



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ECONOMICS
AND ALLIED RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA



3RD VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**INSTITUTIONS, ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

7TH TO 8TH FEBRUARY, 2024

3RD VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OPENING CEREMONY OF 3RD VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ECONOMICS AND ALLIED RESEARCH

**THEME: INSTITUTIONS, ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION, AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

Date: 7th February, 2024 | Time: 10am

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

10:00am–10:05am	Introduction and Welcome of Guests and Participants by: Dr. Jonathan E. Ogbuabor , Chairman, Conference LOC
10:05am–10:10am	Opening Prayer by: Dr. Tony Orji , Vice Chairman, Conference LOC
10:10am–10:15am	National Anthem & University of Nigeria Anthem
10:15am–10:25am	Opening Remarks by Chairman of the Ceremony: Professor Adeola F. Adenikinju President, Nigerian Economic Society
10:25am–10:35am	Head of Department's Welcome Address: Dr. Mrs. Ifeoma C. Mba Head, Department of Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka
10:35am–10:40am	Goodwill Message: Professor Ike E. Onyishi Dean, Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka
10:40am–10:50am	Goodwill message from the Chief Host: Professor Charles Arizechukwu Igwe Vice Chancellor, University of Nigeria, Nsukka
10:50am–11:05am	Keynote Speech: Hon. Dr. Nathaniel Urama Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development, Enugu State, Nigeria
11:05am–11:20am	Keynote Speech: Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena Executive Director, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)
11:25am–11:30am	Announcements and Vote of Thanks by: Dr. Divine N. Obodoechi , Secretary, Conference LOC
11:30am–12:00pm	Break
12:00pm	Concurrent Paper Presentation Sessions Begin

3RD VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

A Welcome Address by The Ag. Head, Department of Economics, University Of Nigeria, Nsukka on The Occasion of The 3rd Virtual International Conference of The Department of Economics in Conjunction With The Centre For Contemporary Economics and Allied Research, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, This 7th Day of February, 2024

The Vice Chancellor, University of Nigeria, **Prof. Charles Arizechukwu Igwe**

The Dean of the largest faculty in Sub-Saharan African, Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Nigeria, **Prof. Ernest Ike Onyishi**

The Chairman of this Ceremony, who is also the President, Nigerian Economic Society, **Professor Adeola F. Adenikinju**

Our Distinguished Keynote Speakers:

Hon. Dr. Nathaniel Urama

Honourable Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development, Enugu State

and

Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena

Executive Director, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)

Distinguished Professors and other Academics here present

Our highly esteemed Conferees

Great Lions and Lionesses

On behalf of the Department of Economics, I warmly welcome all of us to this 3rd Virtual International Conference of the Department on the theme: **“Institutions, Economic Diversification, and Sustainable Development in Africa”**. You will recall that the Department held its 1st Virtual International Conference in February 2022, while the second edition of the conference was held in February 2023. The high number of impactful abstracts received from both local and international participants during these editions of the Conference affirmed the relevance of the Conference towards promoting sustainable development policymaking in Africa. The Department is determined to ensure that this conference holds in the first week of February every year, so that academics around the world will continue to bring their research outputs to the doorsteps of policymakers through this channel.

The theme of this year’s Conference is apt given that most African economies are still struggling to recover from the Covid-19 Pandemic, which led to massive decline in real GDP growth. Indeed, the overall aim of the conference is to understand the drivers of economic development in Africa with emphasis on institutions and economic diversification. This aim is quite relevant at this time for at least two important reasons. First, in recent years, many stakeholders in development policymaking in Africa and around the world have largely attributed Africa’s underdevelopment to weak institutions. Second, the vulnerabilities of African economies as exposed by the recent Covid-19 Pandemic is a wake-up call for these economies to be diversified as urgently as possible. Hence, this year’s conference is part of the ongoing global efforts at mainstreaming institutional reforms and economic diversification into economic growth and development policymaking in Africa.

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The Department appreciates our amiable Vice Chancellor and our indefatigable Dean for finding time to grace this occasion in spite of their very busy schedules. We also greatly appreciate the Chairman of this Occasion, who is the President, Nigerian Economic Society (NES), Professor Adeola F. Adenikinju, for his unflinching support and contributions towards the growth of our Department and the Nigerian Economic Society, as a body. History is also being made today as a great and distinguished alumnus of the Department, an Econometrician par excellence, the Honourable Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development, Enugu State, Hon. Dr. Nathaniel Urama, will be presenting the keynote speech on this occasion. We greatly appreciate him. We also appreciate another distinguished alumnus of the department and a great friend, who is also a keynote speaker on this occasion, Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena, the Executive Director, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA). My Dr and Executive Director, the Department is still thanking you for your massive assistance last year through Prof. Emma Nwosu. Thank you and May God Almighty continue to bless you.

We also appreciate our conferees, who have sent in their abstracts from different parts of the globe. We wish you well as you break into the technical sessions.

We thank our staff and students for all their support towards the organisation of this Conference. We cannot thank them enough.

Once again, I say welcome to all of you.

Thank you and remain blessed.

Dr. Mrs. Ifeoma Christy Mba

Ag. Head, Department of Economics, UNN

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A welcome address presented by the Dean, Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka on the occasion of the 3rd Virtual International Conference of the Department of Economics in conjunction with the Centre for Contemporary Economics and Allied Research, University, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Protocols

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 3rd Virtual International Conference of the Department of Economics, University, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka prides herself as the largest faculty in Sub-Saharan Africa with nine Departments. The Department of Economics is one of the Departments in our great faculty that has become distinguished as a trail blazer among other Departments of Economics globally. The Department of Economics has produced great intellectuals and leaders that are making great impacts locally and globally, including Prof. C.C Soludo (the Executive Governor of Anambra State and former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria), and Dr. Abraham Nwankwo (former Director General of the Debt Management Office, Abuja, among others.

Today, two distinguished alumni of the Department will be presenting keynote speeches at this Conference. They are the Honourable Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development, Enugu State, Hon. Dr. Nathaniel Urama, and the Executive Director, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA), Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena. Our great Faculty and the University of Nigeria are pleased with the support the Department of Economics has been receiving from these accomplished alumni.

Our great Faculty is delighted to welcome the President of the Nigerian Economic Society, Professor Adeola F. Adenikinju, who is also the Chairman of the opening ceremony of this conference. I must recall that last year's edition of this conference was Chaired by the Vice President of the Nigerian Economic Society and Director, CBN Centre for Economics and Finance, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, Professor Ifeoma Stella Madueme. We are grateful to the Nigerian Economic Society for all their support to the Department of Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

The theme of this year's conference is **“Institutions, Economic Diversification, and Sustainable Development in Africa”**. This theme is apt at this time that most African economies are still struggling to overcome the devastating impacts of Covid-19 Pandemic. The crisis occasioned by the pandemic led to the deterioration in many macroeconomic variables, such as inflation, employment, exchange rate, investment, and GDP growth, among others. Indeed, Africa as continent, has suffered a lot of setbacks in her quest for sustainable growth and development in recent years, and many scholars around the world have posited that the continued underdevelopment of the region can largely be attributed to the prevalence of weak institutions and lack of economic diversification in most African economies. Hence, we are most excited with the choice of the theme for this conference as it will offer scholars from around the world the opportunity to support development policymaking in the region with well researched evidence. Clearly, the conference promises to be intellectually enriching as can be seen from the high volume of papers received from different parts of the world.

Distinguished scholars, ladies and gentlemen, the aim of the conference is to understand how African economies can better exploit the channels of governance institutions and economic diversification to drive sustainable economic growth and development in the region. It is our expectation that the plethora of papers that would be presented in this conference and the intellectual debate that would follow, will provide a policy blueprint for African economies to

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follow in their quest for sustainable economic growth and development in the post-pandemic era. Once again, I welcome you to this noble conference and I wish you fruitful presentations and deliberations.

Professor Ike E. Onyishi

Dean, Faculty of the Social Sciences,
University of Nigeria, Nsukka

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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FACTORS AFFECTING USERS' SATISFACTION WITH URBAN GREEN OPEN SPACES IN ENUGU CITY, NIGERIA

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Abstract

In the recent past, much empirical studies on the nature and potential benefits of using urban green open spaces by urban residents have received enormous attention, mostly in Western and Asian countries. However, not much is known of the factors that drive park users to be satisfied with these parks in the cities of developing and rapidly urbanising countries like Nigeria. This study therefore determined the factors that influence urban green open space users' satisfaction with open spaces in Enugu urban, south-east Nigeria. The data were derived from a questionnaire survey of 294 open space visitors and analyzed using descriptive, principal component, and multiple linear regression analyses. The results revealed that the participants understood the factors that influenced their satisfaction with the parks in eight key dimensions: accessibility to the green open spaces, conveniences, safety and security concerns, emotional attributes, aesthetics, physical facilities/ services attributes, scenery attributes and parks' management/ maintenance. With an R^2 value of 0.850, the regression analysis showed that Age, gender and educational attainment of the park users were the significant socio-economic characteristic of the respondents that influenced their satisfaction of the parks. This understanding of open space users satisfaction would inform urban planners of the strategies for effective planning and provision of friendly open spaces that will encourage the urban residents to enjoy the multifunctional benefits of such facilities in Nigerian cities and beyond. Additionally, it contributes to the enhancement of the planning and development of green open spaces in African cities, ensuring they are more tailored to the unique requirements of their inhabitants.

EXPLORING THE GAINS AND THE PAINS OF THE NAIRA REDESIGN POLICY AMIDST THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The recent naira redesign policy of the Federal Government of Nigeria in the wake of the 2023 general elections brought untold hardship to Nigerians despite its good intentions. This study was an attempt to explore the gains and the pains of the naira redesign policy and the implications of the scarcity of the new naira notes on the 2023 general elections in Nigeria. Twenty-four participants were selected for the study using multistage sampling techniques. Data were collected using in-depth interviews and analysed thematically with the use of Nvivo 12. Findings revealed that the policy enthroned a cashless and digital banking system, prudent spending by Nigerians, enriched some individuals and benefited small-scale businesses, encouraged physical exercise, and reduced kidnapping and terrorism within the period of excessive naira notes scarcity. The study equally found that the policy exposed Nigerians to starvation, and untimely death, negatively affected some businesses, and led to the destruction of some bank properties. The study recommended amongst others, that the Central Bank of Nigeria should print more naira notes, increase the daily withdrawal limit, and provide palliatives to help cushion the effects of the policy on average Nigerians.

Keywords: Explore, Gains and pains, Implications, Naira notes, Naira redesign policy, Scarcity

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HOW ARE ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS MODERATING THE EFFECT OF ECONOMIC COMPLEXITY ON TRADE, FDI INFLOW, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN AFRICA?

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Abstract

Available literature shows that the economic structure of countries can influence trade, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow, environmental degradation, and economic growth across nations. However, this literature is scarce in Africa. Besides, economic governance institutions are important factors that may affect growth. Hence, this paper investigates how economic governance institutions are moderating the effect of economic complexity on trade, FDI inflow, environmental degradation, and economic growth in Africa from 2000 to 2020. Employing the system GMM and marginal effect techniques, our results show that: (i) even though economic complexity is a driver of trade, FDI, and economic growth in Africa, it will not be sufficient by itself in doing this without effective governance institutions; (ii) governance institutions in Africa moderate the effect of economic complexity on the environment by stimulating economic activities that lead to higher carbon dioxide emissions as a byproduct of growth; and (iii) improved governance institutions in Africa are capable of intensifying trade, attracting more FDI, and spurring economic growth. The study made some insightful policy recommendations based on these findings.

