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ORAL PRESENTATIONS
ABSTRACT

This research explored the process of forgiveness among women who are victims of abuse by their partners or spouses. Through the narrative inquiry method, specifically the topical life story technique, six abused women across socio-economic status and levels of forgiveness were interviewed. Results revealed a model presenting the elements found in their forgiveness or unforgiveness processes: (a) acknowledgement where the women’s thoughts and feelings about the abuse and the offender are recognized (b) decision-making where the option to forgive is considered (c) implementing decision where actual work of forgiving takes place and (d) gaining insights about the act of forgiving or not forgiving. A salient finding of this study is the tendency towards unforgiveness of the respondents which is integrated within the entire process of forgiveness.

Keywords: forgiveness, battered women, spousal abuse, narrative inquiry
MYTHS & BELIEF IN SRI LANKAN SOCIETY & THEIR EFFECTS ON WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

Beliefs are born within the people of a community, society or a country. Beliefs can be true as well as false. People cling on to beliefs as they want to make themselves happy and satisfied. Beliefs are tied to specific religions –Buddhism and Hinduism in the case of Sri Lanka. Myths on the other hand come from generations and tend to be tied to historical incidents. Different types of beliefs are observed from different areas within the same country. They are passed from generation to generation and change from area and community. Migration for commerce and improved opportunities means more people populate the Western province. In typical patriarchal societies that are found in most Asian countries some of the traditional practices based on beliefs and myths are harmful and degrading towards women. How does age-old thinking effect the women of modern day? The paper looks into common beliefs, myths and traditional practices of Sri Lanka and how they effect the progress of girls into womanhood. The study links beliefs, myths and traditional practices to the lives of women from both rural and urban settings, to understand how they shape the image of a ‘woman’ in Sri Lankan society.

Keywords: myths, beliefs, traditional practices, women, Asian cultures, Sri Lanka
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS NO MORE! APPLYING SOCIAL RESEARCH IN COMMUNITY THEATRE TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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ABSTRACT

Underneath the calm skies and tranquil waters of the tiny kingdom Brunei Darussalam, also known as the Abode of Peace, there has been an increased number of anecdotal reports of domestic violence where the victims are usually women. Oil-linked wealth since the 1950s has led to high per capital incomes, free health care and education for all Bruneian citizens. This has changed the traditional role of the husband being the sole breadwinner into a co-income earner where the wife also works, however, her status remains low due to the tradition of patriarchy within the Bruneian family structure. This economic transformation has led to cracks within the social familial structure that could have resulted in domestic violence. This paper will describe a research project conducted by the author in 2014 combining social research method and applied theatre with several underserved communities in Brunei. One of the communities researched was at a government-sponsored women’s shelter and rehabilitation centre known as Taman Noor Hidayah which houses 35 abused women. Students involved in this project went to the centre for their fieldwork, interviewed first the social workers/counselors and subsequently a few of the women residents who had survived domestic violence. The data collected were analyzed, shared and transposed into a docudrama that was eventually staged on 12th November 2014 within campus. The paper will also discuss the impact of the performance on the audience, student participants and the social workers who worked with the survivors and explore how this social research theatre process can be applied to other underserved communities in Brunei.

Keywords: community, women, violence, social research, applied theatre
GENDER INEQUALITY IN JAPAN AS AN EXAMPLE OF INSUFFICIENT LAW ENFORCEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Japan is worst developed countries when it comes to gender equality. According to estimation from the World Economic Forum in 2015 is 101 out of 142 countries.

The gender pay gap at average median is the second highest in the OECD countries, and increases with age. Japanese women are educated, but it does not reflect at the labor market. They pay high price for motherhood – they often give up career after they get pregnant, because of the lack of available child care, tax law and maternity harassment.

Violence against women is still a taboo subject, sexism and sexual harassment in the workplace are on the agenda. Universality and accessibility of sex business makes it difficult to talk about women's rights seriously.

Current Prime Minister Shinzo Abe introduced new policy on gender equality, but it looks like only to please United Nations, WEF and OECD. For example, in a country with low percentage of women at the labor market, the government introduced regulations aimed at increasing women on company boards.

