuse of treated water in non-potable applications are examined to determine the sustainability of the proposed solution.

The results of this research contribute to the development of guidelines for the implementation of greywater treatment using roughing filters in similar contexts. The findings are expected to inform policymakers, environmental engineers, and local communities about the benefits of adopting decentralized and nature-based solutions for greywater management, thereby promoting sustainable water practices in Umkababa and beyond.

In conclusion, the integration of roughing filters in greywater treatment at Umkababa demonstrates a promising and viable approach to address water scarcity challenges, emphasizing the importance of sustainable and context-specific solutions in wastewater management.

Keywords: greywater, sustainability, roughing filters, suspended solids and engineers

Enhancing Sustainable Development Through Gender Equality: The Role of Mentorship in Empowering Women-Led SMEs in Georgia's Economy

Maya Giorbelidze¹, Natia Jibladze²

¹ Cape Breton University, Sydney, Canada.

² Business and Technology University, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Corresponding author: maya_giorbelidze@cbu.ca

Abstract

The presented paper thoroughly explores the profound impact of mentorship on the empowerment and growth of women-led Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Georgia, with a keen focus on the broader implications for sustainable development. Through a rigorous randomized control trial method involving a sample of 202 businesses, this research distinguishes between the outcomes for mentored and non-mentored enterprises, methodically analyzing their organizational dynamics, societal impact, strategic development, and entrepreneurial progression.

The necessity of enhancing the capacity of women-led SMEs via mentorship is accentuated against the backdrop of the challenges these entrepreneurs encounter, such as restricted resource access, entrenched gender biases, and the absence of supportive networks. The investigation posits mentorship as a pivotal mechanism for surmounting these barriers, thereby promoting fair economic growth and resilience. This study is rooted in a comprehensive analysis of existing literature that elucidates the complex dimensions of women's economic empowerment and the pivotal role mentorship plays in boosting business performance, decision-making capabilities, and innovation.

Expanding on the literature review, the paper deep dives into economic theories related to women's empowerment, analyzing how mentorship impacts business growth and contributes to societal benefits. It critically examines the barriers to women's economic empowerment and the transformative power of mentorship in enhancing the capabilities and confidence of women entrepreneurs. This section also highlights the significance of mentorship in fostering a supportive environment for women, leading to organizational growth and a positive societal impact.

The methodology section elaborates on the selection process for the study's participants and the rationale behind employing a randomized controlled trial for a robust assessment of mentorship's impact. This detailed explanation underpins the study's credibility and ensures that the findings are grounded in a methodologically sound approach.

The paper's findings section offers a more nuanced understanding of how mentorship influences business operations, strategic decision-making, and financial growth. It presents a compelling narrative on the capacity of mentorship to facilitate access to finance, improve revenue outcomes, and stimulate employment growth, thereby underscoring its critical role in advancing both business success and societal well-being.

The discussion extends the conversation on the implications of these findings, considering the broader context of gender equality and economic development. It suggests that mentorship not only benefits individual women entrepreneurs and their businesses but also contributes to the larger goal of sustainable development by fostering gender equality and economic inclusion.

The paper concludes by reiterating the transformative potential of mentorship for women-led SMEs in Georgia, advocating for the integration of mentorship programs into broader economic and social policies to support the empowerment of women entrepreneurs. It calls for ongoing research and policy focus to fully leverage mentorship as a tool for sustainable economic development, highlighting the imperative to cultivate a more inclusive, resilient, and equitable economic environment for all.

In essence, this comprehensive study not only contributes to academic discourse but also offers practical insights for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders interested in leveraging mentorship as a strategic tool for empowering women-led SMEs and achieving sustainable development goals.

Keywords: Business mentorship; Business training and bundled services; Women's economic empowerment; Women's led SMEs

**Experiences of Primary Healthcare Nurses in Managing Chronic Diseases during the COVID-19 Pandemic:
Promotion of sustainable rural development through Primary health care**

Sheillah Hlamalani Mboweni

University of South Africa, Department of Health Studies, College of Human Sciences, South Africa.

Corresponding author: mbowesh@unisa.ac.za

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a neglect of the management of chronic diseases and the crucial role of professional nurses (PNs) at the primary healthcare level. The focus on infectious diseases disrupted the chronic care model and impeded the progress towards SDG 3 target 3.4, which aims to reduce premature deaths from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention, treatment, and the promotion of mental health and well-being. NCDs are responsible for approximately one in every seven deaths globally, resulting in the loss of around 41 million lives annually and causing premature death and disability. Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) bear a significant burden, with 46% of deaths occurring before the age of 70 years. Primary healthcare serves as the initial level of care where the chronic care model is implemented, and individuals with chronic diseases are referred for ongoing treatment. The disruption of chronic care services at the primary healthcare level, which is the cornerstone of health services, is a cause for concern, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. This region is already burdened by diseases and faces resource shortages, exacerbating the challenges faced in providing adequate care. This situation prompts inquiries to obtain lived experiences of PNs in primary healthcare regarding this matter. The study aimed to explore and describe the experiences of PHC nurses in managing chronic diseases during the COVID-19 pandemic in the North West province, South Africa. A qualitative phenomenological design was used to gather the experiences of PNs who had been purposively selected from high-volume PHC facilities. Face-to-face, semi-structured interviews were conducted and audiotaped. The study included 16 PNs, and with this sample, data saturation was attained. The experiences of PNs were described using phenomenological descriptive analysis. The study findings reveal four themes: 1) suboptimal care for patients with chronic disease, 2) mental health challenges, 3) lack of resources, 4) stigma and discrimination. The COVID-19 pandemic has impeded efforts to implement the chronic care model, lessen the burden of chronic diseases and improve the mental health of healthcare workers. To implement the Chronic care model at PHC level effectively, supportive supervision and psychosocial support to staff must be enhanced, including raising community awareness of pandemics to mitigate stigma and discrimination against PNs while embracing the spirit of ubuntu. The world and Policymakers should recognize the significance of chronic diseases as a public health issue, in future epidemics to improve the SDG 3, Universal health coverage and reduce health inequalities.

Keywords: COVID-19; experiences; management; patient with chronic disease; primary healthcare professional nurses

Assessing the impact of climate change on soil properties. A comprehensive study

Phakamani Bhengu¹, Onyeka Nkwonta²

^{1,2} Mangosuthu University of Technology, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: bhengup@mut.ac.za

Abstract

As the global climate continues to undergo unprecedented changes, understanding the intricate interactions between climate variability and soil properties is essential for predicting and mitigating potential environmental consequences. This research aims to comprehensively investigate the influence of climate change on soil characteristics, encompassing physical, chemical, and biological aspects. By employing a multidisciplinary approach, we integrate field studies and advanced modeling techniques to unravel the intricate dynamics between changing climate patterns and soil behavior.

The study will focus on diverse geographical regions, considering varying climate zones and soil types to capture a holistic understanding of the phenomenon by combining empirical observations with state-of-the-art analytical tools, this research seeks to contribute valuable insights into the complex relationship between climate change and soil properties. The findings are expected to inform land-use planning, agricultural practices, and environmental management strategies, ultimately fostering resilience in the face of a changing climate.

Keywords: Climate change, agricultural practices, environmental management and modeling

Assessing the status of sustainable development goal 5 (gender equality) in South African context

Shikha Vyas-Doorgapersad

University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Corresponding author: svyas-doorgapersad@uj.ac.za

Abstract: (400 – 800 words).

Since the country became democratic in 1994, one of its objectives has been the preservation of equality and human rights. In South Africa, the Bill of Rights serves as a legal guarantee of gender equality and prohibits all types of discrimination. According to the United Nations Habitat (2008:22) the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) provides for the equality and allows for the affirmative action to address gender and race inequalities in society. Furthermore, it advocates for government to promote the advancement of women and black people within the public service and the decision-making process since there was a huge underrepresentation. However, despite all the resources available, including institutional policies, legal frameworks, and political will, there are still obstacles that prevent women from being represented in political and bureaucratic positions in South Africa.

The past has seen several development movements that call for gender equality, including Women in Development (WID), Women and Development (WAD), and Gender and Development (GAD). As a result, a few gender-based theoretical approaches have also developed in a multidisciplinary setting, including the critical feminism theory, the gender disparities theory, the liberal theory, the equal treatment approach, the welfare approach, the efficiency approach, the equity approach, the empowerment approach, and the gender mainstreaming approach (GMA). The feminist movements gave rise to the idea of transformation, which states that gender-based considerations must be included into all government initiatives, programs, and policies. The GMA is the acronym given to this approach. As the GMA satisfies the goals of this study, the researcher accepted it as a theoretical framework (cf Bangani 2019). The information included in the article was compiled through a literature review and is based on qualitative desktop analysis. Annual reports, journal papers, the internet, Acts, government documents, etc. are some examples of secondary sources of information. Document content analysis is used to analyze data. The findings demonstrate that there are issues with social-cultural beliefs, a lack of understanding of gender mainstreaming, insufficient financial resources, and a lack of capacity-building programs, to name a few. The article discusses the causes of gender disparity in a thematic way, mentioning socioeconomic, political, institutional, legal, and cultural aspects, to name a few. The article recommends the provision of a range of resources and supports, including gender mainstreaming in political manifestos, gender consideration in hiring procedures, gender inclusion in decision-making portfolios, opportunities for gender-based training and professional development, gender-sensitive legislative regulations, etc. To foster gender mainstreaming debates, dialogues, awareness, and eventually implementation and realization of sustainable development target 5 in South Africa, these resources necessitate the establishment of gender forums, gender desks, and gender focal points. The article assesses the barriers to gender equality in South Africa, the causes and effects of gender inequality, and the resources required to mainstream gender in political and bureaucratic procedures, and hence contributes to the disciplines of public administration/management /governance and gender studies.

Keywords: gender, gender equality, qualitative research, South Africa, sustainable development goal 5

Political Godfatherism and Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria's Fourth Republic

Rahila Timothy Dantong¹, IzangMarkus Arum²

^{1,2} Plateau State University, Boko. Nigeria.

¹ Corresponding g author: rahilatimothydantong@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper examines the nexus between political godfatherism and democratic consolidation in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. It does so against the backdrop of the rising abusive influence of political godfathers in Nigeria's party politics since the advent of the Republic. Adopting a desk-research-based qualitative analysis that is anchored on the theories of elite capture and prebendalism, the paper posits that the phenomenon of godfatherism has brought about outcomes that negate democratic consolidation in Nigeria. Such outcomes include abusive monetization of electoral processes, manipulation of political godsons in power for selfish aggrandizement as well as distortion of democratic dividends in the country. The paper recommends, among others, that strict adherence to the ethics and principles of true democracy in the internal affairs of political parties will go a long way in weakening the power and influence of political godfathers and that leadership should be accountable and transparent to the people rather than to promoting the interests of political godfathers. This way, dividends of democracy can be achieved and not aggrandizement of the interests of political godfathers.

Keywords: Consolidation, democracy, politics, democratic, political godfatherism.

Mental Health Literacy for Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria

Mkpoikanke Sunday Otu ¹, Maximus Monaheng Sefothom ², Elizabeth N. Ebizie ³

¹ University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

² University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

³ University of Nigeria Nsukka, Nigeria.

¹ Corresponding author: mkpoikanke.otu@unn.edu.ng

Abstract

Background

Mental health issues have a significant impact on individuals, families, and societies worldwide. However, in many developing countries, including Nigeria, there is a lack of mental health awareness and resources. This lack of mental health literacy not only hampers individual well-being but also hinders sustainable development efforts. This study aims to explore the perceived impact of mental health literacy on sustainable economic development in Nigeria.

Method

This research employed a qualitative research approach to gain insights into the impact of mental health literacy on sustainable economic development. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders, including policymakers, mental health professionals, business leaders, and community leaders. Thematic analysis was employed to identify common themes and patterns across the data.

Results

The findings of this study indicate that mental health literacy has a positive perceived impact on sustainable economic development in Nigeria. Participants highlighted several ways in which mental health literacy can contribute to sustainable development:

1. **Improved Productivity:** Mental health literacy was recognized as a key factor in enhancing productivity and performance in the workplace. Participants highlighted how individuals with good mental health are more resilient, focused, and productive, leading to improved economic outcomes.
2. **Enhanced Leadership:** Participants highlighted the importance of mental health literacy for effective leadership. Leaders who were aware of mental health issues were able to create a supportive work environment, promote resilience among employees, and foster a positive organizational culture.
3. **Reduced Stigma:** Mental health literacy was seen as a means of reducing stigma associated with mental health disorders. When individuals have greater understanding of mental health, they are more willing to seek support, seek help, and promote a supportive society. This, in turn, contributes to economic development through increased participation and engagement.
4. **Improved Social and Community Well-being:** Participants emphasized the role of mental health literacy in promoting social cohesion and community development. By addressing mental health concerns, societies can become more inclusive, resilient, and equipped to address social challenges, ultimately contributing to sustainable development.

Contribution to Knowledge

This study contributes to the existing literature on the relationship between mental health literacy and sustainable economic development by providing insights into the perceived impact of mental health literacy in Nigeria. The findings highlight the importance of addressing mental health issues and promoting mental health literacy for sustainable economic development.

Conclusion

Mental health literacy plays a vital role in achieving sustainable economic development in Nigeria. By promoting mental health awareness and providing individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to recognize and address mental health issues, societies can unlock the full potential of their workforce, enhance leadership capabilities, and reduce stigma. The findings of this study provide valuable insights for policymakers, businesses, and community leaders seeking to promote mental health literacy as a cornerstone of sustainable economic development.

Keywords: Mental health literacy, sustainable economic development, Nigeria, impact, mental health awareness.

Border Management Identification: The biometric technology to deduct criminals and terrorists often travel using falsified identity documents.

Mokopane Charles Marakalala ¹, Mpho Mark Matlala ²

^{1, 2} University of South Africa, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: Marakmc@unisa.ac.za

Abstract

Biometric recognition, or simply biometrics, is the automated identification of individuals based on their biological and behavioral characteristics. Because fingerprints are so effective in forensic science and law enforcement applications, as well as because concerns about financial crime, cyber security, and border control are growing, automated person recognition using fingerprints and other biological features is becoming more and more common. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that biometrics are used widely in many aspects of our society. Applications include border crossing, national civil registration, mobile payments, smartphone security, and access to facilities that are limited. Despite the fact that biometrics has been effectively applied in many industries, there are still numerous challenges to be solved and new opportunities for biometric identity identification, particularly if the person is resistant or biometric. In the modern security industry, biometric technologies have become indispensable. This covers law enforcement and the military in relation to border control, criminal justice systems, and civic identity, to mention a few. Biometrics are becoming even more potent tools thanks to automation in recent decades. It is understandable that public debate shows concern about the short- and long-term effects of such instruments on people and society, in addition to emphasizing their beneficial aspects and how they support societal advancement and the rule of law.

Keywords: Forensic Identification, Biometric Technology, Detect, Criminal, Terrorist, Falsified Identity Documents.

A Comprehensive Review of Investigating Sources and Transport Mechanisms of Pollutants in the Umfolozi River

Nompumelelo Ngema¹, Edna Onyari², Onyeka Nkwonta³

^{1,2} University of South Africa, South Africa.

³ Mangosuthu University of Technology, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: nngema54@gmail.com

Abstract: The Umfolozi River, nestled in KwaZulu-Natal, is a critical water resource facing escalating pollution concerns. This review synthesizes existing literature and research efforts aimed at investigating the sources and transport mechanisms of pollutants within the Umfolozi River watershed. The analysis encompasses a wide array of studies spanning various disciplines, including environmental science, hydrology, chemistry, and community engagement.

The literature review establishes a foundation by examining historical studies, water quality assessments, and environmental impact evaluations conducted along the Umfolozi River. Noteworthy sources of pollutants, ranging from industrial discharges to agricultural runoff, are identified and analyzed. Additionally, the review explores non-point sources such as urban development and deforestation that contribute to the river's contamination.

Transport mechanisms within the Umfolozi River system are elucidated, incorporating insights from hydrological studies, sediment transport analyses, and modeling approaches. The interplay between river flow, seasonal variations, and anthropogenic activities is examined to understand the dynamic nature of pollutant transport pathways.

Community involvement emerges as a recurrent theme, with studies highlighting the significance of engaging local communities in pollution monitoring and management efforts. The review explores successful approaches to community engagement, acknowledging the importance of local knowledge and perceptions in crafting effective pollution control strategies.

In conclusion, this comprehensive review not only synthesizes the existing body of knowledge regarding pollutant sources and transport mechanisms in the Umfolozi River but also identifies research gaps and suggests potential avenues for future investigations. The insights gathered from this review contribute to a holistic understanding of the environmental challenges faced by the Umfolozi River and offer a basis for informed decision-making in the pursuit of sustainable water resource management.

Keywords: River, sustainability, environmental management, community engagement and hydrology

Sustainable water development in Bergville. A comprehensive study

Nkosi Malinga¹, Aneke Frank², Nkwonta Onyeka³

^{1,2} Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of KwaZulu-Natal Durban, South Africa.

³ Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Mangosuthu University of Technology Durban, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: nkosimalinga123@gmail.com

Abstract

Bergville, a region facing unique water challenges, has embarked on a journey towards sustainable water development to address environmental, social, and economic concerns. This abstract outline key components of ongoing initiatives aimed at ensuring water security and resilience in the face of climate change and growing population demands.

The primary objective of the sustainable water development projects in Bergville is to establish a robust, equitable, and environmentally friendly water management system. This includes enhancing water availability, improving water quality, and promoting community engagement in water conservation practices

The methods adopted includes constructing and upgrading water infrastructure to optimize distribution efficiency, reduce losses, and ensure access to clean water for all residents. It also involves incorporating climate-resilient strategies in water management, such as rainwater harvesting, drought-resistant crops, and early warning systems to mitigate the impacts of climate variability.

Preliminary results indicate positive changes in water availability, quality, and community awareness. Infrastructure improvements have led to reduced leakages, while sustainable agricultural practices contribute to water conservation and resilience against climate-induced stress.

Sustainable water development in Bergville demonstrates a commitment to addressing water challenges through integrated, community-driven approaches. This abstract provides an overview of the ongoing initiatives, acknowledging achievements, challenges, and outlining future pathways for a water-secure and resilient Bergville.

Keywords: Climate change, sustainability, environmental management, community awareness and Bergville

Psychosocial Intervention for Sustainable Quality Education among Neurodivergent Individuals

Mkpoikanke Sunday Otu ¹, Elizabeth N. Ebizie ²

^{1,2} Department of Counselling and Human Development Studies, University of Nigeria Nsukka, Nigeria.

¹ Corresponding author: mkpoikanke.otu@unn.edu.ng

Abstract

Background

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the unique needs and challenges of neurodivergent individuals, including those with autism, ADHD, and learning disabilities. These individuals often face barriers to accessing quality education and may experience difficulties in social-emotional development, communication, and executive functioning. To address these challenges, a psychosocial intervention has been developed to support sustainable quality education for neurodivergent individuals.

Method

The mixed methodology employed in this study combines quantitative and qualitative approaches to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of the psychosocial intervention. The qualitative component involves conducting in-depth interviews with key stakeholders, including educators, parents, and neurodivergent individuals, to gain insights into their experiences and perspectives. The quantitative component involves administering standardized tests to measure changes in academic and social-emotional outcomes following the implementation of the intervention.

Qualitative Component

The qualitative component of the study aims to explore the experiences of educators, parents, and neurodivergent individuals involved in the intervention. Through semi-structured interviews, participants will be asked about their perceptions, challenges, and successes related to the intervention. The interviews will be transcribed and analyzed to identify common themes and patterns. The qualitative data will provide insights into the context and factors that may influence the effectiveness of the intervention.

Quantitative Component

The quantitative component of the study involves administering standardized tests to assess the changes in academic and social-emotional outcomes of neurodivergent individuals following the implementation of the psychosocial intervention. These tests will include measures such as the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS), the WISC-IV, and the Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS). The pre- and post-intervention scores will provide objective data to measure the impact of the intervention on academic performance, cognitive abilities, and social-emotional functioning.

Data Analysis

The data analysis will involve both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The qualitative data will be analyzed using thematic analysis to identify patterns and themes. The quantitative data will be analyzed using appropriate statistical methods, such as repeated measures ANOVA, t-tests, or correlation coefficients, to determine the effectiveness of the intervention.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations play a significant role in this study. Informed consent will be obtained from all participants, and participants' identities will be kept confidential. Any sensitive information obtained during the interviews will be handled with the utmost confidentiality.

Expected Results

The expected results of this study include the following:

1. Identification of the key components of the psychosocial intervention, which will serve as the foundation for future interventions.

2. Understanding of the specific challenges faced by neurodivergent individuals in the education system and how these barriers are addressed by the intervention.
3. Evaluation of the impact of the intervention on academic achievement, social skills, and overall quality of life for neurodivergent individuals.
4. Identification of factors that contribute to the success of the intervention, such as training of educators, supportive environments, and individualized support plans.
5. Contribution to the field of neuroeducation by providing evidence-based recommendations for implementing sustainable quality education for neurodivergent individuals.

Conclusion

The mixed methodology employed in this study combines quantitative and qualitative approaches to assess the effectiveness of a psychosocial intervention for sustainable quality education among neurodivergent individuals. The qualitative component will provide insights into the experiences and perceptions of key stakeholders, while the quantitative component will provide objective data on changes in academic and social-emotional outcomes.

Keywords: Mental health, neurodivergent individuals, neuroeducation, psychosocial intervention, sustainable quality education.

Forensic Identification: The Biometric Technology linked to online financial fraud

Mokopane Charles Marakalala

University of South Africa, South Africa.

Corresponding author: Marakmc@unisa.ac.za

This article first explains how biometrics developed from forensic science and then goes back to its roots to solve some difficult issues. Although, biometrics has been successfully used in many industries, there are still a number of obstacles to overcome and new prospects for biometric person recognition. Especially if the individual is recalcitrant or biometric data is collected in an unrestricted setting, the resulting biometric data quality could not be suitable for automated person recognition. This is especially true for crime-scene investigations, because it's possible that the biological evidence collected from a scene is of low quality. This article first explains how biometrics developed from forensic science and then goes back to its roots to solve some difficult issues. The parallels and distinctions between biometrics will then be discussed, followed by a few examples of successful applications where biometrics concepts are effectively used to forensics to resolve pressing issues in the field of law enforcement. In order to address unresolved issues that might benefit society as a whole, we conclude by talking about potential cooperation prospects for biometrics and forensics researchers.

Keywords: Forensic Identification, Biometric, Technology, financial, fraud, cyber-crime, commercial crime.

Innovations to enhance the quality of education to prepare student nurses for global pandemics.

Kelebogile Patience Olyn

University of South Africa, Department of Health Studies, College of Human Sciences, South Africa.