Key words: Institutions; Economic complexity; Trade, FDI, Environmental degradation, Economic growth

JEL Classifications: N20; O14; F14, E22; G51; F43

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SUBJECTION OF WOMEN AND THE NEED TO ENHANCE WOMEN PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLITY, USING JOHN STUART MILL PARADIGM

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ABSTRACT

This paper intends to examine the issue of sexual equity as articulated by John Stuart Mill in his book, Subjection of Women. The paper would analytically digest, evaluate and re-examine Mill's view on how women voice and contributions on general social issues especially issues that pertains to women, their well-being and how effective participation in all societal issues can help better our society. This work would critically analyze the immediate environment and bring to fore changes in our practice and customs that can help bring about gender equality and active participation of women in the polity. This paper elaborates the fact that women liberation brings about healthy competition, that would give birth to a society where males and females can effectively add higher value to the society.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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Abstract

The economic systems practiced in Africa have magnified the role of the public sector in the scheme of things in African countries. Thus, this study investigated the effects of total public expenditure on economic development in Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa between 1990 and 2022. Government final consumption expenditure and human development index (HDI) were used to measure public expenditure and economic development respectively. Data on these variables were sourced from the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme

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(UNDP). With the aid of E-views 10 software, the data so generated were subjected to descriptive analysis, unit root test using ADF technique, Johansen co-integration test, Wald test for model estimation and test of statistical significance, pairwise granger causality test, and diagnostic tests to confirm the validity and reliability of results obtained. Results revealed that government final consumption expenditure has no long run relationship with human development index in the three countries considered. Secondly, government final consumption expenditure granger causes HDI in Ghana and South Africa. Thirdly, government final consumption expenditure has a negative effect on HDI in Nigeria but positive effects in Ghana and South Africa; however the effects in all three countries are statistically significant. It follows then that total public expenditure has significant effects on economic development in Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa. Hence, there is the need to further encourage public spending in Africa so as to further enhance the economic development state of African countries.

KEYWORDS: Public expenditure, economic development, final consumption expenditure, human development index, and wald test

TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examined the impact of trade liberalization on economic growth in Nigeria for a period of forty years (1981-2021). The objectives were to examine effect of Trade Liberalization on Economic Growth Rate (GDPGR) in Nigeria; and to trace the long run relationship among the variables in the model. The properties of the variables were obtained by the use of Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF) test for unit roots and co-integration tests. Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) bound test for the estimation of long run relationship among the series was carried out. The result showed the existence of a sustainable long run association between the variables used. ARDL error correction estimate established satisfactory speed of adjustment from long run disequilibrium to short run. The result further indicated that previous values of trade openness significantly affected economic growth in Nigeria. It was also observed from the result that government capital and recurrent expenditure provided a positive relationship with economic growth rate in Nigeria between 1981 and 2021. Thus, increasing government expenditure for the period by one more percent resulted to an increase of 22.89% increase on economic growth rate in the short, while in the long run, a percent increase resulted to 97.95% surge on economic growth in the Nation. Also, it was obtained that expansionary monetary supply in the short run exerted a negative influence over economic growth. The study therefore recommended that, government should minimize restriction of trade within a short period but should check its operation beyond one year.

Keywords: Trade Liberalization; Economic Growth; Co-Integration; Autoregressive Distributed Lag; Central Bank

**DEPOSIT MONEY BANKS' PERFORMANCE AND THE MANUFACTURING
SECTOR OUTPUT IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

This paper analyzed Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) performance and the growth of the Manufacturing sector for a period of forty years (1981-2021). The paper had the objective of determining the impact of banks' credit as a proxy for DMB performance on the manufacturing sector output; estimating the impact of banks' credit through financial deepening and interest rate on Gross Domestic Product; and determining the long run relationship between banks' credit and the growth of GDP; tracing the causality relationship between banks' credit and output growth in Nigeria. The study employed Autoregressive Distributed Lag Model after pre-estimation tests. Interactive model was used to determine the channel through which domestic credit to the private sector will be more effective. The result of the unit root showed that the variables were integrated of order one and this make Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) Model suitable for the study. The result of the ARDL further showed that the coefficient of the domestic credit to the private sector was statistically significant. The impacts of exchange rate, government expenditure and lag 1 and lag 2 of monetary policy rate on manufacturing output level were statistically significant as indicated in the result. The interactive model showed that domestic credit to the private sector is more effective through moderate management of the interest rate.

Keywords: Deposit Money Bank; Manufacturing sector output; Monetary policy, Interactive model; Domestic Credit

THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE PERCEPTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG NIGERIAN YOUTHS IN KEFFI, NASARAWA STATE NIGERIA

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Abstract

Substance abuse among Nigerian youths has been a source of public concern to the state and the nation at large and is becoming a global threat to world economic systems. The present study aims to examine the perception of substance abuse among Nigerian youths in Keffi, Nasarawa State and its economic implication. A cross-sectional study was conducted using Self-administer questionnaire and online survey tool (Google Form) validated by content validity. The hyperlink to the online survey tool was shared to different respondents, members of Keffi via emails, and other social media platforms. Data collected from eligible respondents were analyzed using descriptive statistics, Correlation Matrix, and Binary Logistics Regression with the use of STATA version 17. A total of 250 questionnaires was distributed among the focused population, 246 questionnaires were filled and returned of which 38.63% were female, 61.38% were male. Among the respondents, 47.15% admitted practicing substance abuse and/or drug abuse. Majority of the respondents were youths between the age of 20-30 years. The findings also revealed that substance abuse among Nigerian youths in Keffi, Nasarawa State is common, and it cuts across both male and female youths. Concerted efforts towards the re-enforcement of NDLEA activities, counselling helpdesk offices and treatment and rehabilitation centers were considered essential measures which provide practical recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders in designing effective intervention programs.

Keywords: *Substance abuse, health cost, productivity loss, Nigerian youths and Binary Logistic Regression.*

DYNAMICS OF LINKAGE BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL EXPORT TRADE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA (1985 TO 2022)

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Abstract

The importance of exports in determining economic development is considered a critical policy concern in many emerging economies. Nevertheless, despite the capacity of agricultural exports to stimulate economic expansion, numerous obstacles have impeded the progress of this sector in Nigeria. This study aims to examine the relationship between agricultural export trade and economic growth in Nigeria using a time series data from 1985-2022. Specifically, it measures the changes in agricultural commodity trade, identifies the factors that influence agricultural export trade, evaluates the impact of agricultural export and other macroeconomic variables on economic growth, and tests the causal relationship between agricultural export and economic growth. Pre-estimation tests were done using Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF), Philip-Perron (PP) test and Johansen cointegration. Descriptive statistics, Rate of change (ROC), the Generalized Method Moments (GMM) and a pair wise Granger causality test were employed to analyse objectives. Findings from the study showed that the agricultural commodity trade experienced an unsteady and zig-zag rate of change during the study period. The significant factors that positively influenced the agricultural export trade in Nigeria were gross domestic product, consumer price index, and exchange rate, while interest rate had a negative influence on the agricultural export trade in Nigeria. Furthermore, agricultural export trade, share of agriculture in Nigeria's budget, consumer price index, and exchange rate positively and significantly influenced economic growth in Nigeria, while interest rate negatively and significantly influenced economic growth in Nigeria. The result of the Granger causality test shows that agricultural export Granger causes economic growth in Nigeria while economic growth does not Granger cause agricultural export in Nigeria. This result indicates a unidirectional causality that runs from agricultural exports to economic growth. The study thus recommends that government intervention is necessary to boost agricultural commodity trade through by lowering interest rates, exchange rates and reducing import.

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ENERGY DIVERSIFICATION IN AFRICA: THE PANACEA FOR SOLVING THE ENERGY PARADOX

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Abstract

The paper empirically examined energy diversification in Africa. Although, Africa is endowed with abundant energy resources, their accessibility, efficiency and affordability is a mirage. This is paradoxical, a situation of scarcity in the midst of plenty. The paper is set to answer some of these pertinent questions. Considering the pivotal role of energy in the growth of any nation, how can African countries achieve energy accessibility and affordability? The question is not whether African countries are making efforts to alleviate the energy problem but to what extent has these efforts yielded the desired results? These are the prime objectives of which this paper is geared in providing answers. To achieve this, cross-sectional data sourced from World Development indicators, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank were used to examine five selected African countries, one from each region of the continent. From the result of the study, it was found that inspite of the pivotal role energy plays in industrial development of nations, its impact in Africa is still insignificant. Also, the result revealed that Africa, with abundant energy resources, most these resources remain unutilized, underutilized or misutilized. Based on the findings of this study, the major recommendations are; there should be establishment and adoption of technologies that are cost effective and in consonance with each country's factor endowment. Also, existing energy reforms should be reviewed with a view to establishing a more credible and functional regulatory framework.

Keywords: Energy, diversification, accessibility

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EVALUATION OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION AMONG MALE AND FEMALE COOPERATIVE FARMERS IN UZO-UWANI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, ENUGU STATE, NIGERI

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Abstract

The motivation for this study is due to the fact that access to finance is critical for the growth of the agricultural sector. Farmers' cooperative societies are considered as one of the important economic and social organizations in rural communities. The specific objectives of the study were to; describe the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents; compare the level of access to financial inclusion among male and female cooperative farmers; ascertain the factors that affect financial inclusiveness among male and female cooperative farmers and identify the perceived constraints to financial inclusion among male and female cooperative farmers. The study adopted the use of primary data and the instrument of data collection was a well-structured questionnaire considering 80 respondents. The methods of data analysis used were descriptive statistics (frequency and percentages), T-test model, binary logit model and likert rating scale technique. The result of the study showed that: 29.7%, fell within the ages 31-40 years, 55.6% are male and 35.1% acquired formal education. The level of access to finance among gender shows that the male farmers have more access to finance than the female with the mean difference (male =1.366, female=0.667). Years of membership, distance to financial institutions, educational qualification, and high interest rate were the factors to financial inclusion among farmers. The result also showed that: lack of collateral, untimely credit disbursement, high interest, females being constrained to have financial access, far distance to financial institution, complex banking procedure and lack of credit information, were the perceived constraints to financial inclusion among the farmers. The study therefore recommends that access to finance can be improved by: timely disbursement, reduced interest rate, provision of financial institution closer to the rural areas, improving access to financial information, reducing the rigidity in banking procedures, having bank account and access to collateral security.

Keywords: Financial inclusion, cooperative farmers, Uzouwani local government

SPILOVER EFFECT OF OIL PRICE VOLATILITY ON STOCK RETURNS IN ASIAN OIL IMPORTING COUNTRIES DURING THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

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Abstract

This study investigates the spillover effect of oil price volatility on stock returns during the Russia-Ukraine War, focusing on 13 oil-importing Asian economies. The regression results from the different regimes show that the spillover effects intensify in some countries but decline in others from the first to the fifth regimes, while the results are mixed in some countries for the panel estimation. Our results are in consonance with the fact that the incursion by Russian forces into Ukraine has had undulating effects on humanitarian and economic activities globally. These findings provide evidence that the stock price–oil price nexus intensified following the war in Ukraine. The policy implication from this is that, over the medium to the long term, the energy sectors in these Asian countries should build up resilience and importance in the current evolving energy world. Also, we recommend policymakers to provide support for the financial markets through securing domestic capital financing, protecting against major manmade and environmental catastrophes, and insuring against wars and pandemics.

Keywords: Oil price; Stock prices; Asian; Oil importing countries; Russia; Ukraine war

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STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGEMENT AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION NEXUS: DIAGNOSIS OF PEACE MASS TRANSIT LIMITED

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Ugwuanyi, Romanus Onyeka

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Onah, James Ikechukwu

Department of Marketing, Institute of Management and Technology, Enugu – Nigeria.