Despite that, a woman invented Kabuki Theater, women played big role in agriculture historically and first novel in the world was written by a Japanese woman – so it is a shame that the present inequality in Japan is a result of poorly enforced, but quiet good legislation. On the example of Japan I want to show how important is enforcement of legislation and real leadership when it comes to implementation of gender equality.

Keywords: gender, equality, empowerment, legislation
VALUE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE LEGISLATION TO DISCOURAGE WOMEN VIOLENCE IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

In Pakistan, Domestic abuse and violence has become one of the most debatable concerns among civil society, state institutions and media (print, electronic and social). It has multiple impact on gender relations, from psychological and emotional to physical discomfort, ultimately perturbing the social fabric of Pakistani society. In recent years, after being alarmed with significantly increased number of registered and non-registered domestic abuse cases; federal and provincial governments diverted their attention towards legislation against domestic violence, with an aim to provide legal safeguard to the victims. Consequently, domestic violence bills have either been passed or are in the process at national and provincial levels. It is generally expected that the passed legislation and on-going debate on domestic violence will help to considerably reduce domestic violence. Nevertheless, contrary to the supposition, the increased percentage of registered cases of domestic abuse, including beating, acid throwing and murder for “honour”, reinforces the never-ending challenge to the fifty percent population of the country. To confront the endemic of domestic abuse, apart from a unified legislation and implementation across national and provincial paradigm, first there is a need to review education of parents to ensure their equal treatment towards siblings, regardless of gender. Such practice will help to create a culture of gender equality at the fundamental level. In this regard, the role of a mother is crucial. Secondly, education system through gender balanced syllabus in schools and colleges, could play pivotal role in reinforcing women equality in all relations. Last and the most important step towards eradication of domestic violence against women could be the engagement of religious education, where a liberal interpretation of religious laws are propagated.
UNDERSTANDING VIOLENCE: HEEDING THE VOICES OF SURVIVORS FROM URBAN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

‘Violence’ is a concept that is understood differently by different individuals; and based on the breadth of its definition, can be used as an umbrella term to envelope any number of social actions. Understanding the implications of and finally elimination of violence then relies as much or more on the definition of what constitutes violence to the survivor, than it does on a statistical enumeration of perpetrators of violence—be it structural, psychological or physical. Based on in-depth interviews with four urban women belonging to different age groups, each a survivor of what is traditionally defined as ‘interpersonal violence’, this paper examines how the term ‘violence’ is perceived by different people. In its first section, it seeks to map out how violence has impacted each of their lives, as well as the lives of others similar to them. The second section it attempts to address gaps in the existing research by examining how institutions such as family, psychological counselling centers and many others like media could also turn violent once a survivor is identified as having been through an episode of violence. The types of psychological violence used by these institutions will then be expounded. In its latter section, the paper will focus on key methods that, if used effectively, can lead to the gradual reduction and finally elimination of violence against women.

Keywords: violence, survivors, women, bystander
WOMEN’S EDUCATION AND GENDER INEQUALITY: A SECONDARY ANALYSIS STUDY OF GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT 2005 TO 2015

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ABSTRACT

Gender equality is a human right. Gender inequality in the various arena, including the education is the most important challenges. The aim of this study was to evaluate the indices of human development and their impact on gender inequality. Then, using models GI, GEM, GDI, HPI, HDI Gender inequality is evaluated. The goal of this the study , which was conducted secondary analysis of documents description method and the analysis of gender inequality using data global gender gap Report 2005 to 2015. Inequalities Gender has a negative effect on human development and quality of human resources. In this paper intended in the Gender Equality in Education, girls and boys equal access to education. Gender Equality in Education refers to the opportunities that women in achieving the different levels of education, the opportunities for success in education and its use as a concession to increase the chances of finding life. In 2015, 25 countries have fully closed the gap on the Educational Attainment sub index, the same number as the last two years. Angola, Yemen, Guinea, Benin and Chad hold the last five spots on this sub index, with Benin and Chad having closed less than 70% of their education gender gap. In total, there are 21 countries where women still have less than 90% of the education outcomes that men have. Forty countries (five more than last year) have fully closed their gender gap on the Health and Survival sub index. Mali, Albania, India, Armenia and China are the lowest-ranked countries, and no country currently has a gap bigger than 90% on this sub index.