Corresponding author: Olynkp@unisa.ac.za

Abstract

Background: Student nurses undergo structured training with specific outcomes, including pandemics, which, upon completion prepare them to provide quality nursing care. The Nursing Act of 2005 requires adherence to specific regulations and training standards to fulfil the training program's requirements including demonstrating required professional knowledge, skills and interpersonal competencies. However, the disruption caused by COVID-19 has affected the attainment of these standards, including the SGD 4, aimed at enhancing students' development and quality in nursing education and promotion of lifelong learning.

However, despite extensive research, there is a gap in the literature on student nurses' readiness to provide quality nursing care during global pandemics. Innovations are required to enhance the quality of nursing education to address this gap.

The aim: of the paper is to share student nurses' experiences on their readiness to provide quality nursing care during global pandemics.

Setting: The research took place in two public nursing education institutions (NEI) in the Gauteng (urban) and Limpopo (rural) provinces, in South Africa.

Methods: The study used a descriptive and exploratory approach to gather insights into the readiness of student nurses to provide quality nursing care during global pandemics. Ethical clearance was obtained from the University of South Africa Research Ethics Committee (CREC), followed by approval from stakeholders and Nursing Education Institutions (NEIs). Participants were purposively sampled from two NEIs in South Africa's Limpopo and Gauteng provinces, representing both rural and urban areas. Student nurses from the 3rd and 4th years of study, enrolled in a diploma nursing program were purposively selected. Data collection took place from March to April 2021. Participants were requested to give informed consent before the interviews, and they signed confidentiality agreements for the focus groups. The researcher conducted two focus groups at each NEI. During the focus group interviews, field notes were taken, and audio recordings were made with participants' consent to ensure accurate transcription. Data saturation was achieved with 27 student nurses across four focus groups. A descriptive thematic data analysis was conducted, with the supervisor acting as a co-coder to ensure theme coherence and relevance. ATLAS.ti software version 8 aided in subgroup analysis. The findings were used to develop a model to prepare student nurses for practice. Ethical considerations were upheld throughout the study to protect participants, institutions, and scientific integrity was obtained by following trustworthy measures according to Lincoln and Guba's paradigm.

Results: The study findings revealed two themes; namely, emotional maturity and perceived behavioural influences. Emotional maturity emerged as a significant factor, encompassing aspects such as social relationship management and professional socialization. Student nurses emphasized the importance of developing emotional resilience and interpersonal skills to navigate challenging circumstances effectively. They highlighted the significance of being grounded in these competencies to confront unprecedented situations such as COVID-19 confidently. Secondly, perceived behavioural influences played a crucial role, focusing on behavioural goals and self-reflection. Student nurses recognised the impact of their actions on patient care and emphasised the importance of continuous self-assessment and improvement. They expressed a strong belief in the power of teamwork, noting that when they collaborate as a unit or team, they can easily model positive behaviours to one another.

Conclusion: The COVID-19 pandemic has hindered nursing training standards, especially students' development as outlined in the SGD-target 4 and as required by the Nursing Act of 2005. This study underscores the importance of developing a model as an innovative strategy to prepare student nurses for global pandemics by enhancing the quality of nursing education.

Contributions: This research aimed to develop a model for improving nursing education to better prepare student nurses for practice, with recommendations emphasizing the importance of emotional maturity and behavioural influences. Educators can integrate discussions on these topics and introduce online courses during onboarding. In practice, preceptors should encourage innovation by utilizing external tools like online resources and counselling services to support students in developing emotional maturity and decision-making skills. Further research could explore the impact of interdisciplinary collaboration among student nurses in clinical settings for global pandemics. Providing early support in nursing programs emphasizes personal and professional growth, empowering students to recognize the importance of these skills from the outset of their careers. Such initiatives foster resilience and competence, essential for addressing future global pandemics, aligning with SDG target 4.

Keywords: Emotional maturity Innovations in nursing education, Global pandemic, Sustainable Developmental Goals, Quality nursing education.

The Impact of Democracy on Tax Revenue in Indonesia through Government Spending, Economic Growth, and Tax Compliance

Arif Nugrahanto¹, Eleonora Sofilda², Syafri³

¹ Doctoral Program in Economics, Public Policy Concentration, Trisakti University, Indonesia.

¹ Polytechnic of State Finance STAN, Jakarta, Indonesia.

^{2,3} Trisakti University, Jakarta, Indonesia

Corresponding author: arifn@pknstan.ac.id

Abstract

Democracy in Indonesia has experienced rapid development since the Reform era. This growth has raised substantial questions regarding on how democratic governance influences tax revenue. Previous research on this topic has produced ambiguity and unclear results, display the complexity of the relationship between democracy and tax revenue. This study aims to examine the relationship between democratic quality and tax revenue in Indonesia, identify the democratic channels that mediate the relationship between democracy and tax revenue, and analyze the interaction patterns between democracy, economic growth, government spending, and tax compliance in explaining the dynamics of tax revenue in Indonesia.

The study utilizes panel data and path analysis to examine the relationship between the quality of democracy and tax revenue in 34 provinces in Indonesia over the period spanning 2010 to 2020. Panel data analysis allows for the examination of both cross-sectional and time-series variations within the dataset. Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression, along with robust standard error estimation techniques, is employed to account for potential heteroscedasticity and serial correlation in the data, ensuring robustness and reliability of the results. Moreover, path analysis serves as a potent analytical tool, facilitating the clarification of intricate causal pathways underlying the observed relationships. By describing the sequential dependencies between various factors, path analysis unveils the nuanced mechanisms through which the quality of democracy influences tax revenue dynamics.

The findings emphasize a positive correlation between the quality of democracy and tax revenue in Indonesia, both through direct and indirect pathways. Enhanced democratic quality coincides with increased tax revenue, signifying the constructive impact of democratic governance on fiscal outcomes. Furthermore, while the direct influence of democracy on tax revenue holds significance when examined in isolation, its magnitude diminishes in the presence of other variables. This suggests that democracy exerts its influence on tax revenue through additional intermediary factors. Path analysis corroborates this notion, highlighting the substantial indirect impact of democracy on tax revenue, particularly when considering public policy channels such as economic growth, government spending, and tax compliance.

Economic growth, government spending, and tax compliance emerge as essential democratic channels that mediate the relationship between democracy and tax revenue. These channels act as mechanism through which democratic governance shapes tax revenue dynamics, facilitating a deeper understanding of the nuanced interplay between political institutions and fiscal outcomes. The interaction patterns between democracy, economic growth, government spending, and tax compliance reveal the intricate mechanisms underlying tax revenue dynamics in Indonesia. Path analysis reveals the intricate pathways through which democracy indirectly influences tax revenue, underscoring the intertwined nature of democratic governance and fiscal outcomes.

In conclusion, these findings indicate the multifaceted relationship between democratic quality and tax revenue, emphasizing the fundamental role of democratic governance in shaping fiscal outcomes. By unraveling the complex mechanisms through which democracy impacts tax revenue, this study contributes significantly to the existing literature, providing valuable insights for both theoretical understanding and practical policymaking.

Keywords: democracy, tax revenue, growth, government spending, tax compliance, democratic channels

Burden Sharing: The Role of Indonesian Parliament Integrating Fiscal and Monetary Policies in the State Budget for Handling COVID-19

Mukhamad Misbakhun¹, Muhammad Zilal Hamzah², Muliaman D. Hadad³, Eleonora Sofilda⁴

^{1,2,3,4} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

² Corresponding author: mhd_zilal_hamzah@trisakti.ac.id

Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic is a crisis that became a global challenge. Dealing with the pandemic cannot be separated from fiscal risks which are reflected in weakening tax revenues, widening primary balance deficits, significant budget deficits and increases in debt ratios. In order to implement the *Pemulihan Ekonomi Nasional* (PEN)/ National Economic Recovery program, integration of fiscal policy and monetary policy is required. This policy synergy initiative emerged from the *Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat* (DPR)/ Indonesian Parliament, which is called "burden sharing". This research aims to: (1) analyze and examine the role of the DPR in integrating fiscal policy and monetary policy for handling the Covid-19 pandemic; (2) analyze and review the appropriate policy mix between fiscal policy and monetary policy; (3) analyze and review the monitoring and evaluation mechanism by the DPR in the implementation of the fiscal policy mix and monetary policy; (4) analyzing and reviewing the implementation of policy integration in several comparative countries in handling the Covid-19 pandemic. This research was conducted using a qualitative approach with data collection methods using in-depth interviews and data analysis methods using NVIVO. The research results show that: (1) the role of the DPR in integrating monetary and fiscal policies through burden sharing policies during the Covid-19 is to provide legal certainty and political legitimacy, also through approval of the Perpu (*Emergency Law*) proposed by the President of the Republic of Indonesia; (2) there are several policy mixes implemented in handling Covid-19, but the most prominent is monetary policy which accommodates large fiscal financing needs due to widening fiscal deficits, that is purchase of government bonds in the primary market; (3) supervision and evaluation by the DPR is carried out in order to maintain the sustainability of fiscal space. This refers to the impact of expansionary fiscal policy which causes the deficit to widen; (4) there are similarities in policies between Indonesia and other countries such as India and Korea, which both provide stimulus to the MSME sector, integration of fiscal & monetary policies and the formation of emergency law. Based on the results of this research, recommendations for expanding initiatives and strengthening the role of the DPR as an institution that aggregates various political forces and aspirations are presented, in various situations that require strong political legitimacy. It is deemed necessary to carry out simulations of other roles that the monetary authority can play in supporting state financial policy, while still maintaining independence. DPR supervision still needs to be carried out to maintain the sustainability of fiscal space. As an anticipation, it is necessary to prepare a protocol for handling economic crises which in the future may be caused by factors outside the economy itself, mainly through legal mechanisms (emergency law).

Keywords: Covid-19 Pandemic, Fiscal Policy, Monetary Policy, Policy Integration, Qualitative Approach

Geographical Indication Commercialization Policy through Tourism Sector on Economic Prosperity

Irma Mariana¹, Eleonora Sofilda², Freddy Harris³

^{1,2,3} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

¹ Directorate General of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Law and Human Rights Republic of Indonesia.

Corresponding author: mhd_zilal_hamzah@trisakti.ac.id

Abstract

The main purpose of Geographical Indications (GI) is to derive economic benefits from the quality attributes, characteristics, and reputation of products associated with geographical and regional places. The application of GI through the tourism sector has great potential to support the economic well-being of a region. Tourism is a sector that can be used to commercialize GI products. GI commercialization efforts in shaping consumer perceptions by linking products to geographical areas and highlighting the authenticity and traditions associated with the region of origin can influence consumer choices and decisions. This study aims to determine: (i). The effect of GI-based tourism and GI commercialization on perceived price, perceived product, emotional value, reputational product, and trust; (ii). The effect of GI-based tourism and GI commercialization on economic welfare; (iii). The effect of perceived price, perceived product, emotional value, reputational product, and trust on economic welfare; (iv). The effect of Perceived Price, Perceived Product, Emotional Value, Reputation Product, Trust of Geographical Indications mediated Geographical Indication-based tourism on Economic Prosperity; (v). The effect of Perceived Price, Perceived Product, Emotional Value, Reputation Product, Trust of Geographical Indications mediated the commercialization of Geographical Indications on Economic Prosperity; and (vi). How policy recommendations for commercialization of Geographical Indications through tourism on economic prosperity. This research was conducted using a mixed method, namely quantitative with SEM-PLS and qualitative with study literature review (SLR). The results showed that: (i). Geographical Indication-based tourism has a significant effect on the perceived price, perceived product, emotional value, reputation product, trust and commercialization Geographical Indication has a significant effect on the perceived price, perceived product, emotional value and reputation product. (ii) GI-based tourism has a significant effect on Economic Prosperity. (iii). Perceived Price, Perceived Product, Emotional Value, and Reputation Product have a significant effect on Economic Prosperity. (iv). Perceived Price, Emotional Value, and Reputation Product Geographical Indications provide a significant influence in mediating tourism based on Geographical Indications of Economic Prosperity. (v). Perceived Price, Emotional Value, and Reputation Product Geographical Indications provide a significant influence in mediating the commercialization of Geographical Indications on Economic Prosperity. (vi). Recommendation of Geographical Indication commercialization policy through the tourism sector using the application of synergy and cooperation in the Geographical Indication ecosystem

Keywords: Commercialization, Customer Perception, Economic Prosperity, Geographical Indications, Tourism

Climate Change and Environmental Degradation in Niger-Delta: Any Hope for Sustainable Development?

Anthony Anyii Akamobi

Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Nigeria.

Corresponding author: toniakamoby@gmail.com

Abstract

The Niger-Delta region of Nigeria is the single region of the country which has sustained her economy over the years due to its huge deposits of crude oil. This has led to incessant mining and oil exploration within the region, with great implications for the host communities. Consequently, in *Climate Change and Environmental Degradation in Niger-Delta: Any Hope for Sustainable Development?*, we examine the possibility of the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria achieving the goals of both sustainable environment and sustainable economic development in the nearest future. *Ab initio*, four objectives were set: to identify the implications of climate change with special emphases on environmental pollution, environmental degradation, floods and other aspects of man-made environmental changes on the Niger-Delta region; to evaluate the willingness of the indigenes to contribute meaningfully to the fight against climate change; to evaluate the contributions of other stake holders such as the government, multinational oil companies and non-governmental agencies in support of the fight against climate changes and finally, to make recommendations based on findings. Structured questionnaires were distributed to traditional rulers, community leaders, opinion leaders, clan heads, spokesmen and other stakeholders from this region. These enabled the elicitation of valid responses to achieve the set objectives. The principal finding is that the region has a high level of awareness of the implications of environmental pollution occasioned by mining and drilling activities of multinational oil companies and how these have been responsible for much of the climate change experienced in the region. Furthermore, the relevant stakeholders such as the government and multinational oil companies are not oblivious of these implications but the host communities believe that they are not doing enough. Another interesting finding is that the indigenes are willing to contribute financially if and only if there will be an end to the environmental hazards due to oil exploration and consequent climate changes that follow. These findings are all captured using iconic models and illustrated by means of pie charts and bar charts as well as simple percentages, as the case may be. The principal recommendations include that additional efforts are still required to contain the climate change which is wrecking the Niger-Delta region. Furthermore, oil companies should be made to clean up and account for the environmental hazards arising from their exploration activities. Finally, on a general note, governments at various levels should take the issues of climate change very seriously and as a matter of priority.

Keywords: Climate, Degradation, Exploration, Iconic, Multinationals, Pollution.

Role of Intellectual Property on National Economic Growth

Idris Yushardy¹, Eleonora Sofilda², Freddy Harris³

^{1,2,3} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

¹ Directorate General of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Indonesia.

Corresponding author: mhd_zilal_hamzah@trisakti.ac.id

Abstract

Innovation is key to developing a knowledge-based economy because of its important role in creating labor markets and economic growth. In addition, policies to support the formation of a creative economy ecosystem must also be put forward, in this case, policies in the field of intellectual property; both in the field of registration, IPR protection, and IPR commercialization. It's due to the modern economic world, that innovation is necessary in creating value, economic growth, and labor. The aims of this research are: (i). Analyze and examine the extent of the contribution of IP registration to increasing state revenue growth through Non-Tax State Revenue (PNBP); (ii). Analyze and review the extent of the contribution of IP registration to increasing revenue growth in the business sector; and (iii). Analyze and assess the impact of policies taken by DJKI on increasing IP registration in Indonesia. The method used a qualitative approach through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and processed with NVivo and through a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach.

Based on the results of Nvivo and SLR analysis: (i) The contribution of Intellectual Property (IP) registration has proven to have an impact on PNBP through an increase in PNBP from 2016-2022. The increase in IP registration itself is due to factors in the growth of awareness from the public and economic actors on the importance of IP also implies that the variable of public awareness has an indirect impact on the achievement of PNBP DGIP performance. (ii) IPR registration can protect business actors so that business actors can run their businesses calmly and can unlock business development potentials because the registered products indirectly have a positive effect on income and ease of doing business in Indonesia, especially related to IP protection itself. (iii) The policy taken by the government (DGIP) towards efforts to increase IP registration implies that the creation of increased public awareness (Public Awareness) will have an impact on increasing IP registration carried out which can be achieved through increasing socialization activities on an ongoing basis and improving services through the use of technology.

The recommendation of this research is because the role of IP is very positive for Indonesia's economic growth where IP plays an important role in the development of the creative economy and technology, so it is considered necessary for DGIP to become ministry-level bodies so that the policies taken focus more on the economic sector.

Keywords: Business Sector, Economic Growth, Intellectual Property Right, Qualitative Method, State Revenue

How data management help the business organization in Nigeria

Ihekoronye Odinaka Boniface

Federal Polytechnic Ede Osun State, Nigeria.

Corresponding authour: ihekoronyebonimass@yahoo.com

Abstract

This study aims to investigate the uptake and usage patterns of information and communication technologies (ICTs) How data management help the business organization in Nigeria (DBOs).

Data Privacy: this deal with the aspect of the control and process around sharing data with the third parties. It also the ability of individuals to control their personal information. It also a discipline intended to keep data save against improper access, theft or cost.

Data Democratization: means that everyone has access to data and there are no gatekeeper that create a bottleneck at the gateway to the area, it also ongoing process of enabling everybody in an organization, irrespective of their technical know-how, to work with data comfortable. Example; to provide the right tools to enable everyone to work with data.

Data Unification: Data management software gathers information from multiple sources in a single platform.

Data Verification: helps to ensure your data is accurate.

Data management (information) system plays a crucial role in organization as it help them build their competitive advantage based on credibility of information. So in this case information is an important resource in the effective management of any organization in Nigeria. Also in every aspect of management information system has to be evolved from data processing system to support system and became the foundation of the new business environment. Also in a business organization information system are also use to collect all the operation, process and store data.

Keywords: Information and communication technology, how data helps Business.

Modified Elito Method for Identifying Issues Hindering Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Southern Districts of Rajasthan, India

Anjana R Nair ¹, Nirmal Gehlot ², Vinay Gautam ³, Ram Singh ⁴, Himachal ⁵, Meraj Ahmad ⁶,
Ashish Kumar Singh ⁷, Shafqat Hussain ⁸, Varun Sharma ⁹, Pradeep Singh ¹⁰, Vivek Vijay ¹¹,
Anand Plappally ¹²

^{1,4,5,6,12} CETSD, Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur, India.

^{2,11} UBA-RCI, CETSD, IIT Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India.

^{3,10} MPUAT, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India.

⁷ UBA RCI, IIT BHU, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India.

⁸ UNICEF, Rajasthan, India.

⁹ ARAVALI, Government of Rajasthan, Rajasthan, India.

¹ Corresponding author: nair.3@iitj.ac.in

Abstract

This article discusses a modified Elito method to analyze local development issues that impede the achievement of sustainable development goals in rural villages and blocks of southern districts of Rajasthan, India. These districts are situated in Mewar (Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Rajsamand, Bhilwara, Pratapgarh), Marwar (Jalore), Hadoti (Baran, Jhalawar, Kota) and Vagad (Bhilwara, Banswara) regions of Rajasthan, India. Randomly selected sixty-seven participants of the study included academicians from local colleges, block-level officers, villagers, and social non-governmental organizations belonging to these eleven districts. In this experiment, the first three weeks were allotted to identify developmental issues that may hinder the achievement of any one of the seventeen goals of sustainable development. Visual as well as fact-based documents identifying the issues were collected and categorized from all the districts. Almost 14 different issues were identified after a weeklong online engagement and opinion collection from the participants. Correlations between the issues were established when participants interacted for a two-day board-based in-person workshop after the month-long initiation of issue identification. The issues of low digital literacy and child marriage were highly correlated to education and public health respectively. Another major issue of animal encroachment into human habitat was correlated to soil resource conservation in that region. The skill required for agriculture is not in use when soil is lost by natural erosion or anthropogenic activities. Unemployment in the predominantly agrarian society of the region can be observed as a function of different parameters including water availability, quality of education, and unavailability of proper infrastructure in the villages. The presence of water as a resource and the level of education in a specific village may not be an indicator of its development. Using a scree plot analysis, issues related to solid waste, water management, soil erosion, human health, and education were found prominent in these regions in their respective order of importance. Rastriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) came as schemes which were provided maximum focus during the last decade. It was found that the common public was ignorant about the source of funds that ran these schemes. Central and state financial commissions in India allocate funds to the schemes run by the central government of India and individual state governments respectively. Jhalawar and Pratapgarh were found to be a cluster of districts with a large set of similar issues. The implication of this type of experiment bringing multiple stakeholders helps in the identification of similar local sustainable development issues which are highly correlated to resource availability and landscape character for a region.

Keywords: Policy making, Rural Development, Localization of Sustainable Development Goals

Community perspective on effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System against illicit drugs in South Africa

Petrus Machethe¹, Jacob Tseko Mofokeng²

¹ University of South Africa, South Africa.

² Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa.

² Corresponding author: mofokengjt@tut.ac.za

Abstract

Little is known regarding the performance of the criminal justice system (CJS) in South Africa to adequately respond to, the demand and supply of illicit drugs in South Africa. The overarching mandate of the South African Police Service (SAPS) is reflected in section 205 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. The objects of Policing in terms of this section are to prevent, combat and investigate crime, while on the other hand, the courts have a pivotal role of ensuring that justice is maintained, by prosecuting and convicting the criminals after they are arrested. Observations reveal that South Africa amongst many other countries is affected highly by illicit drugs. Public confidence and co-operation in the CJS is necessary and an important step in preventing and combating illicit drugs, thus increasing levels of safety and security. The likelihood of crimes being committed is increased if the system is regarded as inefficient.

The research question that guided this study is: What are the views of the people on effectiveness of the CJS to reduce the demand and supply of illicit drugs in South Africa? In pursuit of the objectives of the study, the research paradigm was rooted in positivism. Consequently, a quantitative approach was adopted and a cross-sectional design was employed. Through convenience sampling, 130 respondents were recruited at taxi ranks in the Gauteng Province travelling to various provinces of South Africa. Data was gathered through self-administered questionnaires. The findings demonstrate that among others, community were of the view that some of the South African Police Service (SAPS) officials are involved in the trafficking of illicit drugs in their respective communities. Furthermore, the respondents consider the SAPS officials collude with drug dealers, thus overlook criminality perpetuated in their communities. The findings of this study identified probable better approaches to reduce production, distribution and sale of illicit drug if more coordinated and annually planned actions by the CJS stakeholders in South Africa.

Keywords: Community perceptive, criminal justice system, illicit drugs, South Africa

Policy of Intellectual Property as a Bank Guarantee for The Support of Creative Economic Development

Heditiya Febrian¹, Eleonora Sofilda², Freddy Harris³

^{1,2,3} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

¹ Directorate General of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Law and Human Rights Republic of Indonesia.

Corresponding author: heditiya.febrin88@gmail.com

Abstract

The creative economy is an economic activity driven by creative industries that prioritizes the role of intellectual property. One effort to improve the national economy is in the creative economy sector with intellectual property policies as banking collateral in crediting/borrowing business capital. The aim of this research is (i) Analyze and review the development of Intellectual Property (IP) which is used as collateral for banking credit in Indonesia, especially concerning the creative economy. (ii) Analyze and review banking regulations related to IP as collateral, (iii) Analyze and assess the risks and obstacles faced concerning IP as collateral for banking credit; and (iv) Analyzing and reviewing Intellectual Property can contribute to the development of the creative economy. The method used is a qualitative approach through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and processed using NVivo and through a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach.