Oluwafemi Oloidi

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Abstract

Customer satisfaction had been denied customers in many service delivery firms as customer complaints continue to rise. Hence, transportation services management had been very challenging as passengers of Peace Mass Transit Limited had indicated their grievances and dissatisfaction with certain specific services provided by the company. This study seeks to examine the relationship between strategic transportation services management and customer satisfaction in Peace Mass Transit. The core objectives were to ascertain the relationship between early departure/arrival and customer satisfaction; to determine the relationship between safe driving and customer satisfaction; to examine the relationship between ticketing convenience and customer satisfaction, and to evaluate the relationship between passenger complaint resolution and customer satisfaction. The target population includes regular passengers of this company. The Cochran's sample size determination method was applied and 384 was realized. A pilot study was conducted using 30 questionnaire copies that were duly subjected to Cronbach alpha reliability test and 0.880 was got. Through convenience sampling technique, copies of the questionnaire were administered on the 384 passengers and 378 were returned while 8 were dropped for being wrongly filled. Of the remaining 370, data analysis was conducted using Pearson's Product Moment correlation coefficient and the findings revealed that the four independent constructs had positive and significant relationships with passenger satisfaction. Consequently, it is evident that adequate management of these transportation services will lead to passenger satisfaction. Hence, company management should continuously improve the quality of these strategic services to keep satisfying their passengers and lure them away from competitors.

Keywords: management, transportation services, passenger complaints, customer satisfaction, Peace Mass Transit

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GLOBALIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: A COMMON CORRELATED EFFECT MEAN GROUP ANALYSIS

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Abstract

As part of the efforts to achieve sustainable development goals in sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, this study examined the impact of globalization on sustainable development in a panel of 19 sub-Saharan African countries for the period 1991–2018. The dearth of evidence from this perspective, especially in the context of SSA, warrants this study. Adjusted net saving (ANS) was used as a proxy for sustainable development. Adjusted net savings as a percentage of GNI data was sourced from World Development Indicators, while globalization indices were generated from the KOF Globalization Index. A Common Correlated Effect Mean Group (CCEMG) panel estimator was utilized for the analysis. The choice of CCEMG is to take care of cross-sectional dependence problems in the panel dataset. The estimated results showed that overall globalization, economic globalization, and political globalization have significant positive impacts on sustainable development. Social globalization exhibited an insignificant effect on sustainable development. Individual country results revealed that globalization has a significant positive impact on sustainable development in Benin, Mauritius, Senegal, and Uganda but a negative effect in Niger. In line with the findings, the study recommends economic and political policies that will enhance the globalization indicators of sub-Saharan African countries in order for them to achieve sustainable development goals.

JEL Classification: F62, Q01

Keywords: globalization, sustainable development, CCEMG, sub-Saharan Africa.

LITHIUM: A PIVOT FOR ENERGY SECTOR DIVERSIFICATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA.

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Abstract

This paper critically examines the prospect of Africa to achieve sustainable development through the diversification of her energy sector. It explores the option of Lithium which is the most current source of energy on high demand in this 21st century as the world is desperately working towards a green economy and gradually shifting her focus from crude oil due to its negative impact on the climate via gas emission. Through analysis and drawing from available data, it was discovered that diversifying the energy sector will come along with the positive effect of attracting more domestic and Foreign direct investment in the continent thereby fostering capital formation, job creation through the establishment of the relevant support industries, wealth creation and at the long run, sustainable economic development of the continent. Reliance on primary products, weak institutions and corruption was found to be the major factors inhibiting the achievement diversification and attainment of sustainable development in Africa. The paper therefore recommends that policies be made to encourage building higher value and transformative industries that will transform raw materials to acceptable standard before exports, that supportive industries be domesticated in Africa and that all necessary institutions are strengthened to enable the total implementation of the policies in order to achieve sustainable development in Africa at the long run.

Key words: Energy sector, Lithium, diversification, Sustainable development.

**CHANGES IN INCOME LEVELS AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS: THE
DEMOGRAPHIC DRIVERS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN JALINGO METROPOLIS
OF TARABA STATE, NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Income levels and consumption patterns are said to be significant contributors to the rising temperatures worldwide, while climate change has been a critical global challenge. As the global population continues to grow and urbanize, the demand for energy, transportation, and goods rises which influence climate change. Two theories were adopted for the study which include; Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) Theory and Ecological Modernization Theory. The study employed a cross-sectional survey design which efficiently enabled the researchers to collect data from a sample within a short period of time and make broader conclusions on the entire study's population. For the comprehensive exploration of the research issues related to the influence of changes in income levels and consumption patterns on climate change in Jalingo Metropolis, Taraba State; Taro Yamane's formula was adopted to generate 400 sample size out of the 581,000 population of the study's universe. Two-Way ANOVA was employed to test the hypothesis since it deals with two independent variables and a dependent variable analysis. The findings of the study were significant at the P-value of 0.007. This implied that changes in income levels and consumption patterns are significantly responsible for climate change in Jalingo Metropolis, Taraba State. Based on the findings, the study recommends that environmental regulations should be strictly enforced and offenders should be handsomely fined in respect to uncontrolled dumping of waste resulting from their behavioural consumption patterns, public awareness campaign on the dire consequences on waste generation should be organized, including the effective implementation of recycling programmes. In addition, waste reduction practices that can limit greenhouse gas emissions related to waste disposal should also be advocated for.

Keywords: Climate change, consumption patterns, income levels, demographic drivers, Jalingo

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DIGITAL MARKETING AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN THE SOUTH-EAST, NIGERIA: A STUDY OF ORBA MAIN MARKET IN UDENU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

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Abstract

In recent years, Digital Marketing has gained considerable momentum in Nigeria, becoming an essential tool for companies looking to expand their customer base, increase sales, and improve profitability. Simultaneously, the government and financial institutions in Nigeria have prioritized financial inclusion as a key driver of economic growth and development. However, the challenge persists in the southeast region, particularly in rural areas like Udenu-Orba in Nsukka Local Government, where limited access to formal financial services hampers economic participation and standard of living. Against this backdrop, this research project aims to investigate the impact of Digital Marketing on financial inclusion in Udenu-Orba. The primary objective of this research is to analyze the current state of financial inclusion by assessing the level of awareness and adoption of digital services (marketing and finance), exploring the potential of digital marketing strategies and identifying the challenges hindering the effective use of digital marketing for financial inclusion in rural markets. Technology Adoption Model (TAM) and Access Theory were adopted, and a mixed-methods approach, including surveys, interviews, and data analysis was used to determine how digital marketing can be leveraged to increase access to financial services and promote financial inclusion. The study's findings will be significant for policymakers, financial institutions, and businesses operating in the area, providing insights into the potential of digital marketing as a tool for promoting financial inclusion and driving economic growth. The empirical evidence of this research will also contribute to the broader literature on digital marketing and financial inclusion in Nigeria, highlighting the need for innovative solutions to the country's financial inclusion challenges. By doing so, it hopes to generate insights that can inform policy and practice and ultimately contribute to improving the lives of people in the area.

Keywords: Digital Marketing, Financial Inclusion, Cashless Policy.

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SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN RIVERS STATE (2007-2020)

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Abstract

This work on social security and socio-economic development in Rivers State, was carried out to cover the period between 2007-2020. Social security was conceptualized firstly as the protection provided by the society for individual or a social group against a fall in their standards of living as a result of temporary adversity, secondly, social security was seen as the amelioration by the society of those standards of living of individuals or social group which are below an acceptable minimum level. The study adopted the social deprivation theory which has as its chief proponents, Pieson (2012), Pethgrew (1967) Smith (2001) and so on. The crux of the theory is that a socially deprived person is most likely to have limited access to the social world due to some factors bothering on the deprivation of basic capabilities as lack of freedom, reduced opportunities, freedom of speech, political voice or even human dignity. Literatures on social security and socio-economic development were reviewed as the secondary sources of data, while primary data were obtained using structure questionnaires, the analysis of the data collected led the study to conclude that, the Rivers State Government social security programme had an enormous impact on socio-economic development on not only the state at large but also on the individual lives of citizens and residence. The study therefore recommended the resuscitation of all the social security programme of the state especially the free medical programme.

Keywords: Security, Social Security, Development and Socio-Economic Developments

PANEL RE-EVALUATION OF KALDOR'S FIRST GROWTH LAW IN
DEVELOPING ECONOMIES

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Abstract

In the 60s, Nicholas Kaldor argued that the manufacturing sector was an “engine” of growth while other sectors played supplementary roles in growth and development. The manufacturing sector has significantly contributed to economic growth, development, and structural transformation in most advanced economies, except for a few countries with “growth miracles”. Most developing countries, especially in Africa, are lagging, given the underlying development issues in the key sectors, especially the manufacturing sector. According to Kaldor’s first growth law (the manufacturing sector is an “engine” of growth), to what extent can the sector contribute towards achieving development and structural change? This study examines Kaldor’s first growth law using sets of developing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) in the short and long run. Although a panel ARDL model is utilised in the analysis, further insights into each economy in SSA are given for robust policy-making.

EFFECTS OF TOURISM AND INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY ON
INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: NEW EVIDENCE FROM
SYSTEM GMM TECHNIQUE

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Abstract

This study investigated how infrastructural development is driven by international tourism and individual institutional quality in Africa using a panel of 31 African economies from 2011 to 2020. This study departs from previous studies in two ways: first, this study examined how

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infrastructural development is responding to international tourism and institutional quality using system GMM technique. Second, the study focused on using the current data of African development index which was recently produced by African Development Bank. The outcome of this study revealed that the international tourism is a relevant driver of infrastructural development in Africa. Also, the result indicates that the overall institutional quality does not significantly promote infrastructural development on the continent. This generally showcased that Africa is still battling with weak institutional quality. We conclude that policymakers in Africa should support tourism industry and ensure that the overall institutional quality is improved.

Keywords: Tourism; Infrastructural Development; Institutional Quality; System GMM; Africa

JEL Classifications: E51; G51; R20; C21; N17

ACHIEVING ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION IN AFRICA

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Abstract

Decades ago, economic diversification took fore front in the policy priority of low and middle income countries. Series of literature have explored the dynamics of economic diversification across the world and how closely related it is to economic opulence. China—for instance—by diversifying it economy was able to navigate from a poor country in the 1970s to a global economic power in recent times. This was engendered through transforming it industrial capacity from human labor to high-tech; discouraging heavy reliance on importation and improvement on it transportation network. Many countries like China—Korea, Canada, Hawaii, Dubai and a host of others—who had diversified their economy so far have seen a watershed economic prosperity. Quite sadly however, such exposure eludes Africa. Over dependence on it natural resources, lethargic and rent seeking disposition towards innovation had reduced majority of the countries to 'wretched of the Earth.' In this study, I hope to review previous literature on the subject matter to explain the place of Africa, degree of ruination and the hurdles it confront in the global economic sphere. Howbeit I understand that the policy strategies for diversifying any economy depend on identifying—with the country's structural characteristics in mind—the specific dimension of economic diversification desire; I was careful enough to suggest holistically grounded recommendations that will push the continent to greater heights if jealously adopted.

EFFECT OF RESOURCE RENT ON INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: A STUDY OF THE MODERATING ROLE OF GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS

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Abstract

This study investigated the effect of resource rent on infrastructural development in Africa and how governance institutions moderate this relationship. The pooled OLS and the dynamic system GMM estimation techniques were adopted with a panel of 52 African economies over the period 2005–2022. We find that resource rent significantly hampers infrastructural development in Africa, thereby reflecting the prevalence of the ‘natural resource curse’ phenomenon. We also find that the unconditional effects of governance institutions are mainly negative and significant, which aptly reflects the presence of weak institutions in Africa. Interestingly, our results also show that low institutional quality in the region intensifies the adverse effect of resource rent, while a higher level of institutional quality in the region moderates the adverse effect of resource rent. These findings remained consistent with the components of resource rent, such as forest rent, oil rent, and coal rent. Consequently, we emphasized the policy implications of these findings, which mainly underscored the need for policymakers and leaders in Africa to embrace institutional reforms that will ensure transparent resource management, increased infrastructural investment, and sustainable infrastructural development on the continent.