The findings indicate a close relationship between GDI and Access to income indices, education and life expectancy. This means that with increasing income, education and life expectancy in human development eventually increase the status of women. Gender inequality and human development indicators show that the relationship between GI and access to education correlated. No country in the world has fully closed the gender gap, but four out of the five Nordic countries and Ireland have closed more than 80% of it. Yemen, the lowest ranking country has closed over 48% of the gender gap.

Keywords: gender inequality, education, Middle East, GI, GEM, GDI
THE ROLE AND COMPETENCIES OF DATA SCIENTISTS IN THE GRAIN INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

With the current global population growth and consequential increasing demand for food, agricultural productivity needs to increase. The application of data science principles in agriculture may deliver many benefits, including increased productivity and profitability. To capitalise on “big data”, the grain industry needs to recruit and appoint data scientists with the necessary skills and expertise to manage and distribute large data sets. The aim of this study is to conceptualise a competency model for data scientists in the grain industry. The adopted approach for the research was qualitative. The researcher conducted face-to-face interviews with 20 participants from nine organisations in the grain industry in the USA. The participants included individuals who are data scientists or work closely with data scientists. The study describes the possible role(s) and core competencies of a data scientist in the grain industry. Also, a competency model for data scientists in the grain industry is presented.

Keywords: agriculture, grain industry, data science, data scientist, competencies, competency model
WOMEN IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA’S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: A SOCIAL SCIENTIST’S INPUTS

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ABSTRACT

Drawing from extensive sit-down one-on-one interviews, questionnaires and more so participant observation in two Nigerian communities, and subjecting field data to analysis using descriptive statistics including tables, charts, percentages, this study explores the role of women in the agriculture sector of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The study makes a comparative examination of women’s past and present roles in agricultural production in the region tracking especially their contribution to meeting domestic food needs, production for agro-based industrial and export purposes, and contribution to the overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of countries of the region. Groping for answers to questions leading to the study and further emanating from field data, the study found that though women play very significant and indispensable roles in farming and post-harvest activities in most countries of SSA, they are, however, kept at the margin on many levels including but not limited to access to land, access to capital and related farm inputs, in managing farm proceeds, literacy in general and farm-related education programs in particular, in occupying leadership roles among others. Making a cross-country comparison leads to more insights summed up in the fact that these constraints are mostly rooted in the rigid traditions of exclusionary patriarchy in many SSA communities. However, the study also found some areas where women have advanced, which create patterns and hopes for more breakthroughs. In response to these findings on constraints limiting women’s contribution to agricultural development in SSA, the study attempts a comprehensive policy recommendation targeting a reversal of the odds.

Keywords: women, agriculture, development, participation, SSA, patriarchy
COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS AROUND SMALLHOLDER OIL PALM PLANTATIONS: CASE STUDY PT. IVO MAS, SIAK DISTRICT, RIAU PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

The development of oil palm industry growing rapidly along with the expansion areas of oil palm plantations in Indonesia. Land-use change into oil palm plantation is not just a trend for private sector but also for the community and smallholders. Rapid land use changes causing problem for environmental and social. However, oil palm plantations significantly contribute to the foreign exchange and increase jobs. The positive impact generated increasing trend in the land use change for smallholders. In line with this perception began to change in terms of the socioeconomic, ecology, and socio-culture. Community perception for a land-use change need to be better understood. Characteristics of smallholders around oil palm plantations also affect the trend of land use. The purpose of this study was to assess community perception in an oil palm plantation owned by smallholders in the Desa Jambai Makmur, Riau Province. Moreover to identify the respondent characteristics which is influence the community perception of oil palm plantations owned by smallholder. Data were obtained through observation, literature and structured interview questionnaire with 31 respondents. Respondents represent palm oil farmers and non-oil palm farmers. Aspects consisting of three studies, namely socioeconomic, ecologic, and socio-cultural. Study result show that respondents have medium perception to socioeconomic, ecology, and socio-culture aspect. Gender, age, years of schooling, and resident’s distance with oil palm plantation correlated with the perception of the socioeconomic aspects. Perceptions for ecology aspects were influence by period of work. Age, and the main job were influencing the socioculture perceptions.