Based on the results of the NVivo and SLR analysis: (i) The development of Intellectual Property (IP) which is used as collateral for banking credit in Indonesia, especially in the creative economy industry, has not yet been discovered. One of the informants in the Operator category mentioned that Intellectual Property assets have a higher risk compared to fixed collateral as well as the perceived condition of the financial industry in Indonesia which is not yet fully aware of pledging Intellectual Property assets as the main collateral; (ii) The constraints that are dominantly mapped out in the implementation process are also related to why until now Intellectual Property assets are still an alternative choice of collateral (second collateral) for the financial world, especially banking. Some of the dominant obstacles mentioned are related to obstacles regarding the clarity of regulations and the ability to liquidate collateralized IP assets as well as the need for credit guarantees for collateralized IP assets, (iii) There is a need for clarity in regulations regarding fiduciary guarantees for Intellectual Property assets. This was touched upon by one of the informants in the regulator category who specifically discussed regulations/laws regarding Intellectual Property fiduciary guarantees; and (iv) Intellectual Property for the creative economy can also be achieved through a financing guarantee. This is because Intellectual Property has a value that can be measured.

This research recommends that the government first propose changes to the industrial design law, trademark law, trade secret law, and other intellectual property laws where these laws can regulate that intellectual property can be guaranteed by banks considering that it is new Patent law and copyright law which regulates that patents and copyrights can be used as banking collateral. In addition, the government has established an independent valuation institution that can determine the appropriate valuation method according to the value of intellectual property in Indonesia so that the government has clear policies and regulations to support intellectual property as banking collateral.

Keywords: Banking Guarantee, Creative Economy, Intellectual Property, National Economy. Qualitative Method

Policy Analysis on Border Trade Between Indonesia and Malaysia

Septania Rubi Prameswari¹, Muhammad Zilal Hamzah², Eleonora Sofilda³

^{1,2,3} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

¹ Foreign Policy Strategy Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

² Corresponding author: mhd_zilal_hamzah@trisakti.ac.id

Abstract

Indonesia and Malaysia already have various bilateral cooperation and agreements to regulate bilateral trade between the two countries. One of them is the 1970 Border Trade Agreement (BTA) to facilitate communities in border areas to fulfill basic needs. Nowadays, border areas have become the door for international trade which plays a role in increasing Indonesia's exports to countries that have direct borders. The research area on this study focuses on the border between North Kalimantan Province (Indonesia) with Sabah (Malaysia). This research aims to: (i). Examining and analyzing the relationship between North Kalimantan border trade and Sabah on bilateral trade between Indonesia and Malaysia; (ii). Examining and analyzing the factors that influence bilateral trade in the North Kalimantan - Sabah border area; and (iii). Review and analyze public policies that can help increase trade on the North Kalimantan – Sabah border.

The methodology used in this research is a qualitative approach through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) processed with NVivo and through a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach. Based on the result of NVivo and SLR, this research found: (i). Lack of infrastructure availability is the main problem that causes the border trade relationship between Indonesia and Malaysia in North Kalimantan and Sabah to not be equal. Most of the informants raise the issue of lack of main infrastructures such as roads, electricity, and telecommunication in North Kalimantan Province that cause the local communities to have dependency on the bordering area of Malaysia; (ii). The main dominant factor influencing bilateral trade between North Kalimantan and Sabah is the availability of infrastructure, integration of policies between countries, government budget allocation, infrastructure investment, availability of basic goods, development of industrial areas, and development of buffer (border) areas. Those factors are needed to be developed by the Indonesian government to have an equal border trade relationship between Indonesia and Malaysia; (iii). That to help increase the North Kalimantan - Sabah border trade, necessary to synergize policies and reduce policy disintegration between the central government and regional governments of North Kalimantan, especially in providing a budget to develop the main infrastructures in North Kalimantan. Funding on budget constraints can be provided through various schemes of investment which will boost the international trade at the border of North Kalimantan and Sabah.

This research recommends: (i). The Indonesian government must focus on infrastructure development policies (electricity, roads, telecommunications, logistics) as well as budget commitments to increase border trade; (ii). Carrying out diplomatic discussions on border trade regulations with Malaysia to avoid the disintegration of border trade regulatory policies between countries. Indonesia and Malaysia have signed the renewal of the Border Trade Agreement 1970 in the year 2022, however, the implementation of this agreement is still related to the needs of local communities and not international trade. So, the Indonesian government needs to begin the discussions on border trade and the facilities for facilitating border trade between North Kalimantan and Sabah; and (iii). Implementation of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) to build a natural resource (SDA) raw material processing industry in North Kalimantan.

Keywords: Cross Border Trade, Bilateral Trade Agreement, Infrastructure, Economic Regional Cooperation, Public Private Partnership.

The impact of crime scene contamination by police officers in unsolved housebreaking cases in the Honeydew policing area, South Africa

Mabareki Glensinah Lesese¹, Petrus Machethe², Rakgetse John Mokwena³

^{1,2,3} University of South Africa, South Africa.

² Corresponding author: emachep@unisa.ac.za

Abstract

Unsolved housebreaking cases are a major cause for concern in South Africa. The number of burglaries has increased in the Honeydew policing area in the province of Gauteng, South Africa, with community members regularly complaining about housebreaks. However, reported cases frequently remain unsolved, which raises the question of the impact of police officers' crime scene contamination on the resolution of housebreaking cases. The purpose of this article is to evaluate the impact of police officers' crime scene contamination on the resolution of housebreaking cases in specifically the Honeydew policing area. A qualitative research approach was followed to address the research problem and substantiate the research findings. That included a literature review and oral, face-to-face interviews conducted with detectives and visible policing officers in charge of housebreaking crime scenes, among other things, in the target area. Research participants were purposely chosen from various focus groups, including South African Police Service (SAPS) detectives and uniform police officers attached to the SAPS Visible Policing (VISPOL) unit. The article's objectives were met by using semi-structured interviews for data collection. The findings of this article reveal that police officers who attend to housebreaking crime scenes in the Honeydew policing area often lack knowledge about securing a crime scene, which results in the contamination of such scenes. Unfortunately, that happens in similar cases throughout South Africa, which raises the question of whether police officers receive adequate training in crime scene management and evidence preservation. Evidence contamination can harm an investigation. This article recommends that detectives and VISPOL officers at the Honeydew police station be kept up to date with the contents of SAPS National Instruction 1 of 2015, which outlines the roles of crime scene supervisors and examiners. This will provide them with critical knowledge about and skills for crime scene management, process planning and implementation, and assist in eliminating housebreaking crime scene contamination by police officers, as that carries significant weight in the execution of their daily duties.

Keywords: Housebreaking, Crime Scene Contamination, Evidence, Physical evidence, Police Officers

Reconsidering the conventional reconstruction mechanism of a crime scene: Exploring forensic photography

Rakgetse John Mokwena

University of South Africa, South Africa.

Corresponding author: mokwerj@unisa.ac.za

Abstract

The prosecutors, defence attorneys and magistrates involved in the litigation process of a crime do not have the opportunity to be at the crime scene. Therefore, recording and documenting the crime scene permits the court of law to have a true reflection of the crime scene in a small and manageable size. This takes place in various forms, such as the taking of crime scene photographs, a plan drawn according to scale (or a rough sketch and sketch plan), the taking of notes, and even video recordings of the crime scene – either in three dimensions (3D) or using a hand-held video camera.

The purpose of this paper is to explore how detectives and crime scene technicians (CSTs) are currently conducting crime scene reconstructions of murder crime scenes by adopting forensic photography, and how forensic photography could be used for this purpose. To increase understanding of the phenomenon, qualitative research driven by an empirical design was used to collect data from police detectives in the Durban area of policing.

The findings suggest that detectives and Crime Scene Technicians (CSTs) are not doing everything in their power to use forensic photography to reconstruct crime scenes. The researchers therefore recommend that the South African Police Service's (SAPS) detectives and Crime Scene Technicians (CSTs) adopt the fundamentals of forensic photography when reconstructing murder crime scenes. The SAPS detectives and CSTs should also attend extensive training and be provided with sufficient resources. The article's findings and recommendations reply to the questions of the legal and criminal justice fraternity about true reflections of what transpired during the commission of a crime.

Keywords: crime scene investigations, forensic science, forensic photography, reconstruction, three-dimensional (3D)

Environmental Burden of Industrial Generation of PCBs in Sewage Management

Adesoji Tunbosun Jaiyeola

Civil Engineering Department, Mangosuthu University of Technology, Durban, South Africa.

Corresponding author: Soj707@yahoo.com

Abstract

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are a significant component of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and are notorious for contaminating natural environments due to human industrial activities. This contamination, found extensively in air, soil, and water, is primarily attributed to metals, chemicals, and metalloids. The presence of PCBs has raised serious environmental concerns, impacting plants and animals adversely, with potential for even more severe consequences if not addressed promptly. Over the past two decades, there has been a growing emphasis on employing bioremediation techniques to cleanse the environment, particularly soil.

Bioremediation methods, leveraging fungi and bacteria, have emerged as natural detoxification agents. However, the efficacy of traditional bioremediation approaches on hydrophobic organic molecules like PCBs has been limited, characterized by slow response rates. To address this challenge, recent research has explored synergistic solutions involving a combination of microorganisms and plants in optimized ratios. This innovative approach holds promise for achieving more desirable and effective remediation outcomes.

The integration of microorganisms and plants capitalizes on their complementary strengths in detoxifying PCB-contaminated environments. Microorganisms, renowned for their enzymatic capabilities, break down complex organic compounds like PCBs into less harmful substances. On the other hand, plants play a crucial role in phytoremediation, absorbing and accumulating contaminants from the soil into their tissues. When strategically combined, these biological agents can work synergistically to enhance the remediation process significantly.

Moreover, advancements in biotechnology have facilitated the engineering of microorganisms and plants with enhanced PCB-degrading capabilities. Genetic modification techniques have enabled the development of microbial strains and plant varieties tailored specifically for efficient PCB degradation and accumulation. These genetically optimized organisms offer a promising avenue for accelerating the bioremediation process and mitigating the long-term environmental impact of PCB contamination.

Furthermore, ongoing research endeavors focus on optimizing environmental conditions, such as temperature, pH levels, and nutrient availability, to further enhance the efficacy of bioremediation strategies. By fine-tuning these parameters and leveraging cutting-edge biotechnological interventions, the remediation of PCB-contaminated sites can be expedited, paving the way for a more sustainable and ecologically balanced future.

Keywords: Biphenyl, isomeric, pollution sewage, wastewater.

Strategy to Combating Corruption: An Overview of the Lifestyle Audit

Mokiritlana Given Makola

University of South Africa, South Africa.

Corresponding author: Makolmg@unisa.ac.za

Abstract

Observation made by author of this article, suggests that financial auditors and forensic investigators must work together in combating of crime of corruption. This type of crime it becomes of the more problematic in the worldwide. Likewise, in the corporate and public sphere corruption executes the hopes of the masses whose cares about the companies. Currently, the lifestyle audit has become the perfect method that can be deployed by forensic investigators in the combating of corruption in private companies and public sphere. However, it became clear that most of the officials who commit the crime of corruption are very vigilant, it became the call for forensic investigators to be trained on how to apply lifestyle audit as the combat technique. However, this type of crime is committed mostly by officials that have more power in the organisations, companies or institutions. Many companies suffered in the monetary system because of the crime of corruption that committed within their sphere. In line to this, more private companies ended up being in the liquidated situation and the employees of that company can lose their jobs, because of the lack of finance. However, the external stakeholders that are collaborated with the company that suffered financially can be affected. The purpose of the paper is to overview the use of lifestyle audit in the combating of corruption. The researcher adopts non-empirical research design where predetermined steps are followed properly. Further, merely the literature sources and observations used for arguments and integration purposes with intent to solve research problems. Furthermore, the researcher observes some of the solved corruption cases that are published in the Auditor General report, newspapers and at social media platforms where lifestyle audit is applied as combating method. To add this, the observation of the published corruption cases used as the example in this paper. The results of this article suggest that forensic investigators must apply the lifestyle audit by following the proper procedures to avoid the mistakes of the lifestyle of the offender. The application of lifestyle audit as the proper method in the investigation of corruption should comply with the forensic procedure acts together to ensure the release of the quality forensic audit reports. This article concludes that application of the lifestyle audit needs more auditing and financial investigation skills that are of advanced. The article recommends that forensic investigators and financial auditors should undergo training in the lifestyle auditing sphere.

Keywords: Lifestyle auditing, Forensic investigation, Corruption prevention, Corruption and Crime combating

The Mitigation Mechanisms of Climate Change in The South African Context

Rakgetse John Mokwena

University of South Africa, South Africa.

Corresponding author: mokwerj@unisa.ac.za

Abstract

South African climate change is unique and takes three forms: excessive heat, floods and sporadic wildfires. Climate change is not only affecting human beings; it is a challenge across the board. The challenges apply to nature, the environment and any creature in the universe. However, the main role player in managing this appropriately remains human beings. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to discuss the mitigating mechanisms of climate change in South Africa.

From the non-empirical research design, i.e. a systematic review standpoint, the researchers analysed historical overview patterns of rainfall, droughts, floods and heatwaves in the South African context. For data collection, documentary sources were used qualitatively. Non-probability purposive sampling was adopted to outline keywords/phrases to filter information relevant to the study purposes and the research problem, restricted to 10 years in the literature. Textual analysis was adopted for data analysis.

It was established that the climate condition challenges manifest differently in the nine South African provinces. Each of these provinces experiences different types of climate change challenges. South Africa has two main economic challenges related to climate based on water shortages and the electricity crisis. The results also show that South Africa sources electricity from Mozambique and water from Lesotho and human beings are liable for the proper control and sustainable mitigation mechanisms of these scarce basic needs. They do not conserve the environment properly, further affecting other creatures negatively. Their actions are very toxic to this environment, creating other severe challenges to climate change.

This paper recommends mitigation processes to overcome climate change challenges in South Africa by harvesting energy and water. This will turn South African climate change challenges into viable economic growth opportunities by using the two main challenges of floods and excessive heat in a beneficial way.

Keywords: Climate change [drought and heatwave], Environment, Electricity, Mitigation mechanisms

**The root causes and extent of domestic violence in the Tshitale rural area of South Africa:
An ongoing struggle for a feasible solution**

Rirhandzu Phyllis Hlungwane¹, Petrus Machethe²

^{1,2} College of Law, School of Criminal Justice, Department of Police Practice, University of South Africa,
South Africa.

² Corresponding author: emachep@unisa.ac.za

Abstract

This paper explores domestic violence in the Tshitale policing area in Limpopo province, South Africa. The Domestic Violence Act (116 of 1998) provides for the protection of victims of domestic violence, while the 1996 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides for the security of a person, and the right to equality and freedom of a person. The way in which police officials deal with cases of domestic violence raises questions about whether they are truly capable of dealing with such crimes. While they can differentiate between crimes associated with domestic violence and other criminal activities, the failure by members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) to protect victims of domestic violence not only results in a denial of justice, but also violates the fundamental rights of women in particular. This study adopted a qualitative research method to collect data through a literature review and face-to-face interviews. Purposive sampling was used to arrive at a sample size of 22 participants, which comprised two Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ & CD) members (all from the Tshitale Magistrate's Court), three traditional leaders, six community leaders, four social workers, six SAPS officers based in the Tshitale Policing Area, and one leader of a faith-based organisation. The findings revealed that several myths made up the root causes of domestic violence, namely 1) if a man does not batter his wife, he does not love her, and 2) men need not listen to a woman's opinions. Alcohol abuse was identified as exacerbating domestic violence in the area. The researchers recommend that men and women be educated about the dangers of abusing alcohol within the family setting. Drinkers should drink responsibly, and not use alcohol as a scapegoat to justify domestic violence. Furthermore, spiritual leaders should urge men to change their patriarchal ways of treating women. Social services should be prioritised for counselling families and traditional leaders should gather the men of the community and instructing them to change their ways of mistreating their loved ones.

Keywords: Alcohol abuse, Domestic violence, Education, Patriarchy, Tshitale Policing Area

Implementation of the Government Policy to Enhance National Geographical Indication on the Quality Control of GI Products

Fajar Sulaeman Taman¹, Muhammad Zilal Hamzah², Eleonora Sofilda³, Freddy Harris⁴
^{1,2,3,4} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

¹ Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Republic of Indonesia.

¹ Corresponding author: fajar.sulaeman18@gmail.com

Abstract

In the era of globalization and free trade, one of the most important in Intellectual Property is geographical indications (GI) which can be said to be "GI is the new oil" in capturing food market share in the world. The important role of the government, which is very much needed in improving, marketing, and supporting the results of geographical indication products, is the key to the success of a product that is in the name of the country in the eyes of the world and national markets and can survive it. However, producing poor quality only has a negative economic impact on the geographical indication protection community (MPIG), and there are no investors or buyers from abroad. Even though their products, apart from handicrafts, are very popular with connoisseurs of Indonesian natural products. One of them are coffee, spices, rice, and vanilla. Appropriate policies are needed for the welfare of the people who carry out GI product businesses. Moreover, that they can continue to produce goods of reputation, character, and quality which have been produced for generations in that area. Bearing in mind that, in the field of support, several regional governments still do not understand and include work programs on the potential of geographical indication products as superior products in their respective regions.

The aim of this research is to examine and analyze the role of the government in carrying out strategic approaches to registration, commercialization, and law enforcement for the Geographical Indication Protection Community (MPIG) and Government Regulations, as well as branding strategies for GI products that they excel in local and international markets by involving the cooperation of the central, regional, and governmental governments. agencies related to MPIG to increase community prosperity. This research uses a qualitative approach, where data collection is carried out through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) activities. This data collection involves stakeholders such as regulators, academics, geographical indication experts both within the country and abroad, international institutions that handle geographical indications, and MPIG. Technical analysis was carried out using the NVivo device.

All economic activities that require premium, superior natural products have made it a target for several countries to utilize them as superior agricultural products in the world market. Involvement of the central government, regional government, academics, business actors, and media will assist the GI owner community to maintain the reputation, quality, and characteristics of local Indonesian GI products in increasing the share of exports in regional and global trade.

Keywords: Public Policy, Geographical Indications, export products of agriculture

**Data-Driven Approach for Mitigating Urban Heat Island for Spatial Development Planning:
A Case of Vijayawada City, India**

Adinarayanane Ramamurthy¹, Neduri Pushyami², Ramesh Srikonda³

^{1,2,3} School of Planning and Architecture Vijayawada, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

¹ Corresponding author: sathishadi@gmail.com

Abstract

The derivations of climate change on cities and their activities depend on their capacity for adaptation and mitigation. In this sense, it has long recognized the influence of cities on their own climate, which is typically warmer than the surrounding. This phenomenon called urban heat island (UHI) has several impacts on air quality, water demand and energy. The fourth IPCC assessment report indicated the need for urban centers to devote efforts to adaptation to reduce the risks of direct and indirect impacts of climatic change. Urbanization is a major event in human history, and it became a rapid and inevitable trend around the world. Urban growth and sprawl have drastically altered the biophysical environment. The study thus aims to analyze on multi-temporal remote sensing data to understand the land use changes and their influence on urban heat island over the period of past 20 years in the city and the relationship between urban expansion and microclimate temperature fluctuations and develop an algorithm to forecast the urban heat island for the year 2041 based on the predicted land use-land cover changes and land surface temperatures (LST). Keeping the aforesaid knowledge, Vijayawada city, Andhra Pradesh, India chosen for further detailed investigation to validate the developed algorithm. The city expansion and the associated temperature fluctuations are studied with the aid of remote sensing technology. Temporal Landsat satellite images of four years viz., 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2021 are used to generate Land Use Land Cover maps with four major classes' viz. built-up, vegetation, water body and others. Change detection and transition of the natural land cover to man-made land use was computed for the study area. Shannon's entropy, buffering analysis employing ARCGIS and landscape metrics by using FRAGSTATS, sprawl analysis were carried out to evaluate the urban density, expansion rate, urban growth rate and direction of sprawl. Normalized Difference Water Index, Normalized Difference Vegetation Index and Normalized Difference Built Index, over years have been mapped. Further, the seasonal variations of land surface temperature over the past two decades have been quantified and explored over different land use and land cover (LULC) classes. The study results depicted a steady increasing trend in the urban density and land surface temperature with the distinct formation of UHI over the city between 1990 to 2021. By employing MOLUSCE plugin in QGIS, considering the input features 2001, 2011 LULC maps and spatial variables like distance from the water body, road, and respective slope to predict and model the future scenarios of the built-up dynamics in cellular automata (CA) based environment. An algorithm to forecast the future LST for modelled city scenario in 2021 and 2041 evolved on Artificial Neural Network (ANN) in MATLAB. Based on the results, LST and UHI for projected year 2041 generated through MATLAB analysis and explored the hotspot zones. The study concludes with optimal planning guidelines and action for heat protection mechanism, as a regulatory framework to minimize the UHI effect towards spatial development planning in the study region.

Keywords: Urban Heat Island; Land Surface Temperature; CA-MOLUSCE Model; ANN-MATLAB Model; Spatial Development Planning.

Addressing perennial flood disasters and public health concerns in Nigeria

Onyenenwa Cyprian Eneh ¹, Chinemelum Amarachukwu Eneh ², Arinze Francis Udenka ³

^{1,2,3} Institute for Development Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.

Corresponding: onyenenwa.eneh@unn.edu.ng

Abstract

Heavy rainfall and climate change arising from anthropogenic activities lead to flooding, which has dire consequences of wanton destruction of lives and property and also degrades and pollutes the environment with attendant environmental insecurity, hazards, risks and health challenges in Nigeria. Unconcerned attitude of residents and unpreparedness of governments ensure that seasonal perennial flooding takes the society unawares, despite forewarnings by weather forecasters. Individuals and governments lack in genuine proactive ecological conservation actions to prevent further losses to ecosystems, as well as in sincere ecological restoration and succession responses to *repair natural sites whose biological communities and ecosystems have been degraded, polluted or destroyed*. Disturbance ecology to deal with the causes and consequences of both natural and anthropogenic disturbances is little or not regarded. This study reviewed the incidences of flood disasters from 2012 to 2022 and correlated deaths from flood disasters with health (life expectancy) and economic health. Results showed that for every 1% increase in flood disaster incidence, life expectancy decreased by 0.0000016 and economic health decreased by 0.000008088. The study advocated people action and government policy-making and implementation for ecological conservation, ecological restoration, ecological succession, disturbance ecology, and green building, infrastructure and initiative, and disaster risk reduction measures to deal with flood disasters in Nigeria.

Keywords: Disturbance ecology; Ecological conservation, restoration and succession; Environmental security; Green building, infrastructure and initiative; Perennial flood disasters

Trade Liberalization and Economic Growth in Developing Countries: Empirical Evidence from Nigeria

Umar Magaji Umar

Sokoto State University, Sokoto, Nigeria.