Key words: Resource rent; Infrastructural development; Governance institutions; System GMM; Africa

JEL Classifications: M13; Q30; H54; C23; N20

BUNDLE THEORY: A REACTION AGAINST CARTESIAN DUALISM

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Abstract

One major problem in the Philosophy of mind concerns the nature and constituent of the human mind. Descartes argued that the mind is that which exist in a way that it does not need any other thing for its existence. That while mind thrives in conscious acts like thinking and having ideas about something, the body is not conscious and is simply mechanical (dualism). However, Hume asserts that we cannot explain the unity of what we call the mind even though people may see these ideas as subsisting into a substance and it is not a mind. That such a claim is an unknown something in which the ideas are seen to inhere and are henceforth called a bundle of perceptions. The problem is to examine Hume's concept of Bundle theory and his claim that nothing holds our ideas together hence cannot be a mind. Using the Philosophical and textual interpretation, the work demonstrates that Humes argument against the Cartesian dualism cannot stand because something holds those bundles together and cannot operate on nothing. The study uses wave theory to prove that Descartes dualistic interactionism is defensible because it provides opportunity for an interaction between the mental and bodily substances in spite of their separations or differences.

Key words: Bundle Theory, Descartes, Mind, Substance, Wave theory, Dualism, Science.

**THE ROLE AND FACTORS INFLUENCING AGRICULTURE LOANS IN
HARYANA PROVIDED BY SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANKS**

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Abstract

It is essential to increase financing for agriculture in order to increase its GDP contribution. In addition to examining the scheduled commercial banks' percentage share of total credit extended to the agriculture sector, this study attempts to investigate the factors influencing the agricultural lending behavior of these banks in Haryana between 2010 and 2021. The authors use a random effect model to evaluate the influence of LIQ, RCB, and deposits on farm lending. They then use a t-test to verify the hypothesis that there are notable variations in the distribution of agricultural credit between public and private sector banks. These findings point to a critical

element that will increase the amount of loans given to agriculture overall in Haryana's bank loan portfolio. The specific role of this study is the empirical analysis of bank contribution to agricultural credit as well as the factors influencing banks' agricultural credit behavior in the existing literature, even though previous studies have empirical evidence on banks' contribution to agriculture credit and determinants of agriculture credit separately.

Keywords: Haryana, Contribution, Agricultural credit, scheduled commercial banks

CYBER-SPIRITUALITY: INVESTIGATING THE ADOPTION OF FINTECH APPLICATIONS AND PLATFORMS FOR RELIGIOUS GIVING AND CONTRIBUTIONS ACROSS DIVERSE BELIEF SYSTEMS

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Abstract

Cyber-Spirituality reflects the modern fusion of faith and finance, where individuals across different religious and spiritual backgrounds are now using digital tools to support their beliefs and make contributions to their respective faith communities. The purpose of this study was to investigate the Adoption of Fintech Applications and Platforms for Religious Giving and Contributions across Diverse Belief Systems. Data were gathered through the distribution of questionnaires to 211 respondents who had or were utilizing fintech in religious giving or donations. The findings revealed that that Christians were more likened to fintech adoption in religious giving or contributions, they were followed by the Islamic religion, although it was discovered that most of the respondents use Opay, moniepoint, palmpay etc for their financial transaction. It was also discovered from the study that most of them engage in religious giving or contributions based on what their belief system or faith allows them to do, thus, it is like a spiritual guide to the fintech life. It is interesting to note that amongst the respondents, many were scared of crimes associated with the use of fintech apps or platforms.

Keywords: Fintech, Cyber-spirituality, Faith, Religious giving, Finance

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VALUE RELEVANCE OF DIGITAL FRAUD SCHEMES ON SHAREHOLDERS' WEALTH, CUSTOMERS' PATRONAGE AND CORPORATE PERFORMANCE OF DEPOSIT MONEY BANKS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examines value relevance of digital fraud schemes in deposit money banks in Nigeria. Fraud has remained a puzzle in the 21st century and no sector of the economy is spared from the terrible grip of fraud. Fraud in banking sector is not unconnected to the dependence on technology and increasing ease of access to the internet. The independent variable is digital fraud schemes and proxies of digital fraud schemes include, POS fraud, Web based fraud, Mobile payment fraud and ATM/Card related fraud while dependent variable is corporate bank performance (Return on Assets) of deposit money banks in Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are to; i. Examine the extent to which digital fraud schemes affect shareholders' wealth. ii. Determine the extent to which digital fraud schemes affect customers' patronage. iii. Ascertain the extent to which digital fraud schemes affect corporate bank performance. In line with the objectives, the study formulates the following hypotheses; 1. Digital fraud schemes in Deposit Money Banks do not have significant effect on shareholders wealth. 2. Digital fraud schemes in Deposit Money Banks do not have significant effect on banks customer patronage. 3. Digital fraud schemes in Deposit Money Banks do not have significant effect on banks' corporate financial performance. The study adopts *ex post facto* research design and data were sourced from Nigeria deposit Insurance Corporation and financial institution training centre from 2013 to 2022. The study employs Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model for data analysis. The study findings show that digital fraud schemes have negative significant effect on shareholders' wealth and corporate performance of deposit money banks in Nigeria while it shows a positive significant effect on customers' patronage. The regulatory authorities should ensure that Nigerian banks institute the right digital fraud preventive technologies in their banks to combat digital fraud.

Keywords: Digital Fraud, Preventive Technologies, corporate Performance, Bank, Regulatory Authorities

**DETERMINANTS OF SOLAR ENERGY DEMAND IN HOUSEHOLDS IN NSUKKA
AREA, ENUGU STATE**

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ABSTRACT

Household energy survey data collected between middle October and early November 2022 was utilised to investigate the determinants of solar energy demand in households in Nsukka area of Enugu State, Nigeria. The binary logistic regression model was used to analyse the factors affecting the likelihood of demanding for solar energy in the study area. The reasons for not using solar energy were also investigated. The notable socio-economic factors driving demand for solar energy were found to be factors such as higher educational status, age of household, marital status, access to credit facilities, occupation of households, access to media and high household average monthly income. A holistic policy design that will improve the income and sociological status of households in the area would help to propel the demand for solar energy. Easy access to credit facilities and government income stimulating social welfare packages as well as enhancing awareness about the benefits and utilization of solar energy would bring some desired results. Furthermore, the government should create deliberate conditions to make solar energy equipment affordable to many Nigerians with low incomes. Enforcing standard on the quality of solar energy equipment by the government of Nigeria would also go a long way in fostering confidence that will stimulate the demand for solar energy

Keywords: Energy consumption; Solar energy; Binary logistic; Nsukka; Survey; Clean Energy

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION ON ECONOMY-RELATED CRIMES IN NIGERIA:
THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL RUDIMENT**

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Abstract

The single leading obstacle responsible for the extremely low pace of economic development in Nigeria is the fact of economy-related crimes. The paper focus on how the adoption of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) from July 1986 on the insistence of IMF and the World Bank, with trade liberalization failed to stimulate industrial output expansion and enhance a better performance of the Nigeria's economy due to high rates of poverty and unemployment, low investment, high rate of inflation, high level of corruption and poor economic growth. Economic factors that contribute towards economic development include

capital, labor, natural resources and technology. Most these are what led to the establishment of Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) that is why Todaro (2011) argue that, expansion of a country's economy and social well-being of the people which includes freedom oppression, quality education system, better income, less poverty, cleaner environment, equality of opportunities, greater individual freedom and rich cultural life and also improvement of technology is imperative. The study ascertains criminal investigation and relationship between economic crimes and economic growth in Nigeria and recommends that, infrastructural development, skill acquisition and empowerment programmes for youths, EFCC should move against top known perpetrators of financial crimes in Nigeria.

Keywords: criminal investigation, economic development, crime, Nigeria

IMPACT OF HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION ON ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT IN NIGERIA (1990-2021)

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Abstract

The authors investigate the impact of household consumption on ecological footprint in Nigeria using Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) estimation to assess the effect of household consumption on the ecological footprint in Nigeria by utilizing annual time series data from both World Bank Development Indicators and Global Footprint databases within 1990-2021 period. The researchers also investigate the causal link between household consumption and ecological footprint using the Granger Causality Test. Our findings clearly show that household consumption has positive statistically significant effect on ecological footprint in Nigeria. That is, a unit increase on household consumption will increase ecological footprint by 6.1% when other factors are well behaved. Furthermore, there is no causal link existing between household consumption and ecological footprint in Nigeria. The authors recommend that policies should be directed towards promoting sustainable consumption practices among households, and as well develop proper family planning policy.

Key Words: Household consumption, Ecological footprint, OLS model, Nigeria

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REASSESSING THE PARADIGM: RURAL DEVELOPMENT, OBJECTIVITY AND COMMITMENT TO FAIRNESS IN NEWS REPORTING

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Abstract

The issue of rural development has been a major challenge to governments, non-governmental organizations, corporate organizations, individuals and the media inclusive. The level of negligence on the part of the media, despite their vaunted objectivity and commitment to fairness, is a reflection of what transpires at the global level. Nigerian mass media has over the years, neglected the rural areas and report news from the standpoint of urban dweller's world view, whereas, the ills of rural areas, difficulties of life, poverty, unemployment, poor infrastructure, limited access to essential services like healthcare, education, employment and basic amenities of life are seldom seriously conveyed. This work examines the level of media advocacy through coverage for rural development in two major Nigerian newspapers. The specific objectives are to: Examine the frequency, prominence, direction of coverage given to rural development in Nigeria by the selected newspapers; and to analyze the frame of coverage given to rural development in Nigeria by the selected newspapers. The Guardian and The Nation newspapers, published between July to December 2022 were analyzed. The work was anchored on media framing theory. The study adopted the content analysis design, using purposive sampling technique to select weekday editions. A sample size 360 editions were used for the study. The study revealed that the selected newspapers did not give enough coverage and prominence to rural development in Nigeria within the study period. Majority of the stories 39(68%) were reported as straight news stories and mostly on the inside pages of the newspapers in less than quarter page. The study showed that the agriculture and conflict/crime theme were mostly used, with little stories on rural health, politics, rural infrastructure, environment and education. The study recommended the need for the media to be balance in their reports and give issues in rural areas priority

Key words: Rural development, mass media, newspaper, The Guardian and The Nation

SOCIO- ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF BIBLICAL JOSEPH LEADERSHIP: ITS CHALLENGES FOR NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigates into the leadership roles Judeo -Christian Biblical Joseph permeating into his administrative acumen, transparent honesty and leadership quality that engendered and sustained the economics development of Egypt in the Bible. The need to shine the light of the results of such biblical character into Nigerian leadership grappling with loss of transparent leadership became imperative in view of intransigent leadership characterized by corruption, wanton waste of resources and low development indices obvious in Nigeria's leadership and Socio-Economic space. The study through historical critical method of qualitative methodology found out that the text of the Biblical where Joseph held sway in Egypt could play a significant role in giving Socio-economic guidance to Nigeria in her quest for leadership, societal and economic recovery. The study suggest that Nigerian leadership should as a matter of urgency should imbibe Joseph style ,method and transparent honesty to achieve economic development.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: THE PLACE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN NIGERIAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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Abstract

Entrepreneurship education in Nigeria has helped many people acquire entrepreneurship skills that enable them to meet their basic needs despite the high rate of inflation and increase in the poverty rate. Entrepreneurship skills could go a long way to improve self-reliance for many people for social and economic development with great support from the community. This study, therefore, investigates community participation in the improvement of social and economic development through entrepreneurship education. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. A multi-stage sampling method was used to select 185 secondary school students and teachers for the study. A mixed-method design was employed for the collection of data. A questionnaire titled "Entrepreneurship education in Nigerian secondary schools" and an interview were designed by the researcher. The questionnaire and the interview scale were face-validated by experts in instrument development. Furthermore, the instrument was trial tested and the internal consistency reliability indices of .78 and .82 were obtained for cluster A and cluster B of the questionnaire using the Cronbach alpha method. Percentages and graphs

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were used to analyse the data using a statistical package for social science. The findings revealed that entrepreneurship education has a positive impact on social and economic development by improving entrepreneurial skills that will enable individuals to establish small businesses. Also, there were limited facilities for entrepreneurship education training and limited time for practical work in schools. The researcher recommends that the government and stakeholders should assist in the provision of some training facilities for sustainable development.