Keywords: community perception, smallholder oil palm plantation, Riau
SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: THE AGRICULTURE-RELATED TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE CONNECTION

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ABSTRACT

Using the repertoire of social science data collection techniques including structured interviews, questionnaires, probing for histories, photography and above all participant observation, this study uses the Nigerian experience as a representative case study to explore how poor transportation infrastructure or total lack thereof impacts social and community development in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Analyzing data from the field with the help of descriptive and inferential statistics—tables, charts, frequencies, percentages, and generalizations from patterns thus generated—the study draws conclusions as are informed by research findings. These include among others, that transportation infrastructure occupies primacy of place among other infrastructure facilities; that transportation infrastructure is poor in SSA; that this results in poor trade linkages among communities and countries of the sub-continent; that farmers and others involved in agribusiness incur unduly high costs of production due to dysfunctional transport system, where they exist at all; that this in turn explains, at least partly, why populations of the region face the assaults of food insecurity; that the absence of good and functional transportation infrastructure prevents the installation of other (soft and hard) infrastructure; resultantly, that this bottleneck smolders the incentives of both domestic and foreign investors; overall, therefore, it retards social and community development. In seeking ways forward, the study proposes recommendations but not without challenging governments of SSA with two historically evident legacies exemplified in the region’s ancients in building and expanding routes for social intercourse and trade; and European colonial masters’ however extractive trade-related road, rail and water transport network.

Keywords: social, community, development, transportation, infrastructure, SSA
DETERMINANT OF FOOD SECURITY ON UPLAND AGRICULTURE HOUSEHOLDS IN PALETWA TOWNSHIP, CHIN STATE OF MYANMAR

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ABSTRACT

This study aim to determine food security on upland agriculture households in rural area. Food security is concerned with the first two main goals of Sustainable Development Goals, No Poverty and Zero Hunger. Myanmar is Food Insecure State that showing 14.2% that is 7.7 million of 51 million population. Chin state is least developing and Paletwa is poorest out of 324 townships. Research is applied by both qualitative and quantitative approach.3 Villages and 1 Quarter is chosen for qualitative method and 141 upland agriculture households are selected for field survey using random sampling method. The data are analyzed by logistic regression in SPSS 17 to determine food security. Age, education, schooling years of household head, size, second occupation and no. of working people in households are socio-economic determinant and own food production and fruit access are food security determinant.

Keywords: food security, upland agriculture households, Chin state, Myanmar, logistic regression
"WOMEN FARMERS IN AGRICULTURE": SHOWCASING RESULTS AND DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

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ABSTRACT

Increasing participation of women in technology dissemination ensures inclusion of left behind actors and beneficiaries for better rural future. Women are important agents of change and have shown preference for sustainable intensification and mechanization. The participatory knowledge dissemination and technology adoption activities have revealed that women farmers are willing to experiment, take decisions, and showcase impact at the grass roots, bringing transformative change. Women empowerment is not only fundamental but economical for change. Self - Help Groups acted as an important conduit point to accelerate the adoption of improved technologies allowing better productivity and nutrition. Four segments under which women farmer’s activities got executed and implemented in Bihar are; identity, knowledge bank, leadership & their economic empowerment.