Corresponding author: magajiumar33@gmail.com

Abstract: The paper analyses economic growth in the wake of global trade liberalisation programme in developing countries that, since the early 1980s, have pursued structural changes and trade liberalisation with the goal of increasing exports and diversifying in favour of the manufacturing sector. In order to quantify trade liberalisation, this study uses data from exports, imports, and GDP, all of which are influenced by important variables like population, inflation, economic fragility, and exchange rates and external shocks. Other important metrics that were looked at were FDI, security, unemployment, and poverty. The findings reveal an unsettling truth about Nigeria's economic expansion, where basic inclusion principles are insufficient. According to the study, while several countries that have liberalised their trade sectors recorded significant growth, political factors have mostly influenced monetary and fiscal policies intended to further inclusive economic growth, which is why Nigeria has not seen this. The study suggests that in order to guarantee inclusive economic growth in Nigeria, extensive economic reforms including political and neo-protectionism, reduced ongoing spending, and the battle against insecurity are required, for sustained economic growth and development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Economic Growth, Exchange Rate, Exports/Imports, Inflation, Inclusivity, Trade Liberalization

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**Increasing Political Participation of Youths in Nigeria: As a Means to Reducing Election-Related Violence:
A Case Study of Sokoto State of Nigeria**

Yusuf Bala

Sokoto State University, Sokoto, Nigeria.

Corresponding author: balayusuf57@gmail.com

Abstract: The Enhancing youth political participation is one of the most important prerequisites for long-term progress and effective leadership in any democracy. The issue of youth neglect in the political process has led to great concern regarding the political participation of young people in Nigeria. The primary goal of this paper is to draw attention to the ways in which Nigerian youth has been neglected in governance due to a lack of poor policies. The paper will look at the Factors Neglecting Youth participation into electoral Process in Nigeria and the way forward to such problems. The findings show that, corruption, Hash economic conditions and Youth are deliberately excluded by Elites as the factor that neglect youth from political participation. It is therefore recommended that government should form Political parties based on principles and ideologies, rather than on ethnic or religious lines.

Keywords: Electoral Process, Electoral Violence, Political Participation, Strengthening, Youth

Inclusion of sex education in the curriculum: A strategy geared towards addressing the prevalence of sexual violence in institutions of higher learning

Mandisa Samukelisiwe Makhaye¹, Siyanda Dlamini²

^{1,2} University of Zululand, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: MakhayeM@unizulu.ac.za

Abstract

Sexual violence is a widespread issue that has crept into universities all across the world. This newly named “pandemic” has long-term detrimental effects on students' academic and social lives. This paper reports on a qualitative study that interviewed students, security personnel and student counselling staff members of three institutions of higher learning in KwaZulu Nata (Durban), to examine the social context of sexual victimization of female students in institutions of higher learning. Findings presented that universities are microcosms of society, and university campuses are always platforms for the expression of society's culture. Important elements that are representative of a person's upbringing, heritage, and culture, permit decisions leading to sexual violence. Gender stereotypes are perpetuated when pupils engage with one another., exacerbating inappropriate behaviours such as sexual violence. Additionally, the study found that Students lacked the knowledge and instruction necessary to understand their rights, including the freedom to consent or not. This paper foregrounds the nature of sexual violence and how it is a complex problem driven by a combination of factors including educational and cultural background, and socialisation. This highlights crucial ways in which university campuses reflect wider social dynamics and universities are in an advantageous position to address these dynamics using the curriculum. Therefore, the main recommendation of this paper is for the inclusion of sex education into the entry-level curriculum for all first-time entering students. This is envisioned to be a short programme addressing a broad range of important subjects including as basic human rights, gender and sexuality, consent, sexual activity, way of life, alcohol and drug use. This shall facilitate the cultivation of an informed identity within the student body. Allowing students to make informed decisions and contribute to attempts to curb sexual violence in institutions of higher learning.

Keywords: Consent; education; gender; human rights; sexuality; sexual violence; university.

Bridging the gap: Unpacking the role of the SAPS Crime Information Management and Analysis Centre in advancing Evidence-Based Policing in South Africa

Mpho Maboa ¹, Juanida Horne ²

^{1,2} College of Law, School of Criminal Justice, Department of Police Practice, University of South Africa.

Corresponding author: etshihm@unisa.ac.za

Abstract

South Africa is grappling with crime as the quarterly crime statistics continue to reveal the inclining crime rates and trends in most crime types, including violent crimes and property-related crimes. Crime reduction has become the main social challenge and the South African Police Service (SAPS) continuously strives to change the policing models and strategies to achieve their goal of crime prevention and reduction; however, as a country we continue to record high levels of crime in all parts of South Africa.

The 21st era has ushered in the use of evidence-based policing, which is grounded in the notion that research is instrumental in devising strategies and means of reducing crime and tackling internal police problems. Evidence-based policing does not replace the policing models and strategies, but it can help law enforcement agencies to identify strategies that best fit a particular situation and help implement and improve that strategy. This research explores the role of the Crime Information Management and Analysis Centre (CIMAC) in advancing evidence-based policing within the South African Police Service. A qualitative approach was adopted in this study and data was collected sequentially through an extensive review of literature and followed by semi-structured interviews with SAPS officials, CIMAC members at station level, as well as members of the Crime Registrar at the provincial and national levels. Two international participants were also interviewed to obtain international perspectives on the use of crime analysis units in crime prevention and reduction.

The results of the study revealed that CIMAC's role in advancing evidence-based policing includes problem identification; knowledge management; insight sharing in the police context; needs identification; research prospects analysis and trust building between the researchers, the community and the police. In conclusion, the research outlines the benefits of using CIMAC in evidence-based policing (CIMAC being the catalyst for change within the SAPS) and proposes recommendations for the effective utilisation of CIMAC in advancing evidence-based policing.

Keywords: Crime analysis; Crime Information Management and Analysis Centre (CIMAC); Crime prevention; Crime statistics; Evidence Based Policing (EBP).

Towards Sustainable Renewable Energy Storage Capacity Rating: A Survey of Selected Load and Resource Scenario in Nigeria

Yakubu Adamu¹, Baba Alfa², Salahudeen Adamu Gene³

^{1,2,3} Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai Nigeria.

¹ Corresponding author: yakubua29@gmail.com

Abstract

As the drive towards clean, renewable and sustainable energy generation is gradually being reshaped by renewable penetration over time, energy storage has thus become an optimal solution for utilities looking to reduce transmission and capacity cost, therefore the need for capacity resources to be adjusted accordingly such that renewable energy storage may have the opportunity to substitute for retiring conventional energy systems with higher capacity factors. Considering the Nigeria scenario, where Over 80% of the current Nigerian primary energy consumption is met by petroleum, electricity demand is set to more than double by mid-century, relative to 2025 levels. With renewable energy penetration rapidly increasing, in particular biomass, hydro power, solar and wind energy, it is expected to account for the largest share of power output in the coming decades. Despite this rapid growth, the imbalance between load and resources has created a hindrance to the development of energy storage capacity, load and resources, hence forecasting energy storage capacity will therefore play an important role in maintaining the balance between load and resources including supply and demand. Therefore, the degree to which this might occur, its timing and more importantly its sustainability, is the subject matter of the current research. Here, we forecast the future energy storage capacity rating and thus, evaluate the load and resource scenario in Nigeria. In doing so, We used the scenario-based International Energy Agency models, the projected energy demand and supply structure of the country through 2030 are presented and analysed. Overall, this shows that in high renewable (solar) penetration scenarios in Nigeria, energy storage with 4-6h duration can obtain over 86% capacity rating with storage comprising about 24% of peak load capacity. Therefore, the general takeaway from the current study is that most power systems currently used has the potential to support fairly large penetrations of 4-6 hour storage as capacity resources prior to a substantial reduction in capacity ratings. The data presented in this paper is a crucial eye-opener for relevant government agencies towards developing these energy resources in tackling the present energy crisis in Nigeria. However, if the transformation of the Nigeria. power system continues primarily through expansion of renewable generation, then longer duration energy storage will be needed to qualify as capacity resources. Hence, the analytical task from the current survey will help to determine whether and when long-duration storage becomes an integral component of the capacity mix that is expected in Nigeria by 2030.

Keywords: Capacity, Energy, Power system, Resources and Storage

The Spatio-Temporal Dynamics of Green Spaces and their Impact on Urban Environment of Bhopal Region, Madhya Pradesh, India

Adinarayanane Ramamurthy¹, Disha Jain², Faiz Ahmed Chundeli³

^{1,2,3} School of Planning and Architecture Vijayawada, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

¹ Corresponding author: sathishadi@gmail.com

Abstract

Urban green space (UGS) plays an essential role in urban ecosystem and highly contributes to the welfare of urban residents. Understanding the dynamics of green space is crucial for its planning and management. Under the pressure of rapid urbanization, the spatiotemporal dynamics of UGS have enormous impacts on the local ecological system and environment at different scales. The role of UGS in urban sustainability is attracting increasing attention from researchers. However, due to various factors, the distribution of green spaces among city neighbourhoods is often skewed. The loss or degradation of green space may deprive the habitats for creatures, reduce biodiversity, and disrupt the structure and process of the urban ecosystem. Having realized the importance of green space in urban ecosystems, considerable work has been devoted to improving the urban environment and enhancing citizens' quality of life through urban green space planning. Hence, urban planners require effective tools to routinely map and monitor the greening/ un-greening phenomena among the neighbourhoods. This research study caters to the need by adopting a geospatial green space distribution assessment approach that encompasses green space quantity, quality, and accessibility aspects. Keeping the aforesaid knowledge in mind, Bhopal City has been chosen for further detailed investigation. The study investigates the spatio-temporal variation of UGS and its relationship with urban growth based on an empirical analysis during rapid urban development decadal phases between 2001 and 2021. The study tried to quantify the cooling effect of green spaces and its spatial variation, using Landsat 9 USGS Earth explorer by employing ArcGIS. FRAGSTATS software has been employed to compute spatial patterns in land cover and explored their changes over time. In this research study by employing the remote sensing and geographic information system techniques to determine the dynamics and nexus between UGS and Land Surface Temperature (LST) as well as investigating the perceived factors responsible for the UGS changes in study region, to encourage sustainable management of the UGS and mitigating the Urban Heat Island. Further, an attempt has been made to explore the causal relationship between green spaces and land values, by employing multiple regression analysis. The findings shed light on the significant impact of park size and location in relation to other parks on the average temperature of the neighbourhood. Furthermore, it indicates that development of parks can contribute to better land prices in the surrounding areas, potentially leading to increased revenue for urban local bodies. This is a clear evident that the economic benefits associated with the strategic allocation and preservation of green spaces within urban environment. The economic, ecological, and social benefits of UGS were quantified based on the ecosystem service valuation. Survey research technique and descriptive statistics have been employed to show general patterns, explore whether variations of socioeconomic backgrounds and park characteristics were related to green space use, perception, assessment, and demands in the system. Based on the findings, the study evolves a comprehensive operational framework and suggest guidelines for determining the optimal size and spacing of parks within neighbourhoods to enhance the potentials of urban green spaces navigating towards sustainable urban growth and development in the system.

Keywords: UGS; Spatiotemporal Dynamics; LST; Compactness Index; Cooling Impact; Sustainable Development

The Role of District Commissioners in Enhancing Sustainable Development in Tanzania

Norman Adamson Sigalla King

University of Iringa, Tanzania.

Corresponding author: normanasking@gmail.com

Abstract

Sustainable development requires partners that are arranged cordially in works to enable them to perform what we call a mutual understanding. It is achieved through waying the development, which is achieved from looking to the right, to the left, behind and to the future. To enhance this sustainable development, in Tanzania we observe that leaders of the government are divided in three main categories: The president and his/her cabinet, Regional Commissioners and District Commissioners. This paper entails to check the role of district commissioners in enhancing sustainable development in Tanzania. The issue we are looking at is because of the potentials of the district commissioners and the mandate this carder has over the rest of the carder. We understand that in Tanzania the District Commissioners and Regional Commissioners carry equal weight with the president of Tanzania in terms of power to detain people. We do not have any other carder or a person whose mandate to detain people are provided by the law other than the president, regional commissioners, and district commissioners. Most research has gone to elude regional commissioners but very few have endorsed the district commissioners. It is an important carder because they are appointed by the president of united republic of Tanzania. And we do have two carders in Tanzania which are being looked similar with the president. The two carders are regional commissioners and district commissioners. These oversee every activity that is performed in their district. Just as the president is sole in charge of every activity that is pursued in the entire land known as Tanzania, equally the district commissioner and the regional commissioner. We notice that from the first regime of Tanzania which was led by Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere he was keen at appointing regional commissioners and district commissioners. He could change the ministers but for the regional commissioners and district commissioners their vetting was too huge to change them, hence sustainable development. This paper is a case study design which focusses on one country known as Tanzania. We have used documentation, experiential, interviews, and observations as a leading data collection tool. We have further, used the qualitative data analysis strategies to analyze data and avail conclusion. The paper concludes that in Tanzania the District Commissioner are the pillar to sustainable development. It further, reveals that for the country to depend on the district commissioners for enhancing sustainable development, the appointing authority must way on the qualities of persons who are appointed to discharge as district commissioners.

Keywords: Development; District Commissioners; Sustainable Development

The Impact of Maize on Engine Efficiency: A Comprehensive study

Samuel Chukwu

University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Corresponding author: Chukwusu7@gmail.com

Abstract: The utilization of maize as a fuel source for engines has garnered significant attention due to its potential to mitigate environmental concerns and reduce dependency on fossil fuels. This abstract presents a comprehensive overview of the research conducted on the use of maize in enhancing engine efficiency.

Firstly, the composition of maize-derived biofuels, particularly ethanol, is outlined, highlighting its renewable nature and reduced greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional fuels. The production process, from cultivation to conversion, is discussed, emphasizing the importance of sustainable agricultural practices to ensure the environmental viability of maize-based fuels.

Furthermore, to conduct this study, the impact of maize cultivation on land use, food security, and socio-economic factors is addressed. While concerns regarding land competition between food and fuel production persist, the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, such as crop rotation and conservation tillage, can mitigate these challenges and promote rural development.

Finally, prospects and challenges in the field are discussed, including the development of advanced biofuel technologies, the integration of renewable energy systems, and the implementation of policy frameworks to support sustainable bioenergy production.

In conclusion, the utilization of maize in improving engine efficiency presents a promising pathway towards achieving energy security, environmental sustainability, and rural development. However, addressing key challenges, such as land use competition and economic viability, requires coordinated efforts from policymakers, researchers, and industry stakeholders to realize the full potential of maize-based biofuels.

Keywords: Maize, Biofuels, Engine Efficiency, Ethanol, Biodiesel, Sustainability, Agricultural Practices, Economic Viability, Policy Frameworks

Evaluating the Quality of Life For Sustainable Peri-Urban Development Planning: A Case of Imphal City, Manipur Northeastern State, India

Adinarayanane Ramamurthy ¹, Ningthoujam Kingson Singh ², Faiz Ahmed Chundeli ³

^{1,2,3} School of Planning and Architecture Vijayawada, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Corresponding author: sathishadi@gmail.com

Urban Sprawl, as a low-density, unplanned, unlimited, and sporadic physical expansion towards suburban area is one of the worldwide challenges facing spatial land management and development planning in recent years. Indian cities have been faced with the urban sprawl phenomenon, especially since the 1970s. More recently, scientific studies have been proved the impact of urban sprawl in peri-urban areas poses a significant challenge to optimal land use management in India. While existing research on urban sprawl in the country tends to focus on larger metropolitan areas, the dynamics of smaller cities and towns, especially in the context of infrastructure needs and quality of life, have been largely overlooked. This research gap becomes particularly evident in the case of smaller cities like Imphal City of North-Eastern India, where rapid urbanization is accompanied by distinct socio-cultural and geographic factors. Keeping the aforesaid knowledge in mind, the Greater Imphal Planning Region, Manipur State, India has been chosen as the study region, which is not exempted from the impacts of urban sprawl on peri-urban development and for making further detailed investigation. In the Imphal study region, urban expansion has led to challenges such as haphazard land development, encroachments, inadequate infrastructure provisions, and inadequate land use planning, which end up with negative consequences on quality of life. The demographic landscape of Manipur, with 10% valley and 90% hilly terrain, sees 57% of its population residing in the valley and 43% in the hills, where 41% of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population predominates, leading to significant land management challenges due to restrictions on non-ST individuals' land ownership in hilly areas under the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reform Act of 1960, particularly affecting the valley region. This legal framework underscores the necessity for meticulous urban planning for optimal use of land resource management. This research study aims to assess the impact of Urban sprawl over Peri-urban Development planning and to evolve the spatial interaction model to achieve better Quality of life and sustainable peri-urban development in the study region. The Research study analyses the spatial growth using spatial metrics, and quantified demand and supply gaps in infrastructure services and assesses the quality of life in the peri-urban system by evolving a spatial interaction model using the Gravity model tool by employing ArcGIS Pro. The scope involves studying urban expansion in the peri-urban area of the Greater Imphal Boundary, with a focus on spatial aspects and a mix of qualitative and quantitative analysis. The study made the comparison between unorganized development in peri-urban areas and the overall quality of Life by residents in those areas, with urban areas, in respect of LULC and associated population. The Quality of Life (QOL) assessment, domains like, Facilities, Safety and Security, Environment, Physical Health, Psychological Health, and social linkages were judged. Further, the study expects to unveil insights into spatial growth dynamics, and informed urban planning for sustainable development. Based on the findings, the study continues with the evolving spatial interaction model and recommends location-specific planning strategies through planning intervention to promote sustainable peri-urban development planning.

Keywords: Urban Sprawl; Urban Growth Dynamics; Land management; Quality of life; Sustainable Peri-Urban Development.

Economic Diversification Tourism in Plateau State, Nigeria

Rahila Timothy Dantong

Plateau State University Bokokos, Nigeria.

Corresponding author: rahilatimothydantong@gmail.com

Abstract

Plateau State, located in the north-central region of Nigeria, is endowed with a wealth of natural and cultural resources that present immense potential for tourism development. As the Nigerian economy continues to grapple with the challenges of over-reliance on the oil and gas sector, diversifying the economy through the promotion of tourism has become a crucial strategy for sustainable growth and development. This research paper explores the opportunities and challenges associated with leveraging tourism as a tool for economic diversification in Plateau State. The study examines the current state of the tourism industry in the state, identifying the key attractions, infrastructure, and policy frameworks that shape the sector. It also delves into the socio-economic and environmental impacts of tourism development, highlighting both the benefits and potential drawbacks. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. This includes a comprehensive review of relevant literature, analysis of secondary data from government agencies and tourism organizations, as well as primary data gathered through in-depth interviews with key stakeholders, such as policymakers, tourism operators, and local community members. The findings of the study reveal that Plateau State possesses a diverse array of tourism assets, including natural landscapes, historical sites, cultural festivals, and adventure activities. These resources have the potential to attract both domestic and international visitors, thereby generating employment opportunities, increasing foreign exchange earnings, and stimulating local economic development. However, the research also identifies several challenges that hinder the effective utilization of tourism for economic diversification. These include inadequate infrastructure, limited marketing and promotion efforts, lack of skilled workforce, and insufficient coordination among various stakeholders. Additionally, the study highlights the need to address concerns related to security, environmental sustainability, and the equitable distribution of tourism benefits among local communities. Based on the findings, the paper proposes a comprehensive strategy for leveraging tourism as a driver of economic diversification in Plateau State. This includes the following key; **Strengthening Tourism Infrastructure:** Investing in the development of high-quality transportation networks, accommodation facilities, and supporting infrastructure to enhance the overall visitor experience. **Enhancing Destination Branding and Promotion:** Developing a robust destination marketing strategy to effectively showcase Plateau State's unique tourism offerings to both domestic and international markets. **Capacity Building and Skills Development:** Implementing training programs to upskill the local workforce, ensuring the availability of qualified personnel to cater to the needs of the tourism industry. **Fostering Stakeholder Collaboration:** Establishing a collaborative framework that brings together government agencies, private sector operators, and local communities to coordinate tourism development efforts and address challenges. **Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism:** Integrating environmental and social considerations into tourism planning and management, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the industry and the equitable distribution of its benefits. The diversification of Plateau State's economy through tourism development holds immense promise. By leveraging its rich natural and cultural resources, the state can create new employment opportunities, generate additional revenue streams, and foster sustainable economic growth. However, the realization of this potential requires a concerted effort from policymakers, industry stakeholders, and local communities to address the identified challenges and implement the proposed strategies. This research provides a comprehensive framework to guide the state's tourism-led economic diversification efforts, contributing to the broader goal of achieving inclusive and sustainable development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Economic Diversification, Development, Plateau State, Tourism,

A Review on the Assessment of Water Treatment Efficiency in Informal Settlements in Africa

Vusumuzi Cele¹, Edna Onyari² and Onyeka Nkwonta³

**^{1,2} Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of South Africa,
South Africa.**

**³ Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Mangosuthu University of Technology Durban,
South Africa.**

Corresponding author:

Abstract

Access to safe and reliable water remains a critical challenge in informal settlements worldwide especially Africa, where inadequate infrastructure and limited resources often lead to compromised water quality. This review critically examines existing literature on the assessment of water treatment efficiency in informal settlements with four zones of Africa (North, South, East, West). Focusing on decentralized and community-based water treatment systems, the review addresses both technological interventions and behavioral aspects influencing water treatment practices. The literature synthesis encompasses various methodologies employed to evaluate the effectiveness of water treatment systems in informal settlements. Parameters such as microbial contamination, chemical pollutants, and water aesthetics are scrutinized to provide a comprehensive understanding of water quality improvements achieved through different treatment methods.

Technological interventions, ranging from household-level water treatment devices to community-scale systems, are analyzed for their efficacy in mitigating waterborne diseases and improving overall water quality. Factors influencing the adoption and sustained use of these technologies, including affordability, cultural considerations, and user preferences, are highlighted.

The synthesis of this review not only sheds light on the current state of water treatment in informal settlements but also underscores the need for holistic and context-specific strategies. By critically evaluating existing approaches and identifying gaps in knowledge, this review aims to inform policymakers, researchers, and practitioners working towards sustainable and equitable water management in informal settlements.

Keywords: Africa, affordability, informal settlement, pollutants and water quality

A Study on Impact of Perception about Customer intention to adopt and use Sustainable Insurance

Ashok Kumar V. Paled¹, Shreeshaila P Vijayapur², Rudrappa Shashidhar³

^{1,3} Davangere University, Davangere, Karnataka, India.

² GM Institute of Technology, Davangere, Karnataka, India.