Keywords: Community, social and economic development, Entrepreneurship education

RISING EXTERNAL DEBT AND ASSOCIATED MACROECONOMIC POLICY INSTRUMENTS ON HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Developing countries across the globe, over time, pursue development strategies to better the lives of their citizens. The plans include borrowing externally and soliciting foreign assistance in the form of financial aid to enhance and improve the skills, knowledge and abilities and potentials of the citizens within a particular country. In this, several emerging countries have accumulated substantial external debt, which hampers economic growth and stands as a constraint to human capital development. A debt instrument is a financial claim that requires payment of interest, principal, or both by the debtor to the creditor at a future date. The amount of disbursed and ongoing contractual commitments of citizens of a country to non-residents to repay principal, with or without interest, or to pay interest, with or without interest, at any one moment is referred to as external debt. It includes only actual present obligations that must be paid at some future date, including interest and/or principal. There are two classes of external debt, reproductive debt and deadweight debt. Reproductive debt is when a state or country borrows to finance social investment assets such as education, gender balancing, labour productivity, absolute and relative poverty, rail, provision of health care, etc. Debt overhang theory is adopted for this research. Findings show that excessive levels of external debt have posed a serious barrier to economic growth, unemployment, inflation and human capital development. It reduces the amount of money available for health care, education, and other social programs like social safety nets.

Keywords: Rising external debt, macroeconomic policy, human capital development outcomes, Nigeria.

HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT: EVIDENCE
FROM SELECTED WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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Abstract

Any society or country with skilled work force and improved medical facilities tend to be more productive in all ramifications. Human capital entails training, educating, acquiring skills, and access to medical care by the society. For a county to grow and sustain its economic growth and development the need to invest in human capital is inevitable. Therefore, the aim of this study is to investigate the impact of human capital investment on agricultural output across some selected west African countries. The research is based on data from a panel of five countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia, Benin and Togo) that spans a wider data set and a longer period, 1980 – 2022. The data was extracted from the World Bank World Development Indicators (WDI) and analyzed using panel OLS approach. The panel co-integration test result shows that there exist a long-run relationship among the dependent variables and independent variable in the model. The major findings show that there exist a negative and insignificant relationship between government expenditure on education and agricultural output across the selected West African countries whereas there exist a positive and significant relationship between government expenditure on health and agricultural output. The study therefore recommends that the government of the West African countries at all levels should be more committed to individual welfare by spending more on health and education as well as on agriculture sector.

Keywords: Human Capital investment, Agricultural output, Panel OLS, Government expenditure.

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REASSESSING THE PARADIGM: RURAL DEVELOPMENT, OBJECTIVITY AND COMMITMENT TO FAIRNESS IN NEWS REPORTING

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Abstract

The issue of rural development has been a major challenge to governments, non-governmental organizations, corporate organizations, individuals and the media inclusive. The level of negligence on the part of the media, despite their vaunted objectivity and commitment to fairness, is a reflection of what transpires at the global level. Nigerian mass media has over the years, neglected the rural areas and report news from the standpoint of urban dweller's world view, whereas, the ills of rural areas, difficulties of life, poverty, unemployment, poor infrastructure, limited access to essential services like healthcare, education, employment and basic amenities of life are seldom seriously conveyed. This work examines the level of media advocacy through coverage for rural development in two major Nigerian newspapers. The specific objectives are to: Examine the frequency, prominence, direction of coverage given to rural development in Nigeria by the selected newspapers; and to analyze the frame of coverage given to rural development in Nigeria by the selected newspapers. The Guardian and The Nation newspapers, published between July to December 2022 were analyzed. The work was anchored on media framing theory. The study adopted the content analysis design, using purposive sampling technique to select weekday editions. A sample size 360 editions were used for the study. The study revealed that the selected newspapers did not give enough coverage and prominence to rural development in Nigeria within the study period. Majority of the stories 39(68%) were reported as straight news stories and mostly on the inside pages of the newspapers in less than quarter page. The study showed that the agriculture and conflict/crime theme were mostly used, with little stories on rural health, politics, rural infrastructure, environment and education. The study recommended the need for the media to be balance in their reports and give issues in rural areas priority

Key words: Rural development, mass media, newspaper, The Guardian and The Nation

EMPIRICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂) EMISSIONS ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

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Abstract

The study assesses the impact of the energy consumption, carbon dioxide emission (CO₂) and economic growth in Nigeria from 1980 to 2020. The unit root test indicated that all the variables employed such as real gross domestic product, renewable energy and non-renewable energy are stationary at first difference while CO₂ emission is stationary at level. The Auto regressive Distributive Lag (ARDL) indicates that in the short run renewable energy has positive and statistically significant effect on real gross domestic product in Nigeria. CO₂ emission has positive and statistically significant effect on real gross domestic product in Nigeria. The long run result indicated that that renewable energy has positive and statistically significant effect on real gross domestic product in Nigeria. Non-renewable energy has positive but statistically insignificant effect on real gross domestic product in Nigeria. Furthermore, CO₂ emission has positive but statistically insignificant effect on real gross domestic product in Nigeria. The study recommends that government should design policy towards enhancing sanitized environment and government should tax the entrepreneurs and utilizes the income in designing environmental policies.

Keywords: Energy consumption, CO₂ emission, Economic growth, Environment

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

In the past few decades, Nigeria's overdependence on petroleum and allied resources has further impoverished her economy, leaving an exponentially retrogressive and dysfunctional system. The interesting discovery by the United Nations Economic Women Commission for African Publication (1981) that rural women play a key role in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income, improving rural livelihood and overall wellbeing; is an eye opener for an urgent repositioning of women for economic diversification and development in Nigeria. The study discusses areas that women can be empowered to contribute positively to the nation's economy. It is discovered that if women are empowered to contribute to key socio-economic aspects of the Nigerian society, there will be a significant boost in her economic and national development.

**EXPLORING ASSOCIATION RULE MINING IN MARKET BASKET ANALYSIS
FOR AN ONLINE RETAIL STORE**

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Abstract

In light of the rapid growth and evolution of e-Commerce, retailers are actively seeking innovative approaches to enhance their customers' purchasing behaviours. Market Basket Analysis (MBA) stands out as a valuable data mining tool in this pursuit, enabling the identification of concealed relationships among diverse products. By leveraging association rule mining (ARM), retailers can delve into their extensive transaction databases to unveil and analyse connections between various products. This approach empowers retailers to make informed decisions in marketing and sales strategies. This study aims to scrutinize consumer buying behaviour in an e-Commerce setting through the application of ARM. The collected data is subsequently utilized to refine the store's marketing strategies. Employing FP Growth and Apriori algorithms, we have successfully generated association rules based on the gathered data. The study's findings contribute a comprehensive insight into consumer purchasing habits within e-Commerce stores, offering practical recommendations for optimizing sales processes and strategically placing products.

Keywords: e-Commerce, Market Basket Analysis, Association Rule Mining, Marketing Strategies, Customer Purchasing Behaviour

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FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY AND FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT NEXUS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Foreign direct investment inflow into Nigeria has consistently declined over the past 10 years, and this has become an issue of concern for the government, researchers, and the private sector. It is on this note that this study investigates the impact of financial development and institutional quality on Nigeria's foreign direct investment inflow. The variables of interest are foreign direct investment (FDI), commercial bank branches, total stock market capitalization, institutional quality, GDP per capita, trade openness, and the real effective exchange rate. The Fully Modified Ordinary Least Square (FMOLS) estimation technique was deployed in this study. The study's findings show that financial development plays a positive and significant role in attracting foreign direct investment in Nigeria. Furthermore, the study shows that institutional quality does not significantly impact foreign direct investment in Nigeria. As a result, this study recommends that the government should work on diversifying the economy and focus more on improving the primary sector to ensure that it can provide the raw materials required for production as well as foreign exchange earnings. In order to provide both domestic and foreign investors with an even playing field, the government should also endeavor to establish strong institutions that are devoid of corruption and uphold the rule of law.

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Furthermore, the government and other financial sector stakeholders should also concentrate on enhancing and upholding the financial system's laws and regulations. To facilitate the free flow of goods and services within the nation, less restrictive foreign trade regulations should be put in place. Lastly, in order to combat insecurity, the government should also work on strengthening the nation's security architecture.

Keywords: Financial Development, Foreign Direct Investment, Nigeria, Institutional Quality, Financial Institutions, Capital Markets

JEL Code: O16, F21, F23, O43

FISCAL POLICY AND PRIVATE CONSUMPTION IN WEST AFRICA: THE MODERATING ROLE OF GOVERNANCE

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Abstract

This study examines the effect of fiscal policy and private consumption in West Africa: The moderating role of governance. The study utilized data for 16 West African countries from 2000 to 2020 in an unbalanced panel framework. Empirical analyses were conducted using the Instrumental Variable Fixed Effects estimator with Discroll and Kraay Standard Errors, as well as the Instrumental Variable Quantile Regression in order to account for serial correlation, endogeneity and conditional heteroskedasticity. Regarding the key variables, the following conclusion were drawn from the results. First, fiscal policy does significantly influences household consumption in West Africa. Second, governance does not significantly influence household consumption in West Africa. Third, governance does significantly moderate the effect of fiscal policy on household consumption in West Africa. Also for more robustness, various levels of household consumption were also investigated using the quantile regression. The results showed that though the effect of fiscal policy on household consumption was still positive across all quantiles, it was only significant across the tenth, twenty fifth and fiftieth quantiles. Secondly, the result shows that governance and all the indicators thereof do not significantly influence household consumption across all quantiles. Thirdly, however, when fiscal policy was interacted with governance, apart from the models for voice and overall governance index, which maintained similar quantile results as with the models without interactions, the result for other models of the other indicators of governance showed that governance significantly attenuated the effects of fiscal policy on household consumption in West Africa. The study concludes that given the study's findings regarding the moderating role of governance, there is a pressing need for comprehensive governance reforms in West Africa. Also, Policymakers should strive for inclusive policy design that considers the diverse economic conditions across income quantiles.

**INTERPLAY OF NETWORKING COMPETENCIES AND SOCIAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP ASPIRATIONS AMONG RECENT GRADUATES IN
SOUTHEAST NIGERIA**

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Abstract

This study explores the intricate relationship between network competencies and social entrepreneurial aspiration among fresh graduates in southeast Nigeria. It delves into the substantial impact of network competencies on social entrepreneurial intentions and examines various moderating factors. Utilizing a survey research design, 6829 National Youth Corp members in Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo States participated, with a sample size of 364 determined through the Krejcie and Morgan formula. Data analysis employed was the Partial Least Squares - Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) with SmartPLS 3.2.9 and STATA 13.0 software at a significance level of 0.05. Results indicate a statistically significant main effect of entrepreneurial network competence on social entrepreneurial aspiration. Moreover, moral obligation emerged as a significant moderator, influencing the relationship between networking competence and social entrepreneurial aspiration. Self-efficacy and empathy played crucial moderating roles in this relationship, while perceived social support significantly moderated the association as well. Additionally, network competencies exerted a considerable influence on the perception of employment opportunities in South-East Nigeria. The findings underscore the necessity of integrating network-building skills into entrepreneurship education. The study recommends incorporating courses and workshops in higher educational institutions to equip graduates with the essential knowledge and tools for effective network building and leveraging for impactful social entrepreneurship.