Keywords: SI, SHG, decision making, inclusion, technology
ABSTRACT

The gypsy community is semi-nomadic groups who do not have a permanent home engage in hunting and selling honey, making leather and bead crafts for living. The primary objective of this study is to find out the social and environmental dimensions which hamper the primary education of the Gypsy community children in Coimbatore district. The data for this study collected from, parents, school teachers, police officers and the voluntary organizations working with Gypsy community. The empirical result reveal that the nature of parent’s traditional occupation and unwillingness in sending children to school. Peer group pressure and parents send their children to work a major factor children avoid school. These factors lead children being dropped out from school and parents engage their children in selling leather and bead crafts and use them for part time labouring activities as these children make easy money by showing sympathy cards and acting like a deaf and dumb in public places. In the process children commit petty offences and take to drugs at the early age. All these aspects hamper the primary education of these children and defeating the motto of universal primacy education as their fundamental right. Social skills and counseling to parents and alternative jobs as an intervention strategy suggested.

Keywords: gypsy children, education, challenges
EXPLORING THE RELEVANCE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN PREPARING EFFECTIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATORS. A CASE STUDY OF A TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE IN MAURITIUS

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ABSTRACT

In Mauritius, the teaching of social studies presents educators with a unique set of challenges, as they are expected to have multi-disciplinary knowledge and multi-dimensional skills to be effective in classrooms. A majority of these social studies educators have undertaken PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate in Education) course offered by the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE), which is the leading teacher training institute in the country. This paper explores the relevance of the Social Sciences teacher education programme offered by the MIE in preparing secondary school educators to meet the challenges in their practice in the wake of current curricular reforms. Drawing from earlier studies by Darling – Hammond (2006) and Cochran-Smith & Zeichner (2005) on effective Teacher Education programme, this qualitative case study uses two components critical in teacher preparation: teacher’s knowledge of the subject and teacher’s skill as a framework to explore the phenomenon. The study used focus group discussions as the main tool to gather in depth views of the participants. Sixteen social studies educators across the island formed the sample for the research study. Preliminary findings tend to show that although educators may possess skills, lack of mastery in multi-disciplinary knowledge influences their proficiency in classrooms. Analysis of the different modules of the social sciences programme also show a gap between the educators’ needs and the modules offered. Finally, the study proposes recommendations to make the teacher education programme responsive for the effective teaching of Social Studies in Mauritian Classrooms.

Keywords: social studies educators, multi-disciplinary, multi-dimensional, teacher education programme, effective
ABSTRACT

The presentation will illustrate how globalisation is generating simultaneous dis/embedding of the self which in turn is setting up an individual in a dialectical relationship between his/her Roots and Routes. This situated-ness of the self, between and betwixt, here and there, more often than not generates a dialectical tension between individual’ sense of belonging to a particular community (collectivity) and one’s exposure to multiplicity afforded through the processes of globalisation. Influence of such a dialectic is not limited only to ones’ social experiences or communication, but also extends to one’s un/making of one’s ideology and outlook of the world. Furthermore, it is observed that such a dynamism often tends to perpetuate projects of power and identity which reproduce itself by heightening sense of human’s experience of ‘difference’, using it as a tool for boundary maintenance of the collective particularity.

Building upon this critique, the presentation will emphasize upon a need to foster cosmopolitan imagination, which can transcend the walls of difference, and in doing so, calls for re-imagining education that can facilitate development of such an imagination. In this respect, there is an invitation to cast a critical gaze at the current practices of identity-making apparatuses (including education), as well to draw upon an aid of a ‘new’ kind of social imagination inspired by cosmopolitan ethos to work towards creating a ‘world beyond difference’. Education in globalisation has such an affordability, it will be argued.

The above analysis and arguments will be steeped into rich qualitative empirical data generated through multi-sites qualitative case-studies conducted in contexts of Canada and Pakistan whereby interviews and focus group discussions were conducted with elder generation, youth and academics employing six different languages to cater linguistically diverse cultural groups.