³ Corresponding author: shashi.hbl@gmail.com

Abstract

Sustainable, a buzz word which is circulating around different sectors for updating and development by keeping in mind the concern of the society and environment is also taking over the insurance industry. Insurance businesses to keep up the pace with competition everyone is concerned about ESG issues. To dodge the risk, they are taking the measures of practicing of sustainable practices, but to what extent customer are ready to accept and adopt sustainable insurance is greater challenge to them, to address these challenges paper has been established by considering certain variables which are important for adoption of sustainable insurance such as Sustainable insurance awareness, Perception of customers towards insurance and the Insurance Companies. The objective is to examine the adoption and use of sustainable insurance by considering perception of insurance and insurance company along with the awareness. A study was steered by means of questionnaire for the customers of insurance in Karnataka to check for the acceptance of sustainable insurance. The regression analysis is used and the relationship has been found between the variables, the upshot of the study is enhancing the customers to have awareness and adoption of sustainable insurance.

Keywords: Sustainable Insurance, Customer intention adopt , sustainable insurance, ESG

Relationship between Sustainable Insurance and Sustainable Development: A Study with reference to ESG & SDG

Rudrappa Shashidhar ¹, Shreeshaila P Vijayapur ², Ashok Kumar V Paled ³, P.Paramashivaiah ⁴

^{1,3} Davangere University, Davangere, Karnataka, India.

² GM Institute of Technology, Davangere, Karnataka, India.

⁴ Tumkur University, Karnataka, India.

Corresponding author: Shashi.hbl@gmail.com

Abstract: In recent Days, the terminology of Sustainability is becoming a buzz word, every sector is talking on Sustainable parameters by keeping in concern with societal issues which focuses on ESG Parameters. With this regard financial institution like Insurance Industry is focusing on ESG issues to bring revolutionary strategy which can benefit the stakeholders of insurance industry and economic system of the nation. The study aims at examine the influence of Sustainable insurance in achieving Sustainable Development goals. The objective is to understand the level of awareness of ESG Issues in successful practices of sustainable insurance which lead to the achievement of the sustainable development goals. A survey was conducted using questionnaire for the employees of insurance organization of private and public domain In Karnataka to check the level of understanding of ESG issues and how it is adapted in 4 principles of sustainable insurance which in turn will lead to SDG. The regression analysis and MANOVA. The upshot of this study can be used by the policy makers and insurance organizations in bringing sustainable products by consideration of ESG issues.

Keywords: : Sustainable Insurance, Sustainable Development Goal, ESG (environmental, social and governance) SDG (Sustainable Development Goals)

Enhancing Sustainable Development with the Development of a Virtual Driving License System Testing in Mabopane, South Africa

Milwaukee Maebela¹, Johnson Olumuyiwa Dehinbo²

^{1,2} Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa.

² Corresponding author: jdehinbo@yahoo.com

Abstract

It was observed that obtaining drivers' license from most drivers' license testing centers in South Africa involves queueing for the whole day or two consecutive days to book for a learner's license test date as these centers receive more applications whereas the space and other resources are limited. Due to lack of using relevant technologies, the centers are decorated with long queues and applicants experience delays in scheduling of tests' dates. This is not in line with the goals of sustainable development. Applicants travel to the centers for bookings, something that can be done remotely using self-service online methods. The travel alone degrades environmental sustainable development. Money spent on the travel degrades financial sustainability. And time wasted on the queue (sometimes for days) also degrades financial sustainability. Upon such realization, the researchers were keen to find out about how the current trends especially focusing on Virtual Reality in Computer Science could be utilized to ease up the processes in acquiring the driving licenses. The purpose of this study therefore is to investigate and find out how Virtual Reality could be employed for prospective licensed drivers to be evaluated using the Virtual Reality tools, focusing on South African driver's evaluation. A driving simulator can be considered as a vehicle operated in such a way that enables the production of sensory stimuli (i.e., visual, auditory, and haptic) so as to generate a virtual environment (VE) equivalent to driving. This simulated environment therefore acts on the driver at both a cognitive as well as at perceptive level. We thus proposed a driving simulator system modeled on a computer with the aim of creating a simulation system. A survey was used in validating the system for modeling approach for a Virtual Reality driver testing system. We believe that this study can encourage the South African government to use the technologies and methods including online systems and Virtual Reality, in order to eliminate the problems and the frustrations that the majority of the public face including the cases of bribery and corruption during the process of acquiring the licenses. We believe that this study could constitute the foundation of more innovations that can benefit South Africa and the research community as well.

Keywords: Virtual Reality (VR), Virtual Environment (VE), Testing System, Testing centre.

The instability of commodity prices for developing countries in WTO trade policies

Didier François Diégane Diop

Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal.

Corresponding author: didierdiop@gmail.com

Abstract

The detailed examination of such a subject will be carried out on the basis of a fundamental problem, which will thus serve as a guideline in the presentation of the ideas which should underlie the approach. In this case, it concerns the question of the links between the instability of commodity prices for developing countries and WTO trade policies. In other words how the WTO's trade policies fight against instability of raw material prices, particularly in developing countries through STABEX and SYSMIN?

Thus the problem of method is at the heart of any scientific work as it is true that the method sheds light on the hypotheses and determines the conclusions, our approach will be ordered with a few exceptions around the use of the analytical and exegetical but also comparative method . It is understood as the analysis, interpretation and explanation of the rules of law, particularly those contained in the various legal texts of the GATT and the WTO.

As for the expected results, it will firstly involve studying STABEX and SYSMIN in the Lomé conventions (Section I), then to see the regime derogating from the principles of multilateralism and the original commercial instruments of STABEX and SYSMIN (Section II).

Keywords: GATT, STABEX, SYSMIN, Trade policies, WTO

Compliance Risk Management Strategies for Tax Administrations in Developing Countries: A Case Study of The Special Feature Crm on Indonesian Tax Authority

Dian Anggraeni ¹, Muhammad Zilal Hamzah ², Eleonora Sofilda ³, Inge Diana Rismawanti ⁴

^{1,2,3} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

^{1,2} Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia.

² Corresponding author: mhd_zilal_hamzah@trisakti.ac.id

Abstract

The tax reform in Directorate General of Taxation (DGT) that was implemented since 1983 established the self-assessment system as a pillar of tax administration. In this system, taxpayer compliance is the main condition for achieving optimal tax revenue. One indicator of optimal tax revenue is achieving a high tax ratio. Statistics show that Indonesia's tax ratio is still lower compared to other countries, even compared to fellow developing countries. Special efforts need to be made to increase the tax ratio. Tax reform, which has entered its third volume of reform, focuses on improving business processes, information technology and tax databases. Improving the quality of information technology and tax databases needs to be supported by refinement of tax digitalization and risk management.

Compliance risk is a common problem faced by countries that implement self-assessment systems. A good risk management strategy allows the tax authority to manage risks efficiently. This research aims to analyze and empirically examine compliance risk management, tax education, tax compliance in Indonesia, the role of digitalization on taxpayer compliance behavior, as well as the role of the functional position of tax instructors on taxpayer compliance behavior. This writing also aims to analyze and examine the implementation of CRM towards the functions of extensification, service and education, inspection, supervision, billing and transfer pricing.

This research is qualitative research which develops a conceptual framework which combines three major themes; tax compliance, risk management and tax educator as the actors of educational process. Empirical data was collected through focussed group discussion (FGD) with senior officials of the DGT, tax practitioners, association members and academics to elicit the interviewees' perceptions of tax compliance, risk management and tax educator. Data processing run by Nvivo software

This study shows that risk management, tax education, tax education methods, and digitalization can have an impact on compliance behavior. Findings from this study suggest that DGT risk management must be improved, as well as the ability of tax educators. A tax index needs to be established to provide more valid information regarding national taxpayer compliance.

Keywords: Compliance Risk Management, Counseling, CRM Education, Functional Tax Instructor, Tax Compliance

Intellectual Property Data Protection Policy in Indonesia

Novi Mirawanty¹, Muhammad Zilal Hamzah², Freddy Harris³

^{1,2,3} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

¹ Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Indonesia.

² Corresponding author: mhd_zilal_hamzah@trisakti.ac.id

Abstract

Intellectual property policy is a set of rules designed to protect a person's intellectual work from being misused by other parties. In a legal context, intellectual property policies include copyright and industrial property rights which include; patents, brands, industrial designs, trade secrets, integrated circuit layout designs and plant varieties. This aims to encourage innovation and creativity, as well as protect the rights of owners of intellectual works from misuse by other parties. Intellectual Property is a very valuable asset for the development of an organization, institution or country. This research aims to analyze and examine: (i). Forms of Intellectual Property Data Protection in Indonesia (ii). Knowing the impact of protecting intellectual property data on stakeholders; and (iii). To find out the benefits and role of Intellectual Property data in Indonesia's economic growth.

This research is a type of qualitative research using NVIVO and Systematic Literature Review as data analysis methods. Data collection was carried out through Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and in-depth interviews with key informants. The results of this research describe that: (i). Implementation of Intellectual Property data protection in Indonesia is generally carried out in the form of protected data before the Intellectual Property Rights are published and data becomes transparent after the Intellectual Property Rights are published; (ii). Protecting intellectual property data will have an impact on the economy and the ultimate goal will be the welfare of stakeholders. Protecting Intellectual Property data is an effort to prevent database leaks that will materially and immaterially harm stakeholders; and (iii). Economic-based Intellectual Property data will be useful in growing the Indonesian economy which will have an impact on business sustainability without violations or piracy of intellectual property, be able to maintain Indonesia's competitiveness from foreign parties regarding products or works so that it will create macroeconomic impacts, one of which is Foreign Direct Investment (PMA). which will increase state revenues. Therefore, there is a need to develop comprehensive policies and regulations for protecting Intellectual Property data. Protection of Intellectual Property data by developing digital infrastructure and increasing Human Resources (HR) competency is one of the key factors supporting a more optimal digital ecosystem to minimize potential material losses.

Keywords: Intellectual Property Policy, Intellectual Property Protection, Intellectual Property Data, Data Protection.

Towards Sustainable Development with the Development of a System for Paying Instant Money Transfer “e-Withdrawals” Directly into Bank Accounts

Mmoge Marcia Mananyetso¹, Johnson Olumuyiwa Dehinbo²

^{1,2} Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa.

Corresponding author: jdehinbo@yahoo.com

Abstract

The rapid growth of technology is changing how businesses operates and how services are being provided to customers. In the financial sector, mobile banking is one of the most promising technologies that has emerged in the recent years and could prove to have considerable value to both banks and customers. Services that are being provided by banks including instant money transfer services to improve customer satisfaction, customer retention, efficiency and convenience. Instant money transfer is a mobile money service that allows for a person-to-person service where people get to send or receive small sums of money to mobile phone users across the globe and have had a tremendous positive impact on people’s lives and have contributed to increased financial inclusion and economic growth. The several number of banking services that are being provided by banks including instant money transfer services have come to reality in some sort of progression. First, it became possible to transfer money either through internet banking or mobile app to someone who has a bank account. The money goes straight into the bank account. Then it became a problem that revealing one’s banking account details to people could lead to fraud being perpetrated on one’s account. There then came the progression of using email address or mobile phone number as point of transferring money. The bank customer can send the money using their bank channel to a receiver, and the receiver receives a notification in a form of an email or a short message service (SMS) entailing the amount and the personal Identification number (PIN). This service differs from bank to bank as some banks attach the transaction to the recipient’s cell phone number and other banks use codes. The receiver will use an Automated teller machine (ATM) of the sender’s financial service provider or the partnered merchant to withdraw the money using either their cell phone number or code as well as the PIN to complete the transaction. However, ATMs tend to be out of service and customers having to wait in long queues were the most commonly experienced problems. Also, money transfer services also pose risks to recipients who receive the money in a form of mobile money transfer as they are required to perform traditional withdrawal method using ATMS, and this method exposes customers to street cash robberies. This research focuses on mobile banking to help influence the drive towards the growth of cashless transactions. Thus, This research study addresses the question of how do someone receive instant money via email address or cell phone (avoiding releasing my banking details) and still get the money into any of my bank accounts (avoiding having to go and use ATM machines) thereby helping to influence the drive towards the growth of cashless transactions which could enhance sustainable development by avoiding unnecessary trips to the ATMs while also giving freedom of choice on how to receive the money.

Keywords: Electronic banking, instant money transfer, mobile banking, online banking, Sustainable Development.

Influence of Intellectual Property on Start-ups with special reference to Bengaluru

P.Paramashivaiah¹, Sowmya D. N.²

² Seshadripuram Academy of Business Studies, India.

² Tumkur University, Karnataka, India.

¹ Corresponding author: paramashivaiah@gmail.com

Abstract: In the ever-changing of global market start-ups are the main engines for the development of the economy and growth. In order to meet the modest verge in the aspects of technology, and innovation, an ecosystem leads economic growth in a market-driven economy. IPR is incredibly important for the expansion of the economy, particularly in nations like India. It is believed that the industry, especially Indian start-ups, has to comprehend and pay more attention to IPR. Indian government launched the National IP policy-2016 with the intention of giving awareness about IP and making IP and IP processes mandatory. Indian start-ups require more education, guidance, and resources to safeguard their intellectual property. Most nations have developed policies for implementing robust IPR protection to support their businesses and trades. This paper emphasizes that Indian businesses, especially start-ups, are falling behind in recognizing the value of intellectual property rights and using them as a competitiveness-boosting business strategy. Being a start-up capital of India as well as Asia Bengaluru is not a favourite for the generation/creation of IP. This paper deals with the challenges and opportunities faced by Bengaluru with respect to start-ups and IP by considering and analyzing the primary and secondary data with statistical tools.

Keywords: Bengaluru, Challenges, Intellectual Property rights, Opportunities, Policies, Start-ups.

Intellectual Property Rights can be a Game Changer for MSMEs –A Study

P.Paramashivaiah¹, Sowmya D. N.²

² Seshadripuram Academy of Business Studies, India.

¹ Tumkur University, Karnataka, India.

² Corresponding author: paramashivaiah@gmail.com

Abstract

This study has initiated to analyse the perception of students about the connection between IPR and MSMEs in the present situation. Admits the threat of natural calamities, political, international intricacies creates hot pan of problems. Country like India has shown the hopes to the world with all constraints, economic progress can be achievable. But to meet the holistic growth innovation, research, protection and rights plays vital role. Future India is hold by young minds and hands and the Indian economy is getting ready to become an Innovation. The economy rebuilding by inclusion and initiation from Government of India through special provisions made for MSMEs sector. The initiatives and schemes by government of India encourage young minds to develop entrepreneurship skills and increase the employment opportunities and utilization of talents, to boast up MSMEs. Indian MSMEs should focus to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for economic sustainability and holistic development. The perception and elevation of IP status can eradicate growth of unemployment, scarcity of job market, financial glitches, and underutilization of talents. The study based on primary as well as secondary data. In this paper we made an effort to know the prospects of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) towards the growth of MSMEs to gear-up the innovation into reality.

Keywords: Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), MSMEs.

Developing rural communities' strategies in addressing cultural obstacles: Enhancing health and wellbeing for sustainable development

Fikile Xaba ¹, Nondumiso Hadebe ²

¹Department of Social Work, University of Zululand, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: XabaF@unizulu.ac.za

Abstract:

Rural communities face various cultural challenges that hinder their ability to enhance health and wellbeing, which is essential for sustainable development. Among them, there are cultural and social norms that may prioritise short-term needs over long-term health and wellbeing. Cultural beliefs and practices that may contradict modern health care practices. Cultural and linguistic barriers, as healthcare providers may not speak the local language or understand the local customs. Programs for health promotion, health education, and health care services are not easily accessible to everyone. This paper serves to explore strategies to address cultural obstacles encountered by rural communities to enhance their wellbeing for sustainable development. A qualitative approach was used to conduct the study, which involved the rural communities, community leaders, healthcare workers, and policy developers in the four local municipalities situated in Northern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Twenty participants were recruited through a purposive sampling method. Data was analysed through thematic analysis. The Cultural Humility framework was applied which emphasised the importance of understanding and respecting the cultural belief, values, and practices of rural communities. It involves self-reflection, openness, and willingness to learn from others. Findings indicated that rural communities require a collaborative effort from healthcare providers, community members, community leaders and policy makers to develop culturally sensitive and sustainable solutions. It is further recommended that guidelines be developed for culturally responsive interventions and programmes to address the unique health challenges faced by rural communities.

Keywords: Cultural humility framework, Health and Wellbeing, Rural communities, Sustainable development.

Communities remain to be voiceless: evolution of community-led governance

Rebecca Skhosana

Department of Social Work, University of South Africa, South Africa.

Corresponding author: skhosrm@unisa.ac.za

Abstract

Internationally, community development has grappled with challenges arising from top-down approaches in that the community members remain voiceless and the sustainability of interventions leaves a lot to be desired. Therefore, the goal of the study was to promote community participation through the utilisation of community-led governance to empower the communities while at the same time ensuring ownership and sustainability of community development intervention in the Tshwane region, Gauteng Province, South Africa. A qualitative research approach was followed using semi-structured interviews for data collection. The 18 participants were purposively selected from four Non-government Organisations in the Tshwane region, Gauteng Province. The raw data were analysed and interpreted according to the eight steps outlined by Tesch. The analysed data were compared with existing theory and literature to ensure the trustworthiness of the study. The findings of the study revealed that community-led governance should enable community participation, collaborative action and decision-making in matters that concern the community members. This study contributes to the current literature and provides valuable information to community development workers, social workers and academics regarding community-led governance through the utilisation of the strengths and assets of the community.

Keywords: Community, community development interventions, community-led governance, top-down, voiceless

Promoting Sustainable Development through Rural-Urban Interdependency in South Africa

Paul Mudau

Department of Public, Constitutional and International Law, University of South Africa, South Africa.

Corresponding author: mudaufp@unisa.ac.za

Abstract

In South Africa, due to the exponential rapid urbanisation process, urban centres are bound to play a pivotal role in uplifting large segments of society. Evidently, the process leads to the unjust concentration of resources in urban areas. Clearly, the post-apartheid decentralisation framework has financially and institutionally set to advance principally metropolitan municipalities and neglects district and local municipalities that share jurisdictions. This framework inadvertently perpetuates the practice of spatial inequalities, separations, and disparities within the system of local government. It aggravates the challenges stemming from urban-rural interplay. Thus, empowering small towns and rural municipalities to develop their communities, lessens the burden of rapid urbanisation, minimises rural-to-urban migration, and simultaneously addresses regional disparities socially and economically. The fundamental pursuit of spatial transformation in South Africa is also aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Agenda 2030. SDGs 10 and 11 provide for the reduction of inequalities, and the creation of sustainable cities and communities, respectively.

The 2030 Agenda calls for a just, equitable, tolerant, open, and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met. The achievement of all these essential variables will lead to equal access to public infrastructure, basic amenities, and essential services and ensure that through social inclusion and cohesion, socially vulnerable groups have increased opportunities to enjoy their livelihoods too. Even though the urban local governments are ideal sites for socioeconomic development, they still face infrastructure backlogs and economic challenges that hamper their immediate and long-term potential to cater to the entire urban population. There is a need to address urban and rural challenges in a balanced manner through achieving sustainable development that bridges the gap between urban centres and rural areas. Small towns also play a vital role in promoting the economic development of the surrounding rural areas.

Through the lens of SDGs 10 and 11, the paper analyses potential strategies for strengthening rural-urban interdependency, including a revitalised policy and governance paradigm which epitomises coordinated rural-urban development. Such drastic measures require efficient policy reforms that discourage segregated rural-urban development while promoting sustainable development in an equally supportive and complimentary manner. South Africa must foster economic development by promoting regional economies of scale and agglomeration, increasing productivity and prosperity, strengthening urban-rural linkages by addressing social and spatial disparities, and promoting territorial cohesion and complementarities in both growing and declining areas.

Keywords: Rural Municipalities, Rural-Urban Interdependency, Spatial Inequalities, Small Towns, Urbanisation

Ref: 59/FRA/24

The Acomparative Analysis of Community Development Associations and Rural Development in Plateau and Imo States in Nigeria

Ishaku Bitrus Lere

Plateau State University, Bokokos, Nigeria.

Corresponding author: bitruslere@yahoo.com

Abstract:

The local communities in Nigeria from the era of self-government to date has experienced unrepresented underdevelopment. This scenario has some indicators; poverty ravaged communities, kidnapping, banditry, poor farming inputs, unemployment, high mortality rate, prostitution, insurgency, corruption, poor educational facilities, illiteracy, robbery and son on. In spite the fact that government at various level intervene by adopting some policies and programmes to salvage the situation. Unfortunately, the challenges continued unabated as government failed to address the challenges. However, the people in these communities decided to organise themselves into community development associations to address the challenges that affect them. In this regard, the paper is to compare the performance of these community development associations between two states; one in the Northern part Plateau State and another in the southern part of the country Imo State. The methodology that was used in this research work was descriptive and qualitative using thematic analysis. The data were derived from both primary and secondary sources. The study revealed that community development associations in Imo state performed better than those in Plateau state because of the following; associational life. Life of reciprocity, corporation, custom practice, the emergence of western education, consciousness and so on. All these characteristics were less or absent in communities of Plateau State. The research work recommends that people should form self-help associations to bring the much-needed public goods in the rural areas. The need to organise a formal dialogue between the people and rural development partners to establish a meaningful rural development policy.

Keywords: Associational life; Comparative Analysis, Community Development; Rural policies; Rural Development;

Politicizing Water Supply in South Africa: The Case of uMhlathuze Local Municipality

Owethu Johnson Tutu¹, Nomaswazi Portia Dlamini²

^{1,2} Political and International Studies, University of Zululand, 1 Main Road, Vulindlela, KwaDlangezwa, 3886, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: Tutuo@unizulu.ac.za

Abstract: The global issue of water shortages and lack of access to clean water is particularly severe in South Africa due to a combination of historical inequalities, infrastructure difficulties, and politics. This article investigates the politics of water supply in the uMhlathuze Local Municipality, located in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa. The article examines the intricate socio-political factors that influence water availability, distribution, and administration in the municipality using a multidisciplinary approach that incorporates political science, environmental studies, and public policy. Using empirical data and case studies, this analysis examines how governance institutions, political interests, community dynamics, and historical legacies influence water politics in uMhlathuze. The report also examines the consequences for water governance, social equity, and sustainable development in the region.

Keywords: Water supply, Politicization, South Africa, uMhlathuze Local Municipality, Governance, Social justice, Sustainable development.

Utilization of Communication Channels by Poultry Farmers for Agricultural Information: Implications for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Nigeria

Lukman, Musa ¹, Olaniyi, Olumuyiwa Akin ², Akeredolu, Adedayo Amos ³, Dlamini, Mbuyazwe Michael ⁴

^{1,3} Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development

Ladoke Akintola University of Technology P.M.B. 4000, Ogbomosho, Nigeria.

^{2,4} Department of Agricultural Education and Extension, University of Eswatini, Luyengo, Eswatini.