Keywords: Networking competencies, Social entrepreneurial intentions Moral Obligation, Self-efficacy, Empathy, perceived social support

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DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Nigeria is not referred to as the Poverty Capital of the World for lack of development policies. Even before the Second Republic, various governments, have initiated brilliant development policies aimed at positioning the country as The Giant of Africa; as opposed to the demographic giant that we are on the continent today. The country is endowed with enormous human and material resources that could be harnessed for the benefit of the citizenry. But failure on the part of our leaders has led to the staggering level of poverty that inundate the land, especially, the country side. Unfortunately, poverty is a phenomenon that cannot be cast away through prayers; or wished away; neither can development be achieved in the realm of desirability. It takes conscious planning, dogged and pragmatic efforts to conquer these phenomena. The paper adopts the Human Capital Theory by Gary Becker and Jacob Mincer as its theoretical framework. The theory is apt because it prescribes education, training and skills acquisition as mechanisms for attracting productivity, workers' efficiency and overall socio-economic development. The work will take a cursory look at development policies initiated by past regimes, from the Second Republic till date. In that light, poverty reduction in Nigeria shall be viewed through the prism of the impact of the development policies experimented over the years. The study shall also look at the challenges that these policies faced in course of their implementation. The causes of the failures of these well-intended policies shall be looked into and recommendations to ameliorate the problems shall be offered.

Keywords: Development Plan, Policy, Poverty, Programme, Corruption and Planning.

GLOBALIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: THE CASE STUDY OF KANO STATE-NIGERIA

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Abstract

The objective of the study is to analyse and examine changing scenario in health, the economic effect of globalization and the structural that can take place in Nigeria healthcare sector with the emergence of globalization, using descriptive and analytical method. A secondary data was used to collect all the information needed by the researcher i.e. data that had been produced and published earlier. They included textbooks, journals, magazines, periodicals, and conferences, workshops and seminars papers and we discovered that although globalization and economic crisis impacted, if the opportunities are properly harnessed. Based on this, the study conclude by posting that these difficulties are well-known and should be focal point of remedial actions by canvassing for a level playing field where developing countries are not subservient of their developed counterparts, a fair balance in traffic of persons, goods, information and services between the west and less developed third world nations like Nigeria, this measure if adopted will evenly distribute the positive and negative effect of globalization across rich and western nation and their poor third world counterpart

Keywords: Globalization. Healthcare, Development

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH: A CATALYST FOR TOTAL FACTOR PRODUCTIVITY IN SELECTED SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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Abstract

This study examined the direct effects of human capital development and the panel least square method was used in selecting total factor productivity components (technology and infrastructure) on economic growth in selected Sub-Saharan African Countries during the period 1981-2020 . The study employed the augmented Solow growth model. Both dependent and explanatory variables were used. The study established that human capital development on its own is not sufficient to bring about the needed growth in an economy, rather, there is a need for complementary factors such as technology and infrastructure for human capital to actualise its full potential. The results of the direct effect of human capital development, physical infrastructure and technology on economic growth in selected Sub-Saharan African countries shows that Human Capital exhibited a positive relationship with economic growth, which implies that the economy grows when the human capital is strengthened. Physical Infrastructure also exerted a positive impact on the country's economic growth process, Physical Infrastructure positively induces the country's growth. The study recommended that government spending should be centered on the infrastructural development which serves as the framework for strong industrial growth and export promotion.

Keywords: Human Capital Development, , Physical Infrastructure, Total Factor Productivity Technology, Economic growth.

INFLUENCE OF INSTITUTIONS ON INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN WEST AFRICA

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Abstract

This paper investigates the influence of institutions on inclusive economic growth in West Africa. The study utilizes a cross-sectional augmented autoregressive distributed approach to analyze the data spanning from the period of 1991 to 2022. The test of the slope heterogeneity and cross-sectional dependency reveals that the slopes of the regression coefficients are heterogeneous across the cross-sectional units implying there is strong cross-sectional dependency among the countries in West Africa due to globalization and trade liberalization. The penal co-integration result reveals that there is a long-run relationship between institutions and inclusive economic growth in West Africa. The study concludes that in the long run,

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institutions have a statistically significant influence on inclusive economic growth in West African countries. Therefore, the study recommends that institutional variables in West African countries such as; government effectiveness, corruption control, regulatory quality, rule of law, voice and accountability should be strengthened by governments of West African countries for continuous and inclusive economic growth as well as reduce the unemployment and jobless growths in the West African countries.

Keywords: Institutions, Inclusive economic growth, CS-ARDL, West Africa

JEL Classification: E02, H04

INTERPLAY OF TRADE POLICIES AND EXCHANGE RATES AND THEIR IMPACT ON UNEMPLOYMENT IN ECOWAS COUNTRIES

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Abstract

This study investigates the interplay of trade policies and exchange rates and their impact on unemployment in ECOWAS countries. Employing Panel Fully Modified Ordinary Least Squares (FMOLS) and Panel Dynamic Ordinary Least Squares (DOLS) models, the research analyzes a comprehensive dataset spanning from 1991 to 2020 for 15 countries. The empirical findings reveal significant insights into the dynamics of these economic variables and their impact on unemployment in the region. The results indicate a positive association between trade and unemployment, suggesting that as trade activities increase, so does the unemployment rate. Conversely, exchange rates and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) exhibit a negative correlation with unemployment, indicating that higher exchange rates and GDP levels are linked to lower unemployment rates. The study also identifies Population Growth Rate as a factor requiring nuanced consideration, displaying significance in the DOLS model. The high explanatory power of the models, as evidenced by substantial R-square values, underscores their reliability in capturing the variability in unemployment across the ECOWAS region. In conclusion, the study provides valuable insights for policymakers, advocating for a holistic approach that integrates targeted skill enhancement programs, job creation initiatives, and robust exchange rate and economic growth policies to effectively address unemployment challenges in ECOWAS member countries.

**LIFE IN THE RED ZONE: IS CLIMATE CHANGE SHRINKING OUR LIFESPANS?
A TIME SERIES ECONOMETRIC ANALYSIS**

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Abstract

Health is wealth. A wealthy nation is a healthy nation. Human beings are the epicenter of sustainable development. The healthier the country's citizens, the more productive the workforce; improving the health of the nation's citizens can directly result in economic growth. The uncontrolled increase in greenhouse gases and the deteriorating health conditions of people in Nigeria motivated this study. Can the reduction in the quality of life and number of years people live be attributed to the worsening climatic conditions? This study investigated the long-run and short-run impacts of climate change on life expectancy in Nigeria through the employment of time series data collected from 1985 to 2021. The study adopted the Auto-Regressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) econometric approach to cointegration to estimate the variables. The result shows that in the long run, there is a statistically significant positive impact of CO₂ – a proxy for climate change in this study, on life expectancy. This implies that as climate change worsens, people's lives will unlikely be reduced in the long run - all things being equal. However, in the short run, this might not be the case. It was observed in this study that, in the short run, a 1% (Kilotons) KT increase in CO₂ might reduce life expectancy by 0.0398% (in years). Thus, for the short run period, the study recommended that the government and other involved stakeholders should increase the portion of health expenditure, encourage afforestation and tree planting activities, diversify the Nigerian economy to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, encourage the use of renewable energy sources, and then adopt and implement climate-related policies and regulations in Nigeria.

Keywords: Life expectancy, Climate change, Nigeria, Time Series

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CHALLENGES OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: NAVIGATING THE NEXUS

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Abstract

Nigeria, possessing enormous resources and a diverse population, finds itself at a crucial point in its developmental trajectory. Nevertheless, the country is currently facing a significant obstacle that jeopardizes its stability and advancement—pervasive insecurity. Nigeria has had enduring challenges arising from an intricate network of insecurity, which poses an immense concern for its social fabric and economic development. The political economy theory was used as the theoretical framework. In light of the above, the study explores how insecurity in Nigeria impacts the country's economic progress. The paper is based on secondary data from journals, government publications, newspapers, and textbooks and employs a content analysis method. The study revealed that the insecurity challenges have a negative impact on the country's economic development and recommended that the federal government adopt effective strategies for addressing issues relating to Boko Haram activities, unknown gunmen, kidnapping, and armed robbery attacks, considering their negative effects on the socio-economic development of the country. This could be achieved through good governance, which will translate into massive youth employment and empowerment, respect for the rule of law, and retraining of its security operatives with higher technology to combat the force of insecurity. The study concludes that Nigeria has seen a range of security challenges over time, including insurgencies, communal conflicts, and criminal activity. These difficulties not only jeopardize the security and welfare of its population but also have a significant negative impact on the country's economic development. The results of the study provided a valuable insight for evidence-based interventions and policies that can promote a more stable economic environment, which will enhance economic development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Challenges of Insecurity, Economic Development, government, Nigeria.

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INFULENCE OF ONLINE ADVERTS ON THE PURCHASING HABITS OF UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA STAFF AND STUDENTS

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Abstract.

The study influence of online advertising on the purchasing habits university of Nigeria staff and students evolve at a time when online advertising is fresh, contemporaneous and one of the most significant types of advertising that has been explored since the information explosion dynasty was experienced. As a recent aspect of marketing communication tools, online advertising simply put is advertising on the internet, suffice to say, online advertising is the use of internet and related digital technologies to achieve marketing objectives. Thus, online advertising appears to be at the forefront of the new era of advertising. The study was carried out in university of Nigeria. Thirty six thousand, one hundred and forty one (36,141) comprised of staff and students in university of Nigeria is the population. The sample was selected using proportionate stratified random sampling technique to sample the students and staff across board. The sample size of the study is three hundred and eighty respondents (380) comprised of students and staff. Four research questions were raised as guide to the study. Descriptive survey was adopted for the study. A 15-item instrument titled "Online advertising on purchasing habit Questionnaire" (APHQ) was self developed by the researchers to illicit responses on university of Nigeria Staff and students purchasing habit. The reliability of the instrument was obtained using Guttman scale formula with reliability index of 0.9 obtained. Frequency and percentages were used to answer the research questions. The findings revealed that online advertising has a strong positive correlation with online shopping; furthermore, online shopping as well as online advertising are like two sides of a coin that have become inseparable. Finding equally revealed that rate at which people place orders from the comfort of their rooms and the delivery rate of the ordered economic goods are unprecedented. Finally, the researcher recommended that marketers should ensure that products and services been advertised are described truthfully in online advertisements because trust and confidence can be built in online business by using testimonials with the permission of customers.

Keywords: online advertising, online shopping, economic goods, purchasing habit.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

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Abstract

Public expenditure management plays a crucial role in shaping the economic development trajectory of nations, particularly in the context of Africa, a continent characterized by diverse economic, social, and political landscapes. This study examined the intricate relationship between public expenditure management practices and the broader goal of fostering sustainable economic development across African countries. Qualitative analysis was implored to x-ray the roles of public expenditure management in fostering sustainable and inclusive growth in Africa. The study provided a comprehensive overview of the concept of public expenditure management. It explores the key components of effective expenditure management, including fiscal discipline, transparency, accountability, and strategic allocation of resources. Special emphasis is placed on the importance of sound financial governance to mitigate corruption and ensure optimal resource utilization. Furthermore, the study explores the impact of public expenditure management on economic development outcomes. It investigates how well-managed expenditures contribute to infrastructure development, human capital formation, and poverty reduction. It also considered the role of public investment in fostering innovation, productivity, and inclusive growth within the African context. It further recommended among others enhanced fiscal discipline through the development and enforcement of transparent fiscal rules and frameworks.

Keywords: Public expenditure management, fiscal discipline, corruption, transparency, accountability, inclusive growth.