Keywords: globalisation, imagination, identity, multiculturalism, cosmopolitanism, education
ABSTRACT

A The background of this study come from problems that often arise in career developmental skill, especially in terms of choosing a career, improve, and maintain consistency in choosing a career (e.g. education). That ability is called career adaptability. This study questioned what factors influence the increasing of career adaptability. The assumption made is, when an individual successfully implementing self-regulation in learning, the planning, selection and career development will be easier to do. To prove these assumptions, this study will look at a relationship between self-regulation skills in the development of career adaptability as attitude and readiness to face the challenges of career development task and the situational changes. This study measured two component of Self Regulated Learning in building Career Adaptability at Universitas Indonesia’s undergraduate student. Participants in this study amounted to 1012 new students of all faculties at the UI. For processing the data, this study using multiple regression technique and Anovar was used to analyze differences of mean between self regulated learning and career adaptability in the demographic factors such group area of faculty and academic index. The results and the implication from this study of this study was discussed

Keywords: self-regulation of learning strategies, career adaptability
THE ROLE OF STUDENT PERCEIVED OF LECTURER’S MEANING SUPPORT IN LEARNING ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Previous researches have long been ascertained that intrinsic motivation and self-efficacy play an important role on student engagement. The purpose of present research is to identify whether student perceived of lecturer’s meaning support in learning along with intrinsic motivation, and self-efficacy are meaningful predictors of student engagement. Variable of meaning support in learning is developed based on Self Determination Theory. 241 Freshmen social science college students of Universitas Indonesia have participated in the research. In order to collect data, “School Engagement Measurement”, “Meaning Support in Learning”, “Learning Motivation”, and “Self-efficacy, Stress, and Academic Success in College” scales have been employed. A Multiple Regression analysis has been used to predict the student’s engagement based on student perceived of lecturer’s meaning support in learning, the level of students’ motivation and level of student’s self-efficacy. It is found that student perceived of lecturer’s meaning support in learning have predicted 14% of student engagement. This research indicates that lecturer’s meaning support in learning also plays an important role on student engagement. The implications of the result are discussed.

Keywords: student perceived of lecturer’s meaning support in learning, intrinsic motivation, self-efficacy, student engagement, self-determination theory
ABSTRACT

Science and Technology for society (IbM) is one of the community services focused on the implementation of science and technological advances from the university to enhance the technological insight and skill of the society. The program is carried out in terms of community service and study on the technological advances of the university. The target of this program is the public as a whole, ranging from an individual, group, community, to some instances in both urban and rural areas. The program is offered to the university in particular towards lecturers and research centers by Directorate of Research and Community Service (DRPM) and Directorate General of Research and Development Strengthening of the Ministry of Higher Education Research and Technology, Government of Indonesia in terms of research grant through research proposal application to be selected. This is conducted in order to realize the new paradigm of community service by the university namely solving the problem, comprehensive, totally meaningful, and sustainable with more multiple targets.

In 2016, the author received the grant and used it for research. Since one of the requirements of the target audience of this program is a group, the program is conducted towards IbM on a group of women artisans of handmade batik Canting Merapi and Fiber Merapi, which was established in 2013, through the program of Life Skills Improvement (PKH) Oriented on Women Empowerment hosted by the Center for Gender Studies, Islamic University of Indonesia (UII) in collaboration with the Directorate of Research and Community Service (DPPM) Ministry of Education and Culture (Kemendikbud). The group was selected for the sake of sustainability and also because the group has the potential to grow with its distinctive motif pattern of scarce flora and fauna that only grows on the slopes of Merapi. In addition, the resulted batik is also environmentally friendly since it does not use any synthetic dyes but only natural dyes. Therefore, this article will elucidate the women empowerment programs that have been carried in particular both the method and aspects of priority issues to be resolved. The activities are carried out by community empowerment (Participatory rural appraisal). While the two priority issues to be resolved are the aspects of production and management. The Aspect of production is solely focused on raw materials, motif design, and production equipment. Meanwhile, the aspect of management is closely related to venture capital, financial management, sales, marketing, and human resources skills.

Keywords: Handmade Batik, Science and Technology for Society (IbM), women empowerment
BRIDGING THE GAP OF INDUSTRIAL COMPETENCIES THROUGH VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

In order for a company to survive the market competition, there are lots of requirements they need to fulfill. This is one of the reasons urging companies to employ not only knowledgeable but also skillful people. However, that knowledge and skill are not burn in one’s mind and we cannot expect to easily get those having the required competencies in them. The fact that companies need competent employee, and also market challenge to fill up those requirements regarding to system, quality, safety and many other aspects give us educators an opportunity to define industry based curriculum. Therefore, better and deeper analysis is indeed required to define what actually meets the company’s requirements in order for us to develop better aligned curriculum with the industry. This paper is about to review on what is actually required by a company, understanding the alignment of vocational education and industry, and why is it important for us to have this industry-based curriculum in our vocational education.