² Corresponding author: oaolaniyi@uniswa.sz

Abstract

In Nigeria, poultry farming plays a crucial role in food security and economic growth; however, access to timely and relevant agricultural information remains a significant challenge. However, the success and sustainability of poultry farming depend on various factors, including access to timely and relevant agricultural information (Ndimbwa et al., 2022). In today's digital era, effective communication channels serve as essential tools for disseminating such information to poultry farmers and enabling them to make informed decisions (Naika et al., 2021). Studies have shown that effective utilization of communication channels for agricultural information positively impacts farmers' knowledge, skills, and practices, leading to improved productivity, profitability, and sustainable development (Mapiye et al., 2023). Nigerian poultry farmers face several challenges in accessing agricultural information, which can hinder their ability to make informed decisions and adopt sustainable practices. Some of these challenges include: inadequate information quality and reliability; inadequate extension services; cultural and social factors; the ineffectiveness of information dissemination channels; language barriers; and limited access to technology (Sennuga, 2019). The effective utilization of communication channels for agricultural information among poultry farmers in Nigeria has far-reaching implications for sustainable development (Bassey, 2021).

This study, therefore, explored the various communication channels used by poultry farmers in Oyo State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study identified the communication channels available for use by the respondents, the types of agricultural information accessed by poultry farmers, and the extent of use of communication channels. A total of 156 respondents were randomly selected using a multi-stage procedure, and structured interviews were conducted to gather data. Frequency counts, mean, percentages, and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) were employed for data analysis. The dependent variable of the study was the extent of utilization of communication channels by poultry farmers. This was operationalized on a five-point rating scale as follows: always = 4, often = 3, sometimes = 2, rarely = 1, and never = 0. There were eight (8) communication channels provided. The respondents were scored based on their responses to the items. The minimum and maximum scores were 0 and 32, respectively. The respondents were categorized into low, moderate, and high users based on their mean utilization score and standard deviation. The results revealed that the major available and most commonly used communication channels for accessing agricultural information are mobile phone (98.7%, WMS = 4.65), radio (91.7%, WMS = 4.19), and fellow farmers (91.0%, WMS = 4.17), respectively. Agricultural information accessed through the available channels of communication includes information on the management of birds (100%), brooding and lighting management of day-old chicks (98.1%), and breeds of birds (97.4%). A larger proportion (91.1%) of the respondents were classified as low to moderate users of the available communication channels. The study also reveals significant relationships between the extent of communication channel usage and factors such as age ($r = 0.159 < P = 0.05$), years of education ($r = 0.339 < P = 0.05$), annual income ($r = 0.301 < P = 0.05$), and household size ($r = -0.275 < P = 0.05$).

In conclusion, this study elucidated the communication channels used by poultry farmers in Oyo State, Nigeria, to access agricultural information. The main communication channels employed by respondents are mobile phones, radios, and interactions with fellow farmers. These channels serve as vital sources of agricultural information on poultry production. It was therefore recommended that, to enhance the utilization of communication channels for agricultural information dissemination, there be a need for the implementation of tailored training programmes for poultry farmers by the extension institutions, focusing on modern communication channels to improve their digital literacy, and familiarizing them with the effective use of the identified communication tools for accessing agricultural information.

Keywords: Agricultural Information, Communication, Channels, Poultry farmers, Utilization

Environmental rule of law and the sustainable development goals of the Agenda 2030

Joanna Kielin - Maziarz
Kozminski University, Poland.
Corresponding author: jkielin@kozminski.edu.pl

Abstract

The concept of environmental rule of law in accordance with the Environmental Rule of Law report (UNEP 2019 Environmental Rule of Law: First Global Report) is the result of changes that occurred in the laws of states after 1972, i.e. after the Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment. Since then, a broader presence of environmental issues in the adopted legal regulations can be observed. Currently, according to the report, all countries have at least one law or regulation on environmental protection, which has undoubtedly contributed to slowing down the rate of environmental degradation, and has certainly provided a legal basis for doing so. According to the report, environmental rule of law implies that environmental laws are widely understood, respected and enforced, and that people and the planet benefit from environmental protection. The report's creators argue that environmental rule of law is an important platform underpinning the pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental. Without environmental rule of law, development cannot be sustainable. The concept of environmental rule of law, therefore, is intended to ensure greater efficiency in its protection, as it offers a conceptual and policy framework through which the environment is to be protected in a 'systematic and holistic manner'.

Sustainable development, as Ch. Voigt also states, can only be achieved in the context of the rule of law, which requires fair, effective and transparent international and national governance arrangements and clear and enforceable environmental legislation. It can therefore be concluded that properly formed and enforced norms contribute to the achievement of this concept. The rule of law is the basis for ensuring the control and accountability of governments. The decisions of the legislator must be based on the law and the addressees of norms are subject to this law.

Relating the concept of environmental rule of law to the concept of the rule of law, it can be said that environmental rule of law encompasses the three interdependent elements that, according to the UN definition, make up the rule of law: the law should be consistent with fundamental rights, the law should be designed and fairly implemented, and it should be effectively enforced. Environmental rule of law embraces these elements and applies them in the context of environmental protection. The uniqueness of environmental rule of law is that it regulates the relationship between people and the environment that provides for their existence. The environmental rule of law is further considered key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals included in Agenda 2030.

The 2030 Agenda includes the concept of the rule of law in Goal 16. The aim of the presentation is to try to answer the question of what its dimension is. Was it, therefore, the intention of the Agenda's authors to shape it in such a way that it corresponds to the above-mentioned concept of the rule of law or to introduce the concept of rule of law as a separate objective.

The intentions will be confronted with the final outcome of the work and the analysis of the final dimension of Goal 16 adopted in the 2030 Agenda in the context of almost a decade that is about to pass since the adoption of the Agenda.

Keywords: Agenda 2030, , environmental protection, environmental rule of law, sustainable development,

EU competition rules and environmental protection

Aleksander Maziarz

Kozminski University, Warszawa, Poland.

Corresponding author: amaziarz@kozminski.edu.pl

Abstract

In the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the EU legislator has broadly defined the values and objectives of the European Union. Among these objectives are the protection of competition and environmental protection. However, the Treaty does not prioritize these objectives, meaning they are considered equal. This juxtaposition suggests that these objectives may conflict with each other. The fundamental goals of competition law, such as striving for economic efficiency by businesses or providing consumers with a wide selection of products or services at increasingly lower prices, do not automatically mean that the environment is protected. Economic growth brings industrialization, which affects the environment, and the production of goods often results in the emission of various pollutants.

When comparing EU competition rules with environmental protection, the question arises: how can environmental protection be considered when applying competition rules, which have an economic dimension? Additionally, it is intriguing to consider which of these values is more important to the EU legislator, institutions, and courts when applying EU competition law. This becomes particularly relevant when it is necessary to balance these objectives and determine what is more important—protecting the market from price increases caused by a price-fixing agreement or protecting the environment when the price increase aims to develop new, environmentally-friendly technical solutions.

Such determinations require analyzing EU competition rules, specifically Articles 101 and 102 TFEU. In the context of Article 101 TFEU, which establishes a prohibition on agreements restricting competition, it is worth considering whether environmental protection agreements fall within this prohibition if they do not lead to anti-competitive economic effects.

Article 101(3) TFEU, which provides for the exemption of agreements that restrict competition, also needs to be analyzed to see if a specific agreement pursuing environmental protection objectives meets all the exemption criteria set out in this provision. The criteria mentioned in this provision are purely economic, which will pose difficulties when comparing them with the benefits related to environmental protection that do not have such an economic dimension. It can be argued that by implementing energy-efficient solutions, businesses can reduce production costs, but often the implementation of environmentally-friendly solutions does not result in any effect on the products produced by the enterprise. Indirectly, such benefits can also occur in the form of avoiding administrative penalties for environmental pollution.

Environmental protection objectives can also be significant when applying the prohibition of abuse of dominant position under Article 102 TFEU. Although this prohibition is absolute, issues related to environmental protection can be crucial for distinguishing products from one another, thus recognizing that products emitting fewer pollutants are not substitutes for similar products, which will impact the definition of the relevant market.

Therefore, this paper will address the question of whether environmental protection objectives can be decisive when applying EU competition rules.

Keywords: EU competition rules, environmental protection and competition rules, abuse of dominant position

Generative AI and Trade in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges

Edwick Murungu

African Leadership University, Rwanda.

Corresponding author: dwickyb@gmail.com

Abstract

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is poised to revolutionise Africa's trade sector, offering unprecedented opportunities to transform processes, spark innovation, and tackle enduring challenges. This paper delves into the profound impacts of generative AI on trade in Africa, analysing its potential to enhance efficiency, transparency, and competitiveness. With its remarkable ability to create content, predict trends, and automate complex tasks, generative AI promises to optimise supply chain management, improve logistics and inventory control, enhance predictive analytics for better demand forecasting, and streamline customs and regulatory compliance. Additionally, AI-driven solutions can revolutionise trade financing by offering more accurate risk assessments and facilitating faster, more secure transactions. One of the most compelling benefits of generative AI in trade is its potential to democratise access to global markets for African businesses, tiny and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and informal traders. These groups often face significant barriers to entry, such as limited access to market information, financing, and efficient logistics. Generative AI can level the playing field by providing data-driven insights, enabling better decision-making, and offering cost-effective digital tools for market access. This not only boosts the competitiveness of African businesses but also promotes inclusive economic growth. However, the journey to fully leveraging generative AI in African trade is fraught with challenges. Technological infrastructure remains a significant hurdle, with many regions lacking digital connectivity and data processing capabilities. Furthermore, data privacy, security, and ethical considerations must be addressed to ensure responsible AI deployment. Developing robust regulatory and policy frameworks is essential to support AI integration while safeguarding against potential risks.

Additionally, the skills gap poses a challenge, necessitating substantial investment in digital literacy and capacity-building programs to equip the workforce with the necessary skills to leverage AI technologies. The policy implications of generative AI in trade are profound. Governments and stakeholders must collaborate to develop supportive regulatory frameworks that encourage AI innovation while protecting against misuse. Investment in digital infrastructure and connectivity is crucial to bridge the digital divide and ensure equitable access to AI technologies. Public-private partnerships can drive AI innovation and implementation, fostering a collaborative ecosystem that supports sustainable development. Enhancing digital literacy and providing targeted training programs are essential to build a skilled workforce capable of utilising AI tools effectively. By embracing the transformative potential of generative AI, Africa stands on the brink of unprecedented advancements in trade efficiency, innovation, and inclusivity. Realising this vision requires coordinated efforts across technological, regulatory, and educational domains. A collaborative approach involving governments, businesses, and civil society can drive the continent towards deeper integration into the global economy, fostering development and prosperity for all. The strategic implementation of AI technologies, supported by robust infrastructure and policy frameworks, will be key to unlocking these opportunities and ensuring sustainable growth.

Keywords: Generative artificial intelligence (AI), infrastructure, Innovation, Policy, Trade,

Social Accountability in TVET transformation , a reflective analysis of the High Gear program in South Africa

Ronnie James Karukuni Murungu

International Youth Foundation, Rwanda.

Corresponding author: r.murungu@iyfglobal.org

Abstract

This paper examines the role of social accountability in the transformation of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) through a reflective analysis of the High Gear program in South Africa. Social accountability, defined as the mechanisms by which citizens hold institutions accountable, plays a pivotal role in ensuring the relevance, responsiveness, and quality of TVET programs. The High Gear program, a collaborative initiative aimed at enhancing the employability of TVET graduates through industry partnerships, provides a fertile ground for analyzing these dynamics. The analysis begins by contextualizing the South African TVET landscape, highlighting historical challenges such as inadequate funding, outdated curricula, and misalignment with industry needs. The paper argues that these systemic issues necessitate robust social accountability frameworks to drive meaningful reform. The High Gear program, launched in 2020, exemplifies an innovative approach to these challenges by fostering collaboration between TVET institutions, the private sector, and civil society. Through a methodical examination of program documents and performance metrics, this paper elucidates how social accountability mechanisms within High Gear have contributed to TVET transformation. Key findings indicate that enhanced stakeholder engagement, transparency in program implementation, and regular feedback loops have significantly improved curriculum relevance, resource allocation, and student outcomes. For instance, the establishment of industry advisory boards has ensured that curricula are aligned with labor market demands, while transparent reporting practices have increased stakeholder trust and investment in the program. The paper critically assesses both the strengths and limitations of the High Gear program. On the one hand, the program's success in fostering public-private partnerships and community involvement underscores the transformative potential of social accountability in TVET. On the other hand, challenges such as sustaining long-term engagement and scaling successful practices across the broader TVET system highlight the need for continuous innovation and policy support. In conclusion, the reflective analysis of the High Gear program demonstrates that social accountability is not merely a theoretical construct but a practical necessity for TVET transformation. By embedding accountability mechanisms into the fabric of TVET programs, stakeholders can ensure that these institutions not only respond to current economic needs but also contribute to broader social and economic development goals. The paper calls for policymakers, educators, and industry leaders to prioritize social accountability in their efforts to reform TVET, drawing lessons from the High Gear program to create a more inclusive, responsive, and sustainable vocational education system in South Africa.

Keywords: High Gear program, public-private partnerships, social accountability, stakeholder engagement, and TVET transformation.

**Corruption as an impediment to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:
A focus on Kenya and South Africa**

Hellen Adogo¹, Victoria Graham²

^{1,2} Strategic Initiatives and Administration (SIA), University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: hellena@uj.ac.za

Abstract

Corruption is a pervasive issue globally, yet it is particularly acute in Africa, significantly impeding the continent's potential for growth. Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index highlights that Africa consistently ranks among the highest in corruption levels. The diversion of public funds, which are intended for critical social programmes and infrastructure development, hinders economic progress and undermines public confidence in governance and institutions. This erosion of trust impedes the effective implementation of policies and hampers societal progress. Additionally, corruption perpetuates inequality and impedes inclusive economic growth, exacerbating disparities within African communities. Historically, corruption has become deeply entrenched in African countries due to weak governance systems and a pervasive lack of transparency and accountability. These deficiencies foster an environment conducive to corrupt practices, which in turn exacerbate economic disparities. This cycle of corruption and inequality significantly impedes progress, hindering the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 16 of the SDGs, which focuses on promoting peace and justice and establishing strong institutions, is fundamental to sustainable development. Specifically, Indicator 16.5 addresses the need to combat corruption in all its forms by prioritising transparency, accountability, and effective institutions.

This study investigates various manifestations of corruption, including the abuse of public power for personal gain, embezzlement, and nepotism, with a particular focus on Kenya and South Africa. The State Capture Scandal in South Africa during former President Jacob Zuma's tenure exemplified how systemic corruption can severely undermine the effectiveness and integrity of public institutions. This scandal highlighted the pervasive nature of corruption and its capacity to erode governance structures essential for national development. Similarly, former President Uhuru Kenyatta officially recognised corruption as a significant threat to national security in Kenya, emphasising its deep entrenchment as a major impediment to sustainable development. These cases illustrate the profound impact of corruption on governance and the critical need for robust anti-corruption measures to promote sustainable development. This paper employs a qualitative methodology, utilising a desktop approach to review the existing body of literature, including published journal articles, newspaper articles, and books. This approach elucidates how weak institutions and governance structures enable the widespread occurrence of corruption, thereby hindering the attainment of the SDGs. The central argument posited is that addressing corruption is imperative for countries such as Kenya and South Africa and must constitute a fundamental component of their broader strategy to promote sustainable development. Overcoming corruption is a critical challenge that Africa must confront to successfully achieve the SDGs.

Keywords: Corruption, Governance, Kenya, South Africa, Sustainable Development Goals,

Sustainable employability through workplace health-related behavior interventions: A case-control study in a manufacturing industry in Iran

Meysam Eyvazlou

Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.
Corresponding author: m-eyvazlou@alumnus.tums.ac.ir

Abstract: A high level of workplace well-being boosts sustainable employability by increasing employee motivation, decreasing absenteeism, and enhancing productivity. Likewise, work ability is considered a vital element of both sustainable employability and workplace well-being. Furthermore, addressing the rapid growth of the aging workforce has become a global challenge for both modern societies and developing countries. Within the next 10 years, a significant portion of the labor force in many countries (over 30%) will consist of employees aged between 55 and 64. Therefore, employers have adopted policies to maintain the workforce by improving health levels and increasing their engagement in the work environment. To prevent employees from leaving their jobs due to work-related disabilities, the concept of work ability has been developed as a valuable tool for tailoring interventions at both the individual and occupational group levels. Consequently, examining the factors that affect work ability is crucial for sustaining a healthy work environment that fosters workplace well-being. The present study included 140 male and female workers aged 45-60 years, comprising 70 cases and 70 controls, all without pre-existing medical conditions. Interventions were designed to enhance employee well-being by incorporating healthy lifestyle behaviours and addressing work-related psychosocial factors. Hence, the intervention group participated in a structured lifestyle coaching program over a one-year period. The program covered topics such as adopting a healthy diet, engaging in regular physical exercise, and learning strategies for managing work-related psychosocial risk factors. The Work Ability Index (WAI) was used to evaluate work ability, while the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) indicator tool was employed to assess the psychosocial aspects of work. Independent t-tests and logistic regression were used to analyse the data and assess the effectiveness of the implemented interventions. The analysis of work ability mean scores in the studied groups revealed that the intervention group achieved a significantly higher score (31.2 ± 6.23 , $P < 0.05$) compared to the control group (28.8 ± 4.46 , $P < 0.05$). The logistic regression analysis results, indicating the impact of implemented interventions as predictors on work ability, revealed that physical exercise ($OR = 1.43$, $P < 0.05$), control ($OR = 1.31$, $P < 0.05$), and management support ($OR = 1.24$, $P < 0.05$) had the highest odds ratios, while the role had the lowest odds ratio ($OR = 1.15$, $P < 0.05$). Hence, regular physical exercise, control and management support leads to a 43%, 31% and 24% chance of having higher WAI score, respectively. Overall, these findings demonstrate that interventions targeting health-related behaviors and psychosocial risk management effectively enhance employees' work ability. Additionally, we are confident that our intervention offers valuable insights into strategies that can boost employee engagement, consequently improving their well-being.

Keywords: Ageing workforce, Manufacturing industry, Sustainability, Well-being, Work ability.

The Impact of the Establishment of State-Owned Insurance Holding on the Efficiency and Profit Optimization of State Owned Insurance Companies

Syah Amondaris¹, Eleonora Sofilda², Muhammad Zilal Hamzah³

^{1,2,3} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

¹ Indonesia Service Insurance, Indonesia.

Corresponding author: mhd_zilal_hamzah@trisakti.ac.id

Abstract

Government Regulation Number 20 of 2020 regarding additional capital to PT. Bahana Pembinaan Usaha Indonesia (Persero), which is the holding company of several state-owned insurance companies, supports the strength of subsidiaries in fulfilling obligations and is also considered to have an impact on efficiency. The formation of the holding through this regulation creates a single governance system so that it does not overlap, especially risk management, because it is under one entity. This research aims to analyze and examine the level of efficiency and determinants of the performance of state-owned insurance companies before and after the implementation of the holding establishment. The method in this research uses a quantitative and qualitative approach. The quantitative approach uses Data Envelope Analysis (DEA) analysis and panel data regression for 2018-2022 consisting of 5 state-owned insurance companies. The qualitative approach uses a Systematic Literature Review (SLR). Based on the research results, it was found that the efficiency values of Jamkrindo Insurance, Jasa Raharja Putra, and Asuransi Jasa Indonesia were at high-efficiency criteria (100%) and the determinants of insurance company performance were influenced by the variables of underwriting results, investment results, operating expenses, gross reinsurance premiums, and other incomes. Consistency of efficiency levels before and after the issuance of PP No. 20 of 2020 implies that governance factors (ownership) have an influence on the stability of an insurance company's efficiency through maximizing income, especially underwriting results. Apart from that, the stability of efficiency in insurance companies will also increase the confidence of companies in the real sector through the ability of insurance companies to handle insured risks.

Keywords: BUMN Insurance, Holding Company, Efficiency, Profitability.

Beyond Homo Economicus: Rethinking Economic Rationality in African Contexts

Frédéric Mirindi

University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Corresponding author: mirindifrederic@gmail.com

Abstract

The economic literature suggests that an economic agent is rational and homo economicus seeking to maximize personal interests. It considers a vision of a society as a simple aggregation individuals driven by their interests, with the market being the natural mechanism allowing an equilibrium through the invisible hand. This selfish and calculating economic agent is inherited from Western economic philosophy. This paper posits that this neoclassical economics thought raises questions about the universality of the economic science when considering the African continent. We argue that African societies possess specific characteristics in terms of social structures, value systems, and relationships to nature that are not simply captured by the economic theory framework. This paper aims to advocate for an epistemological refoundation of the economic theory from an African perspective based on social cultural realities and ontology of the common specific to the continent. We show that the economic theory, largely inherited from modern Western thought, is inadequate to account for African economic context. Drawing on African philosophical traditions, we outline a rational economic agent attentive to social and ecological ties as foundations for this alternative approach. Mathematical models integrating non-market variables such social status, community obligations, and environmental considerations are developed to formalize the specificities of African consumer and producer behaviors. Our framework suggests a reconsideration of key economic concepts such as utility, rationality, and efficiency. This decolonial approach to the economic dominant paradigms offers perspectives to rethink the discipline in a multicultural and reflexive manner. We open new avenues for economic theory that may prove valuable not only for understanding African economies but also for addressing global changes such as inequality and environmental sustainability. The analysis from this paper makes an important contribution to knowledge about the implications for economic policy and development strategies in Africa. We indicate that policies based on standard economic models may be misaligned with local realities and values, potentially explain the limited success of some past development interventions. Our approach calls for more contextually grounded and culturally economic policies. This paper faces limitations that point to directions for future work. We argue that future research should focus empirical studies, methodological innovations, macroeconomic extensions, comparative analysis, and exploration of the policy implications of this alternative economic framework, particularly in areas such as poverty reduction, resource management, and sustainable development.

Keywords: Africa, culture, environment, epistemology, rationality

Spatiotemporal patterns of residential burglary in the Newland's East and West of Durban

Nokukhanya Neptune Mbonambi

University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa.

Corresponding author: mbonambi.nn@up.ac.za

Abstract: This article explores where and when most residential burglaries occur in the Newlands East Policing Precinct of Durban. The knowledge of when and where crime occurs is fundamental for the formulation of crime prevention strategies since it permits for operational and tactical decisions regarding allocation of resources. This was achieved by means of a qualitative research design, data collection was based on focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews with a total of thirty-seven (37) participants comprising of the South African Police Services (SAPS), CPFs representatives, local ward councillors and ordinary community members.

The findings indicated that spatially burglaries at Newlands East Policing Precinct are highly concentrated in the Newlands West area. Findings further show that the occurrence of this crime varies and fluctuates throughout the year. It also suggested that there are varies community level factors which are linked to the causes of this crime which includes poverty, inequality, and unemployment. Together, these findings suggest that more effort is needed from the government, community members as well as the police to effectively deal with burglaries at residential premises in the study area.

Keywords: burglary at residential premises/housebreaking, perceptions, seasonality, spatial, temporal.