JEL code: H5, H6

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REVISITING THE HUMAN CAPITAL–ECONOMIC GROWTH NEXUS IN AFRICA

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Abstract

Investment in human capital has been shown to be positively related to economic growth and development of Africa countries. This study attempt to provide empirical evidence onS the impact of human capital on economic growth in 48 African countries from 2002 to 2020. The methodology used here involves the system GMM technique to address the problem of potential sources of endogeneity. The findings reveal that economic growth in Africa is positively influenced by human capital development. The findings reveal that both the male and the female genders for human capital development are very important for the economic growth of African countries. Similarly, internet penetration and foreign direct investments interact with human capital to produce positive net effects on economic growth. The study recommends policymakers should predicate more resources to the education and health sectors to enhance human capital development as a prerequisite to ensure a stable economic growth.

Keywords Africa · Economic growth · Human capital · GMM

RISING COST OF DOING BUSINESS AND SMES SURVIVAL IN SOUTHEASTERN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Small and Medium Scale Enterprises play important role of job creation and poverty alleviation in any economy. However, their survival and success are often times affected by several factors which results to many of them collapsing within 5 years of starting operation and others struggling to survive. Among these factors is the rise in cost of doing business. This study explored the impact of cash scarcity and fuel price hike on SME failure and success in South East, Nigeria. The study used quantitative method to collect data used in this study. A pre-tested interviewer-administered questionnaire was used to conduct interviews across 258 SMEs in southeast, Nigeria. Descriptive statistics, principal component analysis and regression analysis were used to achieve the objectives in the study. The analysis was done using STATA 17statisitical package. The results showed that 83% of the SMEs indicated that the cash scarcity negatively affected their sales and profitability. For the fuel price increase, 98% of the SMEs indicated it affected them negatively. The result from the regression analysis showed that the cash scarcity significantly ($p < 0.05$) decreased their sales by 43%. For their profit, both cash scarcity and fuel price increase decreased their profit ($p < 0.01$). The study concluded that SME

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successes are critical for the growth and development of any nation. In Nigeria, their survival and success has been hampered by varying policy shocks resulting to their loss of profit and collapse. To ensure they play the important role needed for the development of the country, the government should ensure SMEs are prioritised and necessary provisions be made to ensure the effects of this policy shocks wouldn't be colossal on them.

Keyword: Business environment; economy; job creation; poverty; SME

SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE ENTERPRISES AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The roles Small and Medium Scale Enterprises play in the development and growth of any economy cannot be over emphasised. In the past, it has always been said that enough funds given to SMEs in Nigeria hasn't always been enough to drive growth in the sector. Even the ones given are not properly managed to achieve the desired result. Against this backdrop, this paper analyses the impact of SMEs financing and inclusive growth in Nigeria from 1990 to 2016 adopting the ARDL model and the Error correction model. The findings in this paper revealed that SME financing had significant but negative contributions to growth in Nigeria within the study period. Interest rate and financial deepening significantly contributed to growth negatively, while the past two periods of growth registered a positive impact on current inclusive growth in Nigeria. Based on these findings, we recommended policies that will improve upon the measures taken to give these loans and also suggest that low interest rates and proper supervision should be given to SMEs in Nigeria.

Keywords: SME financing, inclusive growth, ARDL

**HARNESSING ENTREPRENEURIAL INFORMATION LITERACY FOR
SUSTAINABLE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

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Abstract

Studies have demonstrated that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is crucial in driving economic development. However, there is a paucity of research that provides sufficient insights into how entrepreneurial information literacy addresses sustainable agribusiness in Africa. As such, this study aligns with the current debate on the dimensional importance of entrepreneurial information literacy for sustainable agribusiness development in Africa, which has not been sufficiently addressed in the literature. In broad terms, this study explored the link between entrepreneurial information literacy for sustainable agribusiness. The specific objectives are to examine how entrepreneurial financial information literacy relates to agribusiness performance among agribusiness entrepreneurs; determine the relationship between entrepreneurial financial information literacy and access to agricultural loans among agribusiness entrepreneurs in Nigerian, and ascertain the link between entrepreneurial financial information literacy and mode of payment adoption among agribusiness entrepreneurs in Nigerian. The descriptive survey research design was adopted in the study while the data were collected from the selected 467 agribusiness entrepreneurs in Edo state. The formulated hypotheses were tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation while descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. The results suggest that entrepreneurial financial information literacy significantly predicts agribusiness performance, access to agricultural loans, and mode of payment adoption among agribusiness entrepreneurs in Nigeria. It is concluded that entrepreneurial information literacy is important for sustainable agribusiness development in Africa, and therefore call on the relevant government agencies to come up with policies and programmes that will boost entrepreneurial information literacy for sustainable agribusiness development in Africa, and Nigeria in particular.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial Information Literacy, Sustainable Agribusiness Development, Africa

THE DIGITAL ECONOMY AMIDST INSTABILITY OF FISCAL POLICY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Rapid digitalization is changing value creation and exchange as well as how we interact, work, shop, and receive services, among other facets of daily life. Since the digital economy is growing more and more integrated into the economy as a whole, it is impractical to tax-wise isolate it from the rest of the economy. The term "digital economy" refers to an economy that primarily uses digital technology, including electronic transactions conducted online. The question of whether the government can continue with current levels of borrowing, spending, and taxation indefinitely or whether budgetary constraints will eventually force the government to change those policy settings over time is what is meant by the stability of fiscal policy. The main advantage of sustainable fiscal policy is the government's ability to perpetually maintain a stable debt-to-GDP ratio. Globalization and digitalization, however, have put into question some of the core components of the nation's unstable physical policy environment. To guarantee that businesses pay taxes where value is generated, tax authorities everywhere are attempting to comprehend the underlying forces behind the digital transformation of the world economy. Based on the aforementioned, the impact of digital payment systems on Nigeria's unstable physical policy environment is examined in this paper. Using time series data from 2000 to 2022 and an Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) approach, the paper produced some important conclusions. The nation's unstable physical environment, particularly the tax justice system, is severely impacted by the digital economy. It implies that the high degree of economic uncertainty and the non-uniform tax system that leads to tax injustice prevent the digital economy from thriving in Nigeria. In light of this, the paper suggests that for the nation to attain physical policy stability in the face of the digital economy, it should establish a tax system that is sustainable, predictable, and uniform to achieve tax justice.

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NIGERIAN PUBLIC SERVICE AND CHALLENGES OF ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP: IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTS GOALS

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Abstract

Globally, the *raison d'être* for government is the provision of goods and services to the citizens satisfactorily. Public service is the machinery of government used to formulate and implement public policies and programs for the citizens. In Nigeria, a reasonable number of the citizens are suffering perpetually for the acute short of public service delivery to them and blame has been placed on public leaders. Thus, the caliber of administrative leadership needed to meet the country's complex administrative challenges is problematic. For instance, growing literature on the collapse of probity and quality leadership in Nigeria has revealed that public service is severely criticized because of its failure to provide the required institutional grounding for administrative transformation. While earlier studies concentrated on revisiting the Nigerian public service and the challenge of sustainable development, very little research exists from the viewpoint of Nigerian public service and challenges of administrative leadership: Implications for sustainable developments goal 16.6. The study posed critical questions on how administrative leadership can enhanced effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels of Ministries, Department and Agencies? The institutional theory is used in this study. Data for the study were drawn from participant observation and review of authentic secondary sources. The findings indicate that, Nigerian bureaucracies are guided by powerful forces that are largely beyond the control of administrative leadership, making their contributions to quality service delivery relatively insignificant. The study recommended that the Nigeria government should develop leadership capacity of its public servants for an effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

Key Words: Administrative Leadership, Sustainable Development, Institutional Theory, Public Service, Nigeria.

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INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY VARIABLES AND FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT INFLOWS: PANEL EVIDENCE FROM THE ECOWAS

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Abstract

In literature, the role of institutions in stimulating FDI inflows has been documented. This present study shall examine the contributions of two institutional quality variables, namely: regulatory quality and the rule of law in attracting FDI in the ECOWAS. The study shall use annual series that covers the period from 2000 to 2020 under three different estimation techniques, namely: the panel ARDL, the panel FMOLS and the panel DOLS. Data on regulatory quality and the rule of law shall be sourced from the World Bank Governance Indicators, while data on GDP, real exchange rate, population growth rate and FDI inflows shall be obtained from the World Bank Development. The study expects institutional quality variables to contribute positively to FDI inflows in the ECOWAS. Also the study expects that both GDP and population should attract FDI inflows in the economic bloc.

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FINANCIAL SYSTEM STABILITY, INSECURITY AND REAL SECTOR

GROWTH IN NIGERIA.

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Abstract

This paper critically investigates the interactive impact of monetary policy instruments and insurance business expenditure on growth of small and medium scale enterprises in Nigeria spanning from 1981 to 2021. This study adopted both the Auto-Regressive Distributive Lag bound test and Johansen technique to check long-run relationship between the variables. The result from both models showed presence of long-run relationship among the variables. Further findings revealed that monetary policy rate (MPR) had a negative but significant relationship with growth of small and medium scale enterprises (SI_GDP) in the previous year period of the short-run, while broad money supply is positively related with SI_GDP in the long-run and current year period of the short-run. However, Treasury bill showed an insignificant relationship with SI_GDP. Similarly, fire insurance claim reported a negative but significant relationship with SI_GDP while life insurance claim is positively related with SI_GDP. Finally, the interaction between MPR*LINC, MS*FINC is positive and statistically significant with SI_GDP. It was recommended amongst others that, federal government should allow the stock value to be flexible to enable both agents, commercial and individuals as sufficient amounts as returns on their investment.

Keywords: *Monetary Policy Instruments, Money Supply, Treasury bill, Fire Insurance Claim, Life Insurance Claim, Service Sector Gross Domestic Product.*

INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY AND FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN NIGERIA; EVIDENCE FROM AUTOREGRESSIVE DISTRIBUTION LAG (ARDL) MODEL

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Abstract

This study investigates the impact of institutional quality on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Nigeria, using time series data that are sourced from Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) statistical bulletin (2022), National Bureau of Statistics (NBS,2022) and World Development Indicator. The institutional variables used are; Government Effectiveness (GOEF), Quality of Service Delivery (QSDE) and Political Risk Stability (PRSK), while Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) serve as dependent variable in the model. The study adopted ARDL model as techniques of data analysis after establishing that variables have mixture order of integration that is I(0) and I(1). The finding of the study indicate that institutional variables are positively related to (FDI) and statistically significant at 1% in both short and long run, which implies that quality of institution matter for attracting foreign direct investment in Nigeria. Specifically in long run, a percentage change in quality of services delivery and political stability will lead to 9% and 17% change on FDI respectively and they are all significant at 1%. The study therefore recommends that institutions should be strengthening by away of enforcing discipline into civil service, ensure rule of law take its course and create investment conducive environment in order to attract more foreign investment in Nigeria.

Keywords: Foreign Direct Investment(FDI), Institutions, Institutional Quality and Investment

JEL Classifications: EO2, O43.

**PROMOTING EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IN NIGERIA: CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD**

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Abstract

The need for export diversification in Nigeria cannot be over emphasized. This research work examined impact of export diversification to economic growth in Nigeria, with particular to the challenges and the way forward. The research have the following objectives; to ascertain if export diversification influences economic growth in Nigeria and to also ascertain if there exist short-run and long-run relationship between export diversification and economic growth in Nigeria. The study adopted the Auto Regressive Distributed Lag model (ARDL) and used time series data from World Development Indicators (WDI) compiled by the World Bank (1981 to 2021). For the first objective, from the results, export has a positive relationship with economic growth in Nigeria. It is significant at 5% level of significance. This implies that more exporting, exportation and widening of export basket in Nigeria will trigger more growth. For the second objective, export has both positive and significant relationship with economic growth both in the short-run and the long-run; implying that export diversification is pivotal to economic growth in Nigeria. This study also recommends that government should establish strong and reliable economic institutions that will help in promoting export diversification which is necessary for the sustenance of the economy and important in steering the economy out of its current recession.