Keywords: competencies, industry based curriculum
EFFECTS OF READING INTEREST AND LEARNING STYLE ON STUDENTS’ LEARNING OUTCOME (A STUDY ON TEST CONSTRUCTION COURSE)

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ABSTRACT

Test construction is one of the compulsory courses taught in undergraduate teacher education institution, which aims to get students to be able to construct the test. The preliminary study found that there are only 24 students (13.7%) from totally 175 students who got above average score, that is 70. This means that most of the students didn’t understand the material well, which results on low learning outcome. It could be avoided if they would read the text book. Therefore, reading interest is one of the important factor in increasing students’ learning outcome. The aversion of reading book can be affected by one’s learning style. The quantitative with expost facto methods was used in this study. The populations were students of Psychology Study Program of State University of Jakarta who have taken test construction course, which were acquired by incidental sampling technique. Data were analyzed with RASCH model and the hypothesis was tested by using multiple regression analysis. Logistic regression analysis carried out shown that reading interest and learning style affected students’ learning outcome accounted for 18.6%. Partially, reading interest influenced on students’ learning outcomes accounted for 0.037<0.05, whereas learning style didn’t has partially influence on students learning outcomes accounted for 0.081>0.05.

Keywords: reading interest, learning style, learning outcome
IMPLEMENTATION OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: TEACHERS’ PERSPECTIVES

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ABSTRACT

Teachers play critical and crucial roles in the successful implementation of inclusive education. The aim of the study was to examine the attitudes of teachers towards the inclusion of students with special educational needs (SEN) in regular education classrooms and how their attitudes relate to their teaching strategies in the classroom. In this study, teachers from different level and type of schools in Jakarta and Depok, Indonesia, were invited to participate. They completed questionnaires on attitudes to inclusion and teaching strategies. An independent sample t-test was used to compare the mean scores of the data in addition to a descriptive statistics method to examine the ranges of the groups. The results have revealed that teachers held positive attitudes towards the inclusion of SEN students on the three components of attitudes. However their teaching strategies were significantly depended on teaching experience and training in special education of teachers. Additionally, teachers also indicated that large class size and less availability of support might impede implementation of the inclusive education. Practical and theoretical implications are further discussed.

Keywords: inclusive education, attitudes, teaching strategies, teacher, SEN
AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE EFFECTS OF STRATEGIC PLANNING ON MALAYSIAN EFL LEARNERS’ WRITING PERFORMANCE IN TERMS OF ACCURACY, FLUENCY, AND COMPLEXITY

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate the effects of pre-task planning time on second language (L2) learners’ writing performance when performing structured vs. unstructured tasks. Participants were 50 students studying at Asian EFL Academy Language Institute in Pinang. They were randomly selected and divided into two equal groups: one group with pre-task planning time and the other group without pre-task planning time. Each group was asked to narrate two different types of stories, structured and unstructured, under the two different conditions (i.e., with and without pre-task planning time). Participants in the pre-task planning time group were required to plan their performance for 10 minutes and take notes before performing the main task of writing, whereas those in the group without pre-task planning time began to write immediately. Their writing performance was measured in terms of complexity, accuracy, and fluency (CAF). The two independent variables (i.e., pre-task planning time and task structure) affected the dependent variables. The computer software SPSS (version 20) was used to analyze data. The effect of the planning conditions was analyzed through an independent samples t-test. The paired samples t-test was then used to determine the impact of task structure on the participants’ writing performance. Results showed that pre-task planning time significantly improved learners’ writing performance in terms of fluency and complexity across the groups when learners performed the structured task, but no improvement in accuracy was found. In the meantime, pre-task planning time did not improve learners’ writing performance in terms of complexity, fluency, and accuracy across the groups when participants performed the unstructured task. Task structure of the planned condition improved learners’ writing performance in terms of accuracy and fluency, but did not improve complexity. The results also indicated no impact of task structure on complexity and fluency, whereas there was an improvement in accuracy without planning.
ACADEMIC ANXIETY AMONG STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VENDA, SOUTH AFRICA: ASSOCIATED FACTORS AND EFFECTS