Child marriages in South Africa: An Assessment of How the Custom of *Ukuthwala* Aligns with the Proposed Single Marriage Bill

Nqobizwe Mvelo Ngema¹, Lizelle Calvino², Tolaine Matadi³, Michael Celumusa Buthelezi⁴, S Khanyile⁵

^{1,2,3,4,5} Department of Law, University of Zululand, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: NgemaNM@unizulu.ac.za

Abstract

Statistics SA has revealed that some child marriages continue to persist in the country despite the availability of the current legislative majors that forbids child marriages. In view of this, this paper seeks to explore cultural epistemologies behind the custom of *ukuthwala* and find out whether it perpetuates child marriages. This is so because one of the Millenium development goals is to end child marriages by 2030. This paper finds out that the custom of *ukuthwala* is used to solve some individual circumstances, namely: (a) to fast track marriage negotiations where timing is an issue, (b) when a woman is faced with a dilemma of having met a man she truly loves more than the current lover in her life, (c) to speed up marriage negotiations in response to peer pressure, (d) to force the hands of parents if the suitor is too poor to afford *lobolo*, and (e) to circumvent the parental opposition to the match. This shows the beauty and usefulness of the custom when it is practiced by two consenting adults. However, the influence of colonialism led to the distortion of many indigenous cultures and way of life. This paper cautions that the negative forms of *ukuthwala* that excludes the consent of the bride is a clear violation of human rights and is likely to perpetuate child marriages. It also cautions against the exceptions in the current legislative framework and the proposed Single Marriage Bill. Customary and Muslim marriages are notorious for tolerating marriage at puberty and to deviate from 18 years might lead to the spread of child marriages and defeat one of the Millennium development goals of ending child brides by 2030. This paper also emphasize the importance of sensitizing the communities about the dangers of child marriages and how it perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

Keywords: Child marriages, *ukuthwala* custom, Single Marriage Bill

Denial of Reproductive Rights in Senegal as an Enemy of Sustainable Development: What can Senegal learn from South Africa and the International Law?

Nqobizwe Mvelo Ngema ¹, Heidi Schoeman ², Tolaine Matadi ³, Desan Iyer ⁴, Michael Celumusa Buthelezi ⁵

^{1,2,3,4,5} University of Zululand, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: NgemaNM@unizulu.ac.za

Abstract

The rate of clandestine abortions is on the rise in Senegal because women are afraid of the law enforcement agencies. This fear is attributable to article 305 of the Penal Code which makes it categorically clear that anyone who induces abortion is guilty of a criminal offence. The Criminal Code prescribes the penalty that ranges from one year to five years behind the bars for anyone who is found guilty of inducing abortion. This prohibition extends to medical practitioners, pharmacists, herbalists or anyone who disseminate information about contraceptives and abortion. Criminalization of abortion not only escalate maternal deaths of women putting to bed but also forces women to carry unwanted pregnancies even when they realise that would be detrimental to their economic situation and their development in general. The South African legal framework is quite liberal and commensurate well with the international human rights standards and there is a lot that can be learned by Senegal from the South African experience.

Keywords: Abortion, Contraceptives, Reproductive Rights in Senegal

Medical Certificates Issued by Traditional Health Practitioners: Are they Valid in the Eyes of the Employer and the Law?

Nqobizwe Mvelo Ngema¹, Mthokozisi Khuzwayo², Walter Sibiya³, Desan Iyer⁴, S Khanyile⁵
^{1,2,3,4,5} University of Zululand, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: NgemaNM@unizulu.ac.za

Abstract

The Basic Conditions of Employment Act 75 of 1997 (BCEA) is the legislation that is responsible for regulation of employee's leave in the employment sector. Section 23 authorizes the employer not to remunerate an employee who has been absent from work for more than one consecutive day without producing a medical certificate stating that he or she was absent from work because of illness. Validity of medical certificates issued by traditional health practitioners remains a contentious issue. In view of the cultural and religious diversity that thrives in the country. The Constitution permits citizens to practice their cultural beliefs as they deem fit provided that is done within the confines of the Constitution. Cultural beliefs and religious beliefs play a major role in the general psych of a human being. This goes a long way even when a person falls sick, his or her belief system directs the appropriate path to be taken when seeking healing. One may prefer to go to church for deliverance and prayers, another person may choose to seek help from hospitals (with doctors using western medicine) and others may choose to go to traditional healers for help. Until of late, traditional health practitioners such as *Sangomas* and *Izinyanga* were not registered in any council created in terms of legislation as mandated by the BCEA 75 of 1997. Any traditional health practitioner registered with the traditional health council is entitled to issue a valid medical certificate. However, this paper cautions that it would be difficult to regulate traditional health practitioners because they are not trained in a same way and their training has a connection with the leading of the ancestral spirits. This paper also shows the dangers of failing to separate between the law and spiritual matters.

Keywords: Validity of Medical certificates issued by Traditional Health Practitioners

Proposed Firearms Control Amendment Bill in South Africa: Is it A Solution or an Opening of Pandor's Box?

Nqobizwe Mvelo Ngema¹, Sonto Khanyile², Walter Sibiya³, Michael Celumusa Buthelezi⁴, Tolaine Matadi⁵
^{1,2,3,4,5} University of Zululand, South Africa.

² Corresponding author: KhanyileNS@unizulu.ac.za

Abstract

Violent crimes such as murder, rape and robbery are skyrocketing in South Africa, and this is quite alarming because many citizens are living in fear of being attacked by criminals. Law enforcement agencies are not well resourced or capacitated to be able to adequately protect the civilians. July unrest that erupted in 2021 in some parts of KZN, Gauteng and Mpumalanga province were the worst riots ever experienced by the country after the demise of the apartheid regime. These riots led to the destruction of property, looting and many people died in the process. Many civilians live in fear on daily basis, but the government had the audacity to promulgate the Firearms Control Amendment Bill in May 2022. The problem with the Bill is that it prohibits civilians from owning a firearm for the purpose of private defense and leave them at the mercy of police who are proving to be failing to protect citizens. The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) made a thorough investigation of the riots and found that even though they coincided with the arrest of the former president Jacob Zuma but had no link. SAHRC reported that police were ill prepared, and this might be attributable to lack of training, lack of equipment and resources to effectively respond. This led to theft, arson and damage to property. The state acknowledged that the stolen licensed guns end up in the hands of street gangs that use them to further their criminal activities. South Africa was once ravaged by political violence before 1994, hence many guns are still in the hands of criminals. Government had tried on several occasions to recover unlicensed firearms by giving amnesty to those who are in possession of such guns. Some guns were surrendered to the government and others were not. Recovered guns were marked for destruction but through the corruption of some police officials many of those guns found their way back to the criminals. In view of all this, common sense dictates that civilians and the entire residents of the country cannot enjoy safety of feel safe if they will solely rely on the police for their protection. This paper seeks to oppose the proposed path because it would worsen the situation, thereby making it difficult for sustainable development to thrive in the country. Sustainable development can only thrive in a safe and peaceful environment that respect human rights for all.

Keywords: Firearms Control Amendment Bill, private defense, violent crimes

Regulation of polygamy in South Africa in the Context of the Proposed Single Marriage Statute: Is it a Victory for the Equal Treatment of Women?

Nqobizwe Mvelo Ngema¹, Lionel Moonsamy², T Morgan³, Lizelle Calvino⁴, Tolaine Matadi⁵
^{1,2,3,4,5} University of Zululand, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: NgemaNM@unizulu.ac.za

Abstract

Just like its predecessor (the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act 120 of 1998), the proposed Single Marriage Bill continues to perpetuate patriarchy by making it clear that only a man is permitted to have more than one wife while denying such a right to their female counterparts. The proposed Single Marriage Bill brought a glimpse of hope in resolving uncertainties and problems posed by the fact that marriages are regulated by different pieces of legislation. However, on the face of it, this reflects a clear discrimination against women. If we truly mean it if we say spouses are treated by law as equals, women should be allowed to have more than one husband if they desire such. One of the justifications of polygyny is sexual incompatibility where a man has an extremely high libido that cannot be quenched by one woman no matter how she tries to please him sexually. Equally there are some women with an extremely high libido that cannot be quenched by one man, but they are not given an alternative just like their male counterparts. Another reason in support of polygyny is prestige where a man is rich and can afford many women. Nowadays some women enjoy prestige and are so rich and powerful to afford anything they desire. If South Africa wants to remain true to the ideal of an egalitarian society for all, polyandry ought to be given a chance in our legal framework. This will obviously raise a thorny issue of morality, but the government has already legislated in one of the most contentious issues such as permitting LGBTQIA+ community to flourish within the country by giving them legal recognition. By giving it a chance, this would unleash the polyandrous relationships that are already going under cover.

Keywords: Polygyny, polyandry, Single Marriage Bill

Reproductive Rights in Egypt: What can Egypt learn from South African Experience to Promote Millenium Development goals

Nqobizwe Mvelo Ngema ¹, Samson Fakazi Mbatha ², K Mngomezulu ³, Bahle W Sogoni ⁴, P. Lehloenya ⁵
^{1,2,3,4,5} University of Zululand, South Africa.

Corresponding authour: MbathaSF@unizulu.ac.za

Abstract

Thirty years ago, different members of the global community of states flocked to Egypt where they attended the International Conference on Population Development (ICDP). Since this big international event took place in Cairo, the capital city of Egypt in 1994, there is a huge expectation from Egypt to be the one of the leading countries in protecting and promoting reproductive rights. The ICPD adopted a paradigm shift from a crime and punishment model to a reproductive health model with an aim of protecting and promoting reproductive rights. The ICDP recognized that access to contraceptives and abortion services is a special need for women and it should be given priority in any developmental program that has an intention of empowering women. The conference also made it clear that reproductive rights cannot be implemented in a vacuum, but individual circumstances of each woman must be taken into consideration in the process. This means that the rights in question must be exercised within the cultural, social, economic, and political context. A woman who feels that her economic situation does not permit her to have a child, her wish must be granted. On the contrary, Egypt criminalizes abortion through the provisions of article 260-264 of the Penal Code of 1937 but abortion is permitted only if the continuation of pregnancy will endanger the life of the mother. A lot can be learned by Egypt from the South African legal framework that champions the rights of women together with the Millennium development goals.

Keywords: Reproductive Rights in Egypt, millennium development goals

Sustainable Solution to the Chain Reactions to Income Inequality on Crime in South Africa

Adewale A. Olutola ¹, Olumuyiwa Temitope Faluyi ²

^{1,2} Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa.

Corresponding author: olutolaAA@tut.ac.za

Abstract

The concern of governments, organisations, academic researchers and the public have over the years focused on the effects of income disparity. One of these effects is crime. The nexus between income disparity and crime has been of great concern in South Africa because it is a country that grapples with obstinate social and economic inequalities. The extracts of data retrieved from the Victim of Crime Survey recently released by the Statistician-General of South Africa indicate thus: The experience of murder in South Africa has increased by 43% & from the previous year. Sexual offence has increased by 53%. About 1.1 million households experienced housebreaking/burglary in 2022/23. This was 5.7% of the households in South Africa. In other words, households that experienced housebreaking increased by 10% in 2022/23 period. This study explores the multifaceted relationships between income inequality and a range of criminal activities, such as robbery, violent crime and property crime in South Africa. Focus is placed on the function of strain and relative deprivation theories in mediating this relationship. The scope will encompass the major root causes of economic disparity in South Africa, comprising structural racism, historical legacies, and unequal access to opportunities for education and employment, among others. It examines how these components interrelate to promote crime and impede initiatives for economic growth and social cohesiveness. Secondary data is sourced from systematically available data via local and institutional reports, journals, books and newspapers. The study seeks to advocate initiatives and policy changes that strengthen equity, security, and justice in the country.

Keywords: income inequality, crime, South Africa, social, economic

The Cause-Effect Dynamics of Income and Political Inequalities in Nigeria's Fourth Republic

Olumuyiwa T. Faluyi¹, Adewale A. Olutola²

^{1,2} Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa.

Corresponding author: faluyiOT@tut.ac.za

Abstract

Nigeria is endowed with vast human and natural resources, but it continues to grapple with socio-economic and political divides, which have negatively affected a healthy democratic system and socio-economic progress in the Fourth Republic. This research investigates the reciprocal influence between income disparity and political inequality in Nigeria. The study will give insight into the complex nature of income inequality and its corollaries on political participation, representation, and decision-making processes. It will be the arguments of this paper among many others that weak political equality is a contributory factor for inequality of income and unequal access to power, opportunities, and weak electoral administration. The complex mechanisms of income and political inequalities consolidate economic, social and political exclusion and promotes marginalisation. The effects of these traditions on good governance, performance of state institutions, sustainable development, and national integration will be highlighted. Drawing from elite theory as its theoretical framework, the research explicates the roles of elites in perpetuating unequal income and political systems in Nigeria. Secondary data is sourced from available sources like reports, journals, books, and newspapers. This study will suggest ways to foster more integrated and equitable frameworks beneficial for social, economic and political progress of the country.

Keywords: income inequality, political inequality, Nigeria, Fourth Republic

Regulatory Settings and Constraints to Sustainable Public-Private Partnership Infrastructure Project Planning in Nigeria

Abimbola Adedayo Adebayo¹, Michiel Heldeweg²

^{1,2} CSTM, Governance and Technology for Sustainability, University of Twente, Netherlands.

Corresponding author: a.a.adebayo@utwente.nl

Abstract

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are regularly mentioned as a vehicle for attaining sustainability goals. However, PPPs are more often than not, confronted with both project management issues which need regular superintendence, as well as partnership challenges, which call for well-thought-out procedures. Accordingly, PPPs can be said to have governance issues because they deal with both the surveillance and the supervision of strategic direction along with a multi-actor decision-making process. Nonetheless, several governments have recently turned to PPPs because the procurement model generally spreads the burden of procuring an infrastructure over time and causes the connected capital outlay to impact private firms rather than the public sector's budget. Hence, where public sector balance sheets are strained, there are advantages in the PPP model to deliver infrastructure projects that are otherwise, unaffordable to the government. Conversely, sustainability objectives may be achieved by basing PPPs on the outcomes in place of the inputs. To illustrate, the tie together of several tasks into a long-lived contract could bring home the interest of private partners to consider life cycle costs since it furnishes the incentive to think, further on the design stage and incorporate energy-saving and waste-reducing features that may be expensive initially, and later, yields a lesser operating and running expenses over time. Notwithstanding, financial considerations are a key factor in that choice and so there is a risk that these, plus the usual governance of PPPs do not align and perhaps even compete; as an 'unhappy marriage' when entered into lightly with the considerations of sustainability, even when these are part of government's PPP agenda. Therefore, we argue that involving private actors primarily for their financial resources and interest in furthering these through PPP creates a trade-off challenge in PPP making and implementation. In other words, to serve sustainability objectives through PPPs is not impossible, and worth advancing, but if it involves parties with private-commercial interests, it is ambivalent whether such private actors are willing to confront and can confront such measures, willingly. In this regard, the role of the PPP regulatory settings is essential. Nonetheless, the consensus is that PPP regulatory settings, particularly in developing countries, have contributed immensely to serious infringements on environmental and social sustainability principles within infrastructure projects. Generally, PPPs have a predominantly, economic focus. Howbeit, the marriage between both financial and sustainability objectives under PPP is possible if it can be secured through the mode of governance that is built upon fourteen steering strategies on environmental and social sustainability. Yet, little academic research has discussed the constraints both the governments and the private partners have to surmount for the uptake of these fourteen environmental and social sustainability steering strategies within PPP infrastructure projects (sustainable PPP) regulatory settings in Nigeria. In this paper, we use an institutional model that captures these fourteen steering strategies as an analytical lens for the study. Data for the paper were elicited through a systematic approach that encompasses semi-structured interviews, newspaper articles, and peer-reviewed literature. Four infrastructure projects serve as the empirical domain. These are the Eko Atlantic City; Lekki Toll Road; Murtala Mohammed Terminal 2; and the Lekki Deep Sea Port. The study shows that regulatory constraints to the uptake of sustainable PPP steering strategies at the planning stages exist within three bad governance practices: lack of sustainability ambitions in regulators' agenda; regulatory rent-seeking; and regulatory capture. The enervative constraints include insufficient instruments to assess sustainability performance, unstandardized procurement procedures, and an improper mix of expertise, and skills in the regulator's office. These constraints form the basis of a framework that can help governments and the private actors to envision regulations on sustainable PPP planning, adequately. In addition, the paper complements existing literature on sustainable PPP planning by broadening a comprehensive evaluation technique that accounts for regulatory settings that constrain the institutional design of PPPs toward both environmental and social sustainability. This can be of value to governments and private partners that are involved in sustainable PPP policy formulation.

Keywords: governance; infrastructure projects; public-private partnerships; regulations; sustainability steering strategies.

Enhancing Trust and Efficiency: Evaluating Client Satisfaction with Police Services at Community Service Centres

Patricia Nthabiseng Tsoho¹, Dee Khosa², Jacob Tseko Mofokeng³

^{1,2,3} Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa.

² Corresponding author: Khosad@tut.ac.za

Abstract

This paper evaluates client satisfaction with police services at community service centres (CSCs), focusing on three principal themes: the influence of police staff professionalism on service satisfaction, overall satisfaction with South African Police Service (SAPS) CSCs, and the effect of staff training on service delivery. Key findings revealed significant factors negatively impacting client satisfaction, including a lack of professionalism, inadequate resources, and prolonged waiting times. Additionally, the study underscores the importance of continuous training and maintaining positive staff attitudes. Employing a qualitative methodology, in-depth interviews and thematic analysis were conducted to comprehensively explore client experiences and perceptions of police services. This analysis provided rich, detailed insights into the determinants of satisfaction and highlighted areas requiring improvement. Implementing targeted strategies and investments to address these issues is projected to enhance the effectiveness and trustworthiness of police services. Furthermore, the study suggests that improving resource allocation and reducing waiting times can substantially improve client satisfaction, thereby fostering greater community trust and engagement with the SAPS.

Keywords: Keywords: Client satisfaction, Community service centres, Police professionalism, South African Police Services.

The Point Demerit System: Safeguarding Lives and Livelihoods on South Africa's Roads

Dee Khosa ¹, Linda Mbana ²

^{1,2} Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: Khosad@tut.ac.za

Abstract:

Road accidents are a leading cause of unnatural deaths globally and present a critical challenge to the South African government in terms of road safety management. In response, various policy measures and programmes have been instituted over the years. Notably, the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Act has introduced the Point Demerit System (PDS) to achieve road safety goals. This system, which revokes drivers' licences upon accumulating 15 points of infringement, raises concerns about the employability of professional drivers.

This study explores the socio-economic implications of the PDS for professional drivers in South Africa by examining existing literature to shed light on its challenges. The findings reveal widespread challenges for both municipalities and drivers due to the PDS, with mixed evidence on its effectiveness in enhancing road safety. The study emphasises that licence revocation may jeopardise the employability of professional drivers, which can potentially expose them to livelihood and food security challenges.

By highlighting a lack of theoretical or empirical evidence on the socio-economic challenges faced by professional drivers in South Africa and the effectiveness of the PDS in impacting employability, this research contributes to a critical examination of the implications of the PDS.

Keywords: Point demerit system (PDS), road safety, socio-economic challenges, employability, professional drivers

The Impact of Sunda Kelapa Port Development and Operational Policies on the Economy of The Administrative City of North Jakarta

Sugeng Priyatno¹, Muhammad Zilal Hamzah², Eleonora Sofilda³, Dini Hariyanti⁴

^{1,2,3,4} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

¹ Ministry of Transportation-Republik, Indonesia.

¹ Corresponding author: sgpriyatno@gmail.com

Abstract:

World trade transportation is still dominated by transportation by sea, where 90% of goods carried in world trade transactions are by ship (shipping). Apart from that, the increase in trade activity in the form of world cargo manifests in the development of more modern port facilities for handling cargo operations. The growth of trade by sea will continue to experience positive growth in the coming years. Sunda Kelapa Port is also a port whose development continues to increase, so it is necessary to develop port infrastructure related to economic growth and its contribution to the GRDP of North Jakarta. This research aims to examine: (i). What is the direction of government policy for the development and operations of Sunda Kelapa Port and its impact on the economic growth of the North Jakarta Administrative City; (ii). The benefits expected by stakeholders from the development and operational policies of Sunda Kelapa Port in North Jakarta towards the growth of the economic sector and increased investment; (iii). What is the impact of the Sunda Kelapa Port development policy on the economy of the North Jakarta Administrative City, and other business sectors; and (iv). The extent to which a Port Master Plan (RIP) is needed in the context of government policy regarding the development and operations of Sunda Kelapa Port.

This research was designed with a qualitative approach. The qualitative approach used is to combine two analytical techniques, namely coding analysis and Systematic Literature Review (SLR). This research data consists of primary data and secondary data. Data was collected through observation and focus group discussions.

This research concludes that: (i). Several policies are most dominant, namely those related to: (a). Historical tourist sites; (b). Interconnectivity; and (c). Human resource development, which will have an impact on economic growth in North Jakarta; (ii). The hopes of the stakeholders are related to making the Sunda Kelapa port a port that has high historical value (heritage tourism port), so that it can increase the competitiveness of Indonesian tourism and culture for tourists; (iii). For the North Jakarta City Administrative City, this will increase the flow of goods and services which can encourage increased exports and imports as well as attract foreign investment, strengthen maritime connectivity and create jobs; and (iv). A Port Master Plan (RIP) is very much needed in the context of government policy regarding the development and operations of Sunda Kelapa Port.

The recommendation from this research is that a Port Master Plan (RIP) is needed in the context of government policy regarding the development and operations of the Sunda Kelapa Port, which in turn can have implications for improving the quality of coordination and synergy of stakeholders in responding to the challenges of developing the Sunda Kelapa Port.

Keywords: Port, Maritime Transportation, Port Master Plan. Qualitative Research

Governance Strategy of The Sumatra Regional Development Bank to Minimize Agency Problems

Syaiful Azhar ¹, Muhammad Zilal Hamzah ², Rifki Ismal ³

^{1,2,3} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

Corresponding author: syaifulazhardatuk@gmail.com

Abstract

Banks play an important role in the economy as an intermediary institution through storing funds from the community and then channeling them back in the form of credit. Currently, the development of the financial sector, banking, is one of the determinants of output growth in all countries, including Indonesia. This strategic role is shown through the growth trend of the banking industry; both in terms of number, market share, variety of operations, and products offered to the public. In addition to general banks that operate for national coverage, there are also regional development banks (BPD) that operate in each level 1 region and Rural Credit Banks (BPR) in levels 1 and 2 in Indonesia. This study aims to examine: (i). Is the Principal Agency Theory indicated in Governance at BPD in the Sumatra Region; (ii). What are the challenges and critical analysis of Governance at BPD in the Sumatra Region; and (iii). What is the strategy to minimize agency problems in Governance at BPD in the Sumatra Region. This study uses a qualitative approach with the Grounded Theory type. Data were collected through FGD activities and analyzed using the NVIVO device. From the results and analysis carried out, it can be concluded that: (i). There are still agency problems in the implementation of governance. This can at least be proven by the emergence of several nodes such as: 'Political Intervention', "Governor's Terms of Office", and "Dynamic Turnover". The difference in interests causes problems, namely asymmetric information where managers (management/agents) know all the company's information better than shareholders. This will cause agency costs, one of which is related to supervision costs; (ii). Several mapped constraints show the dominance of HR and Technology constraints. The HR in question refers to increasing competence so that it has an impact on a more transparent governance process. The informant indicated weak supervision of HR who have good performance; and (iii). There are several strategies that can be used to minimize agency problems in the implementation of BPD governance in Sumatra, such as: Transparency, Investment, Joint Business Groups, and so on. This study recommends that to minimize asymmetric information, improve the quality of human resources, improvements related to transparency, human resource supervision, internal control, and service instructions for inverbal explanation, must be implemented.