Key Words: Export Diversification, Economic Development, Export Promotion, Challenges, Way Forward, Auto Regressive Distributed Lag

**SOCIETAL PERCEPTION ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP
IN CURBING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN NSUKKA LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AREA OF ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA**

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Abstract

To reduce poverty by 2030 and achieve sustainable development goal, it is crucial to determine how well entrepreneurship tackles the issue of youth unemployment as one of the government initiatives in Nigeria. Hence, there is need to assess the effectiveness of entrepreneurship towards curbing youth unemployment in Nigeria using Nsukka as case study. Also, to decipher the roles social workers have to play in helping youth benefit, for self-sustainability and national development. Social learning theory anchored this work. Cross-sectional survey design adopted, a quantitative technique using convenience sampling to gather data through questionnaire. Findings showed that most (66.0%) of the respondents were aware of entrepreneurship though have not benefited. The tested hypotheses showed that education, age, gender and rich income affect youth access to entrepreneurship. Youth are not benefiting as a result of poor education, universities not linking graduates to where they will learn, corruption, lack of industries, and inadequate electricity supply in the area. Consequences of not benefiting include crime, violence, psychological instability, political instability, and prostitution. Social workers should use their roles as mediators, facilitators, case managers, enablers, and empowerment agents to ensure youth benefit. The study recommended that the government should make social workers head in all the welfare offices and ensure that entrepreneur initiatives to curb unemployment get to the needy; recruit online making it open to the people; link students up to companies they can work after NYSC, involve the public in decisions that affect them or having open policy on those initiatives. This has policy implications that should lead to implementation of economic policies that will bring the youth out of poverty.

Keywords: Assessment, Entrepreneurship, Unemployment, Self-Sustainability, Sustainable Development

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A COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF PRESS COVERAGE OF ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAMMES IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF OBASANJO, JONATHAN AND BUHARI ADMINISTRATIONS

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Abstract

Since the return of Nigeria to democratic governance in 1999, successive administrations have undertaken economic diversification programme as a means of moving away from oil dependency. Through a total of 287 editorial articles drawn from *Punch*, *The Guardian* and *Vanguard* newspapers, the present study investigates newspaper coverage of economic diversification programmes of Obasanjo, Jonathan and Buhari administrations. Guided by the agenda-setting theory of the press, the study found that the Obasanjo administration had the greatest number of editorial matter on economic diversification (n=118, 41.1%), followed by that of Goodluck Jonathan (n=103, 36%) while the Buhari administration had the least number of stories (n=66, 12.9%). The study revealed that majority of the articles across the three administrations were published in a straight news format (n= 67, 56.8%, n=70, 68% and n=40, 60.6%) respectively through routine reporting practice. The finding showed that majority of the stories were framed in episodic way (n= 217, 75.6%) while 24.4% (n=70) of the stories were thematically rendered in the three administrations studied. Government officials dominated the voices cited in the stories in the three administrations (n=200, 69.7%). Implications of the findings are discussed.

**THE ENIGMA OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT:
DECIPHERING THE IMPACT OF INCONSISTENT UPDATES ON BUDGET
EXECUTION IN THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Even with the enactment and implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility Act and its inherent provisions for consistent updates on quarterly and annual reporting on budget execution across MDAs, the partial and non-implementation of these provisions as provided by the FRA seems to account for mismanagement of public expenditures in the Federal Ministry of Education and Nigeria at large. This study therefore investigated whether inconsistent updates on budget execution, contrary to the provisions of the FRA, account for poor management of public expenditures in the FME, Nigeria. The Institutional Corruption Theory was adopted to explain the reason for the continued mismanagement of public expenditures in the FME even with the implementation of the FRA. The study employed the documentary method of data collection and the qualitative descriptive method of data analysis. The time series design was utilized in tracking the trend of mismanagement of public expenditures in the FME. The study found that the rareness in the implementation of the provisions of the FRA on budget execution reporting by MDAs, including the FME, has resulted in diversion of appropriated funds and poor revenue remittance by the Ministry and institutional leaders, and this has led to poor budget implementation in the FME, Nigeria. Consequently, the study recommended, among others, that the FRA and the FRC framework should be expanded and empowered to enforce the provisions of the FRA. This should be done by accommodating stringent punitive measures in the Act and duties of the Commission for MDAs and individuals that do not implement key provisions of the Act, especially when it concerns budget preparation and implementation.

Keywords: Fiscal Responsibility Act, Annual Reporting, Budget execution, Federal Ministry of Education.

**IMPACT OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION EXPENDITURES ON POVERTY
REDUCTION IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The Nigerian government have continued to make effort through its expenditures to provide public goods and services to improve welfare and reduce poverty, yet no meaningful outcomes as these expenditures are mostly affected by factors such as corruption. This paper investigates the impact of public health and education expenditure together with corruption on poverty reduction in Nigeria spanning over 25 years (1996-2021) using the ARDL bounds test. The result showed that expenditures on education and health are all significant at a 1% level of significance and are positively related to the dependent variable implying that on average, the higher the education and health expenditure, the higher the poverty reduction, ceteris paribus. While the results of the short run revealed that expenditure on health has a negatively significant relationship with poverty at 5 percent, while a significant positive relationship exists with expenditure on education and corruption with poverty reduction at a 5 percent level of significance. The study suggested that the Nigerian government should focus on improving the quality of health and education by spending more on policies and program that are pro-poor via increasing investments in health and education, while the government implement anti-corruption measures to reduce all forms of corruption.

Keywords: Health expenditure, education expenditure, poverty reduction, Nigeria

JEL Code: B22, E62, H51, H52 I32

**BANKING SECTOR INTERMEDIATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH: NEW
EVIDENCE FROM NIGERIA**

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Abstract

This study investigates the nexus between banking sector intermediation and economic growth in Nigeria through the lens of traditional time series prediction methods, specifically employing multivariate regressions. Spanning a comprehensive dataset from 1960 to 2022, sourced from the Central Bank of Nigeria, the analysis focuses on three crucial banking intermediation indicators: the Ratio of Private Sector Credit to GDP (RPSC), the Ratio of Currency outside Banks to Broad Money Supply (RCOB), and the Ratio of Total Loan to Total Deposit (RTLTD). The research methodology encompasses both descriptive and econometric analytical techniques. Descriptive statistics offer preliminary insights, while econometric techniques, including unit root tests, Vector Autoregressive (VAR) models, and cointegration tests, establish relationships between variables and explore long-term dynamics. The findings reveal significant cointegration among the variables, particularly between banking intermediation indicators and economic growth. Lagged values of banking sector intermediation metrics demonstrate a notable influence on their current values, suggesting potential implications for economic growth. The study recommends further exploration using Vector Error Correction Models (VECM) for a nuanced understanding of the long-term dynamics and causal relationships. The study provides four key recommendations. First, a deeper exploration with VECM is suggested to uncover subtleties in the relationships. Second, policymakers should consider the historical trends of banking intermediation metrics when shaping policies. Third, continuous monitoring of these metrics is essential for anticipating shifts in economic growth trends. Lastly, policy measures are recommended to enhance the efficiency of banking intermediation, focusing on credit allocation, currency management, and loan-to-deposit ratios.

Keywords: Banking Intermediation Indicators, Economic Growth, Private Sector Credit, Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP), Vector Autoregressive (VAR) Model.

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INSTITUTIONS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effect of institutions on economic growth in 15 ECOWAS countries from 2000 to 2022 and employ panel data estimation. The study used the Levin, Lin, and Chu tests and the Im, Pesaran, and Shin tests to confirm the stationarity of the variables, where RGDP per capita is integrated into order I(1) and other institutional variables such as control of corruption, rule of law, government effectiveness, political stability, regulatory quality, voice, and accountability are integrated into order I(0). The study also used the Johansen Fisher co-integration test, which shows co-integration of the variables, and the Hausman test, which was carried out and suggested the use of a fixed effect model to be convenient for estimation. The results of the findings revealed that control of corruption and regulatory quality are insignificant to economic growth in West Africa, while rule of law, voice, and accountability have a positive and significant relationship, and political stability and government effectiveness have a negative and significant relationship to economic growth in West Africa. The study concludes and recommends that good institutions in West Africa will improve economic growth, with more emphasis on political stability and government effectiveness.

Keywords: Institutions, economic growth, ECOWAS, Panel data.

JEL Classification: O40, O43, O47, O55

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STRUCTURAL POVERTY IN NIGERIA: EXPLORING THE POLITICO-ADMINISTRATIVE ELITE NEXUS

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Abstract

Nigeria witnessed immense national development cum prosperity immediately after independence from 1960-1966. However, the narratives changed from prosperity to poverty and, from nationalism to corrupt selfish leadership, leading to Nigeria being ranked top among the fragile states. This study traced the inherent politico-administrative elite foundations that created and are currently sustaining Nigeria's poverty, despite millions of dollars earned from oil revenue and abundant human resources. A documentary research approach was adopted. We descriptively content analyzed data sourced from the UN, Fund for Peace, UNDP, and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) survey reports on poverty and underdevelopment indices in Nigeria. The findings revealed among other things that the foundations of Nigeria's poverty are tied to long military misrules, shoddy federalism, and ethno-religious linings driving the imbalances in the politico-administrative elite misgovernance system, upon which various dimensions of poverty are perpetrated against the populace. Poverty in Nigeria, therefore, is manmade and is driven by the politico-administrative elites through the instruments of public bureaucracies and other institutions of governance in the social system. Poverty in Nigeria is built into the 1999 Constitution, thus structurally designed and infused into the social system. We recommend restructuring; and true federalism, to pave the way for auto-centric response of the Nigerian system to the socioeconomic realities that will cure Nigeria's poverty and underdevelopment.

Keywords: Politico-administrative elite, structural poverty, human capital development.

**SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTURAL FISH FARMERS IN
LAKE CHAD BASIN AREA OF NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The study was conducted in fishing community of Lake Chad Basin area of Nigeria where is fishing has been the occupation of the inhabitants in the study area. The study focused on examination of the Socio-economic characteristics of cultural fish farmers in the fishing community. Data for the study was obtained from both primary and secondary sources through public participation and stakeholders' interview with the application of focus group discussion. The data collection for the research work was carried out within the period of 1st to 31st March 2023. Primarily, conservative qualitative method with snow-ball technique was applied and information was elicited from the respondents on the socio-economic characteristics of the cultural fish farmers in the community. The study revealed that cultural fish farmers engage in full-time fish farming and part-time and other agricultural activities. Majority of the fish farmers are married with lifelong farming experience with no contact with extension agent. Majority of the members of the community have not undergone formal system of education, with very low infrastructural support and other social services. Recommendations were made for the formulation of policy framework geared towards positive transformation of the socio-economic status of the cultural fishing community for sustainable community development.

**THE CONSTRAINTS OF WOMEN ARTISANAL FISHERS IN BAGA, LAKE CHAD
BASIN AREA, BORNO STATE, NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The study concerned with an assessment of the constraints of women in artisanal fisheries in Baga, Lake Chad Basin Area, Borno State, Nigeria. The aim of the study was to examine the factors that inhibit women artisanal fishers in fish production. The study was conducted within the period of one (1) month, from 1st to 30th July 2018. A total of 265 questionnaires were administered to women fishers. The women fishers were randomly selected using multi-stage sampling technique, one hundred (100) respondents from Baga Fish Market, one and sixty-five (165) respondents from Doro International Fish Market. Purposive sampling was adopted in the selection of the markets. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The result revealed that women fisher contribution in role performance in the activities of artisanal fisheries has been adversely affected as a result of constraints faced by the women artisanal fishers in the study area. Recommendations were made improve women artisanal fisher economic potentials and performance through intervention programs in the areas of appropriate technology, poor marketing and prices, poor storage facilities, high cost of labor, poor funding for expansion and lack of extension services among others.