Keywords: Governance Strategy, Agency Problem, Regional Development Bank, Qualitative Research

Indonesia Government Procurement Public Policy On Disaster Management

Bonatua Silalahi¹, Muhammad Zilal Hamzah², Tri Kunawangsih P³, Dini Hariyanti⁴

^{1,2,3,4} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

Corresponding author: bonatua.766hi@gmail.com

Abstract

This research aims to identify the location of the problem, study the characteristics, explain the implementation of regulations, examine the process, analyze how to control the quality of goods/services, and finally find out how actors coordinate in the field when organizing procurement for disaster management. Basic of this research design was prepared by using a Systematic Literature Review from previous research which was processed using hierarchical techniques.

This research uses a qualitative approach where primary data is obtained from interviews through focus group discussions (FGD) and informants are selected by using purposive sampling according to the scope of the research. The informants are divided into 5 categories Regulators, Operators, Providers, Observers, and Associations.

The results of the interview transcription in the form of important sentences were coded using NVIVO, while the results of the transcription in the form of legislation were triangulated against Secondary Data in the form of statutory regulations from official sources from the Indonesian Government and mapped using VOS-Viewer. The unique characteristics of procurement in disaster emergency management are the main obstacle in implementing existing policies, thus requiring flexibility. Another obstacle is the aspect of availability of goods & the moral aspect of individual providers, which causes high prices. From a budget perspective, the procurement process is very good, but the implementation process turns out that operators are still guided by procurement policies for normal conditions. Regarding the quality of goods distribution services, there are problems related to unpredictable delivery times considering the frequent disruptions to infrastructure & facilities on the way. In the coordination aspect, auditors often state that there are price irregularities so that providers are forced to return a number of overpaid claims.

This research is limited to disaster management in emergency response situations & compares it with the laws in Indonesia. The research results show that there are problems with obstacles to the implementation of current regulatory policies so that the principles of value for money procurement regulated in presidential regulations often cannot be fulfilled. Procurement policies in disaster emergencies need to be created separately from procurement under normal conditions as regulated through presidential regulations. Procurement policies in disaster emergencies should be in accordance with the principles of speed & accuracy & priorities as mandated in the law on disaster management.

Keywords: Procurement, Disaster, Public Policy, NVIVO, VOS-Viewer

**Cataloging the Commissioner's "Thumbprints"
Items the South African Revenue Service may Seize from a Taxpayer**

Werner Roux Uys ¹, Liezel G Tredoux ²

^{1,2} University of South Africa, South Africa.

¹ Corresponding author: uyswr@unisa.ac.za

Abstract

This article discusses the importance of tax officials showing “reasonable grounds” to apply for a warrant to breach a taxpayer’s right to privacy and defines what property or items may be searched and seized during a search with a warrant by SARS. Existing knowledge on this topic includes the Constitutional Court’s ruling in the *Investigating Directorate: Serious Economic Offences and Others v Hyundai Motor Distributors (Pty) Ltd and Others In re: Hyundai Motor Distributors (Pty) Ltd and Others*, where the seizure of an individual’s property was analysed to assist in identifying criminal conduct. A knowledge gap exists regarding the specific items that the South African Revenue Service (SARS) may search and seize from a business or taxpayer’s home during the investigation. This research aims to address this knowledge gap and determine whether the limitations on privacy rights are reasonable and justifiable to ensure that only relevant materials are searched and seized when SARS searches for business premises or taxpayers’ homes. Against the backdrop of a new digital age, the research question for this study is: What items can the South African Revenue Service (SARS) search for and seize from a business or taxpayer’s home when conducting a search? Although section 63 of the Tax Administration Act, 28 of 2011 (as amended) allows SARS to search business premises without a warrant, the aim of this research is to identify these specific items and determine whether there are limitations on seizing material relevant to SARS officials during a search with a warrant. Access to relevant material stored digitally on the cloud could provide information about tax non-compliance but should be stipulated in the warrant.

Keywords: Items, Search, Seizure, Reasonable Grounds, Tax Administration Act.

The encapsulation of Traditional Leaders in the onslaught of Gender-Based Violence in their jurisdictions

Sabelinah Mmabjala Tshoane¹, Enoch Zenzile²

^{1,2} Department of Law Safety & Security, Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa.

² Corresponding author: zenzilee@tut.ac.za

Abstract

South Africa is in a quest to step up and curtail the phenomenon of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) which continues to be astonishing. This discussion paper concerns itself with the involvement of traditional leaders as custodians of norms and values of society that they are constitutionally mandated to lead, in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo provinces. The following objectives, serve as anchors of this research paper, viz: a) To delineate the magnitude of the phenomenon of GBV within the precincts of traditional leaders; b) To elucidate actions undertaken by victims of GBV in the aftermath of the incident, as determined by norms and values of the society in which they live in; and c) To recommend measures that can be implemented by traditional leaders to curtail GBV in areas of their jurisdictions. Data for the study was collected through a qualitative research method which included 68 traditional leaders that were purposively selected for one-on-one interviews, surveys, and document analysis. The study explored how traditional leadership structures leverage cultural practices and norms to address and mitigate GBV phenomenon in their areas of jurisdictions. Altogether, the research findings highlight the differences and similarities in strategies employed by traditional leaders in their jurisdictions. Wherein assessing effectiveness and efficiencies of traditional leaders' methods, findings indicate that there are significant challenges. Furthermore, it is revealed that the incorporation of cultural norms has had varying degrees of success in reducing GBV. The study provides insights into the potential of traditional leadership and cultural practices to contribute to the eradication of the phenomenon of gender-based violence. The broader framework of community under the auspices of traditional leadership and governmental interventions are highly recommended. Policies aligned to the constitutional prescriptions are also recommended for enhancing these efforts within the community. It is further recommended that there should be community forums that comprise traditional leaders to spearhead a paradigm shift and further mobilise efforts against GBV phenomenon.

Keywords: Cultural practices, Gender-Based Violence, traditional leaders, rural community, strategic framework

An exploration of school violence in the Western Cape Townships, South Africa

Malakhiwe Mbuyiswa¹, Jacob Tseko Mofokeng²

^{1,2} Faculty of Humanities, Department of Safety and Security Management,
Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa.

² Corresponding author: MofokengJT@tut.ac.za

Abstract

School violence is not a new occurrence in South Africa, and it is not unique to the Western Cape province; it occurs in all South African provinces. A significant prerequisite for learning and development is to constantly feel safe, yet the issue of school violence in South Africa is an unfortunate reality. Many diverse variables contribute to school violence, and the repercussions for students can be disastrous. In South Africa, where crime and violence are prevalent, the dramatic increase in school violence reflects a complex combination of historical and contemporary strains on individuals, institutions, and communities. The culture of violence has grown firmly proved in our society, causing people to accept violence as a means of obtaining their goals. Schools are not exempt from this scourge, and the Safety Framework Report shows that schools have commonly applied physical interventions as part of their school safety plans. Measures include enhancing police presence at schools, installing burglar bars on school doors and windows, recruiting security guards and building walls and fences. Non-physical violence reduction techniques, such as the introduction of school safety regulations and disciplinary measures, as well as other interventions aimed at altering and controlling learner behaviour, appear to receive less attention. School violence includes various negative underlying components, and these experiences have a long-term influence on children and their development into adults. Not only are such incidents predicted to have an influence on a child's attachment to a school, but they also contribute to rising dropout and absence rates, low self-esteem, and poor academic achievement. School violence is also likely to have a detrimental influence on young people's future susceptibility to violence, and there is a high likelihood that victims and/or perpetrators of school violence will engage in significant acts of violence as they grow older. Even while South Africa has made significant headway in fostering a human rights culture among its population, the constant exposure to violence has had a negative influence on students in most South African schools. In this setting, the researcher is certain that school violence can only be properly oversaw if school administrators, parents, community leaders, and the government work together. All these stakeholders' efforts must be placed within a complete framework of a concentrated social crime prevention plan that should target much of the violence that happens outside the reach of police and is typically conducted in the home. The purpose of this study was to better understand the phenomena of school violence as a kind of crime, as well as to shed light on the implications of school violence for students. The study was qualitative in nature, with the research participants providing detailed data verbally. A total of forty police personnel were questioned. According to the findings, school violence has a detrimental influence on both academic achievement and students' emotional and psychological well-being. This research was conducted at secondary schools in the Western Cape, South Africa. This township is notorious as one of the most violent areas in the Khayelitsha policing area. Purportedly, many learners who reside in this area have developed a fear of going to school as many have been attacked on their way to school, when they were inside the school premises and even when they were on their way back home.

Keywords: Policing, school, violence, teachers, South Africa

Shipping Navigation Service Policy Model In Supporting National Economy

Muhammad Anto Julianto ¹, Eleonora Sofilda ², Muhammad Zilal Hamzah ³

^{1,2,3} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

¹ Ministry of Transportation-Republic of Indonesia.

³ Corresponding author: mhd_zilal_hamzah@trisakti.ac.id

Abstract

Shipping safety is very important to note because ignoring it can result in ship accidents that have an impact on fatalities, environmental damage, and economic activities. Furthermore, ship accidents threaten maritime growth and investment in the shipping sector, besides that sea accidents harm humans, the marine environment, property and activities on board and on land. The impacts caused by accidents vary, ranging from minor injuries to death, from minor damage to very severe damage to the environment and property. This cannot be separated from the navigation functions to determine the position and/or course of the ship, notify of dangers/obstacles to shipping, indicate the boundaries of safe shipping lanes, mark the dividing lines of ship traffic, indicate areas and/or special activities in the waters and also the boundaries of a country. This study aims to determine and analyze: (i). Relationship between Standard and Policy Targets, Resources, Inter-Organizational Communication of Implementers and Strengthening Activities, Socio-Economic and Political Conditions, Characteristics of Existing Implementing Organizations and Implementer Attitudes towards Shipping Navigation Service Policy; (ii). Shipping Navigation Service Policy Model that supports the National Economy reviewed from the aspects of Standard and Policy Targets, Resources, Inter-Organizational Communication of Implementers and Strengthening Activities, Socio-Economic and Political Conditions, Characteristics of Existing Implementing Organizations and Implementer Attitudes based on suggestions and input from stakeholders/experts; (iii). Impact of Shipping Navigation Service Policy in Indonesia in supporting the national economy; and (iv). Shipping Navigation Service Policy Model in Indonesia in supporting the national economy according to input from stakeholders/experts.

The approach used in this study is a mixed method consisting of quantitative and qualitative approaches. The research location was 25 Type A and B Navigation District Offices. The informants of the FGD were 11 people (from several representatives of regulators, port operators, service providers, and entrepreneurs involved in shipping safety).

The conclusion of this study shows that: (i). The dependence of the Navigation District on the APBN affects navigation services to service users, several performance targets cannot be realized in 2023, on the other hand, the large number of assets is not balanced with financial income. There is a positive relationship between the variables of Standards and Policy Targets, Resources, Inter-Organizational Communication of Implementers and Strengthening Activities, Socio-Economic and Political Conditions, Characteristics of the Existing Implementing Organization and the Attitude of the Implementer with the Shipping Navigation Service Policy; (ii). The Shipping Navigation Service Policy Model has a positive influence on the national economy. If the policy model increases by 1%, it will boost the National Economy by 0.71%.; (iii). The Shipping Navigation Service Policy will provide safety assurance to ships sailing, and provide maritime protection to prevent accidents and oil spills that are detrimental, thus encouraging maritime trade activities and port activities through export-import activities that have an impact on the national economy; and (iv). respondents suggested the need for regulation of equipment reliability and use of technology and digitalization, HR Competence, regulation/Legality, stricter law enforcement for violators of shipping navigation rules, organizations that have financial/budget independence, the existence of mature and detailed equipment Procurement/maintenance Planning, welfare and rewards, government relations and support, coordination between stakeholders, increasing the role of supervision by KSOP and involving the maritime community in socialization and implementation.

The recommendations of this study are: (i). There needs to be a policy related to the organization implementing Shipping Navigation Services that can improve service performance by being able to manage budget efficiency, not being dependent on the APBN and having the independence to procure and operate Shipping Navigation Service equipment by optimizing revenue; (ii). Shipping Navigation Services have a significant impact on the national economy, so it is necessary to consider the formation of a Shipping Navigation Services Agency that is not dependent on the APBN, maintaining and improving the function of Shipping Navigation; and (iii). The implementation of Shipping Navigation Services Policy is greatly influenced by Compliance in carrying out supervision and enforcement of implementation in the field, on the other hand the function of compliance with the implementer the regulations are implemented by the Harbor Master and Port Authority Office and the Port Organizing Unit Office. So it is necessary to regulate the supervision and enforcement functions by mitigating the risk of ineffectiveness and inefficiency because on the other hand the Navigation District office has the authority to develop but compliance supervision is carried out by other work units.

Keywords: Navigation Services, Policy Model, Economy, Mix Method

Market Justice: Possibility and Necessity

Guntur Freddy Prisanto

STIKOM InterStudi, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Corresponding author: guntur@stikom.interstudi.edu

Justice is a condition of social order that is inherent within the market. The market agreed as a social construction with specific mechanisms that enable individuals to act rationally without having to possess said rationality. This kind of market presupposes the anthropological assumption that human is homo economists and homo rationales that pursue their self-interest. The perfect model of the competitive market, with features like efficiency and equilibrium, is justified through the formulation of mathematical economic science.

Meanwhile, the incapability of individuals to participate in the perfect model of a competitive market is the fundamental problem in justice theory. In this case, freedom and equality became the basis of the debate regarding justice, which to solve would require a theory of justice that can place the individual's capability in the market.

Amartya Sen's capability approach in his theory of justice became the best way to resolve the intricacy between freedom and equality as opposed to other alternatives, which only emphasize one feature - freedom or equality. The applicable anthropological assumption is more than merely to satisfy self-interests; it is also to achieve freedom, morality, and justice. As a condition of social order, justice is necessary to reject domination and exploitation - either in the relationship between the labourers and the owners of capital or between the consumers and the manufacturers. The market should be accessible.

Keywords: Justice, efficiency, poverty, capability, self-interest, sympathy, rationality.

Backyard vegetable garden in South Africa: A quick solution to malnutrition

Bukola G. Olutola

School of Engineering, Science and Health, Independent Institute of Education (IIEMSA),
South Africa.

Corresponding author: bolutola@iiemsa.co.za

Abstract

Introduction: A good nutrition is essential towards the physical, emotional, and mental developments of community members. Lack of good nutrition can cause health problems of members of the society. Poverty often leads to lack of nutritional food for individuals. The 2023 UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates indicated that there was insufficient progress to reach the 2025 World Health Assembly (WHA) global nutrition targets and SDG target 2. Having a backyard garden especially among the low socioeconomic group can address the issue of malnutrition. Therefore, this paper sought to determine the importance of backyard garden in curbing hunger in South Africa households.

Methods: The data used for this study was the 2022 South African General Household Survey. The study is nationally representative, and the target population included all private households and residents in workers' hostels in all the nine provinces of South Africa. Data analysis included both descriptive and inferential statistics to explore the factors associated with having backyard garden.

Results: Of the 19,351 households, 42.2% (n=8424) were headed by female. More than 11% (n=2860) of the households had a backyard garden and only 0.1% (n=34) of the households were part of a community garden. More households where females were the heads of households had backyard gardens than those houses headed by males (13.9% vs. 10.1%; $p < 0.001$). The households with the highest number of backyard gardens were those whose heads were 65 years (and above 19.0%; n=841) followed by those who were 55-64 years (16.2%; n=689). In the multivariable logistic regression, households where children always had insufficient food (AOR: 0.24; 95% Conf. Interval: 0.10-0.61) and often had insufficient food (AOR: 0.50; 95% Conf. Interval: 0.30-0.84) were less likely to have backyard garden compared to household where children never had insufficient food. Those who had education of up to grade 12 (AOR: 0.67; 95% Conf. Interval: 0.57-0.80) or above a grade 12 education (AOR: 0.50; 95% Conf. Interval: 0.35-0.72) were less likely to have a backyard garden. Also, households that were not worried about food were less likely to have a backyard garden compared to households that were worried about food (AOR: 0.68; 95% Conf. Interval: 0.50-0.92).

Conclusion: This study's findings brought out the importance of backyard garden in curbing malnutrition in children showing that children from households with backyard garden are not likely to go hungry. It also shows that backyard garden should be encouraged among those with grade 12 and those with a higher education.

Keywords: Backyard garden, Education, Households, Hunger, South Africa.

Determinants Factors of Indonesian Banking Asset Growth Period 2014 - 2023

Akmal Amiruddin ¹, Eleonora Sofilda ², Muhammad Zilal Hamzah ³

^{1,2,3} Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia.

¹ The Central Bank, Republic of Indonesia.

³ Corresponding authour: mhd_zilal_hamzah@trisakti.ac.id

Abstract

The banking sector plays a pivotal role in promoting economic growth. The implementation of effective banking management strategies has a positive impact on the performance and growth of the banking sector. One policy that could facilitate the creation of a healthy and competitive Indonesian banking sector capable of competing globally is the regrouping of Indonesian banks. The previous grouping, based on Business Activities (BUKU), has been replaced with a new system based on Core Capital, designated as the Period of Bank Based on Core Capital (KBMI). This transition was formalized through issuing a regulation by the Financial Services Authority (POJK) under the number 12/POJK.03/2021.

The objective of this study is to analyze, examine, and compare the influence of bank performance aspects consisting of asset quality indicators (NPL), Profitability (ROA and NIM), Liquidity (LDR and LAR), Efficiency (BOPO), Capital (CAR and CCR), Interest rate aspects (consisting of deposit interest and credit interest indicators) and Macroeconomic Aspects (with indicators of Inflation, GDP, BI Rate and BI Exchange Rate) on banking asset growth in Indonesia. Analysis of the Influence of performance indicators, Interest Rate indicators, and Macroeconomic indicators on the growth of Bank Assets is carried out in two periods, namely based on BUKU and KBMI. This study observes 95 Commercial Banks in Indonesia for the period December 2014-June 2023, using 6,180 panel data estimated with static panels. The panel data processing uses the E-views 9.0 software application.

The results of the estimate model test for the BUKU category tend to use the Random Effects Model (REM) because the probability value in the Chow Test is below 5%. Based on the REM estimation, it is found and known that several variables that significantly affect the growth of banking assets in the BUKU period are asset quality (NPL), Profitability (ROA), Liquidity (LAR), Efficiency (BOPO), Capital (CAR), Interest Rate (deposit interest) and Macroeconomic (GDP) with various directions and with a coefficient of determination of 32.96%. Meanwhile, the results of the estimation model selection test for the KBMI category tend to use the Common Effects Model (CEM) because the Chow Test probability value is above 5%. Based on the CEM estimation, it is known that some variables that significantly affect the growth of banking assets in the KBMI period are Profitability (NIM), Liquidity (LDR and LAR), Capital (CAR and CCR), interest rate indicators (deposit interest and loan interest) and Macroeconomic (Inflation, BI Rate and BI Exchange Rate) on the growth of banking assets in Indonesia with diverse directions and with a strong coefficient of determination reaching 97.89% and a good global test because the statistical value is below 5%.

In conclusion, there are differences in variables that affect the growth of total assets between the BUKU period and the KBMI period. In the BUKU period, 7 (seven) variables significantly affect banking growth in Indonesia, which are dominated by performance variables. Whereas in the KBMI period using CEM the variables that significantly affect the growth of Indonesian banking assets are more, namely 10 (ten) variables dominated by performance variables, interest rates, and macroeconomics. The coefficient of determination on KBMI is relatively stronger than BUKU, which is partly due to differences in the estimation model used.

Keywords: Bank Performance; Interest Rate; Macroeconomics; Asset Growth; Static Panel model (REM and CEM)

Development, Democracy and Sustainability: Bangladesh, the test case at a crossroads

Masudur Rahman

Emeritus

Nord University, Norway.

Corresponding author: masudur.rahman@nord.no

Abstract

Successive movements since 1948 onwards culminated in the Liberation war of 1971. The leadership promised a society upholding Bengali identity, brotherly spirit among all irrespective of religion and ethnic backgrounds in the people's republic of Bangladesh. Those objectives were the manifesto of the party, bearing the banner of Bengali nationalism, secularism and democracy. Those also captured the imagination of far-sighted intelligentsia, student community, and urban middle-class. The imaginary picture emphasized the aspiration for an egalitarian society. Bangladesh won the liberation war but inherited a war on want. The outlook for development was bleak. Bangladesh stood as 'a test-case for development'. Against all odds, after a turbulent period during first three decades, Bangladesh has achieved significant economic growth and success in number of areas such as poverty reduction, food production, infrastructural development etc. Despite economic achievements, there was an uneasiness perturbing the society due to a growing concern among people about national identity, continued erosion in democratic and secular values. The questions such as 'what is the core of the idea of Bangladesh?', and 'whether the political culture could turn people's aspiration to reality' stood as backdrop for many debates within the civil society. Paradoxically these issues became more controversial when the party that struggled for a democratic, secular and egalitarian Bangladesh has been in power for more than a decade. The tension intensified by autocratic rule in combination with administrative inefficiency and corruption which created outrage, of which the student movement against discrimination in July-August was an expression. The movement turned into a mass uprising that forced the incumbent government to resign. This paper addresses how Bangladesh got there. Interpretation of observations and media bring the issue of legitimation to the fore, a legacy of the past. In pre-independent Bangladesh the legitimation of national identity was manifested by two narratives of national identity, one that put emphasis on religious value, and the other on cultural values. In present Bangladesh, both two notions are recognized, however, observation suggests going beyond. The rise or decline of one or the other, in the absence of legal form of legitimation of power, depends critically on the power elites' stand to benefit from the choices made. Various efforts to capture the state power by competing political parties include illegal measures that disrupted internal coherence. In the absence of legitimacy, the mainstream political parties needed support from the religious non-secular organizations which undermined the process of democratization. Bangladesh, apparently, despite economic achievements, has a long way to go to translate people's aspirations of democratic, secular and egalitarian society into reality.

Keywords: Bangladesh; Democracy; Development; Political culture; Sustainability

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Ontario, K2J 6G1
Canada.
Tel: + 1 613 612 7615
Email: oida@ontariointernational.org
W3: www.ontariointernational.org

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