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ABSTRACT

Background: Today’s society tends to overemphasize the importance of examination and academic achievements. This culture pressurizes students to “succeed”, resulting in increased phobia and stress which subsequently affects the individual’s academic, vocational and emotional state. Aim of the study: The aim of the study was to investigate the factors and effects related to academic anxiety faced by students in the School of Health Sciences in the University of Venda. Objectives of the study: To determine the level of academic anxiety among School of Health Sciences students, to establish the factors associated with academic anxiety among School of Health Sciences students, to establish the relationship between academic performance and anxiety as perceived by respondents among School of Health Sciences students, to determine the perceived effects of academic anxiety on the overall functioning of students in the School of Health Sciences and to identify coping strategies used by students under academic anxiety.

Methodology: The study was quantitative using a self-administered questionnaire formed by the literature review and the FDN scale to collect data from the participants. Data was entered and analyzed using SPSS-23. For continuous variables (e.g. age) descriptive variable were calculated. For categorical variables frequencies and percentages are presented. Chi-square ($\chi^2$) test was used to associate gender, level of study and department/degree programme with students’ personal feelings, attitudes and experiences. The $p<0.05$ was considered significant. Using Slovin’s formula, the sample size for this study were two hundred and seventy eight (278) respondents from the four departments in the School of Health Sciences ranging from first year to the final year students. Questionnaires were administered face to face to respondents in the respondents’ classrooms. The researcher, with the help of the research assistant, waited for the respondents to complete all the sections of the questionnaire and collect the questionnaires. The validity and reliability of the instrument were be ensured. Data was analyzed using (SPSS) Statistical Package for Social Scientist (23.0) programme.

Ethical considerations such as informed consent, right to privacy, and no harm to participants were observed and addressed in this study. Recommendations to the School of Health Sciences and Student Representative Council were made based on the analysis of the data collected.

Keywords: academic anxiety, effects, factors, school of health sciences, students, university
EXPLORING GENDER DIFFERENCES IN MATE SELECTION AMONG THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores mate selection among individuals with visual impairment. The importance of marriage and the desirability of characteristics and traits in the prospective partners were investigated from 42 visually impaired individuals in the age group of 18-35 years, in Mumbai, India. Non-probabilistic sampling was used to collect data using an online pre-coded questionnaire, where 35 characteristics of the prospective partner were rated on a 4-point scale, along with ranking 16 traits in order of preference. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for analysis of data. Marriage was considered important for the sample. Statistically significant gender differences were found with women valuing good financial prospects, chastity, good behaviour towards parents, desire for home and children and non-indulgence in drinking, more than men. Men desired physically attractive partner whereas women valued financial stability. Statistically significant differences were found among men and women on four traits; easy going, good housekeeper, physically able, good earning capacity. Women valued the traits of easy going, good housekeeper and good earning capacity while men preferred physically able spouse. There is potential for research on gendered marriage choices, specifically among various marginalised populations. Interaction of cultural practices and the marriage preferences of the disabled could be further explored.

Keywords: marriage, mate selection, visually impairment, gender differences
MEDIATOR EFFECT OF SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING BETWEEN CONTEXTUAL SUPPORT-BARRIERS AND CAREER DECISION SELF-EFFICACY

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ABSTRACT

In the era of globalization and the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) the graduates must be ready to compete, because of the possibility of employment in Indonesia will be dominated by job seekers from ASEAN countries. From the need analysis of UI Career and Scholarship EXPO XIX (2015), which was attended by students from various universities, there are 69.94% of the participants experienced difficulty in career planning, and almost 30% require career counseling services and career preparation workshops. The purpose of this study was to examine whether self-directed learning mediates the relationship between contextual support-barriers and career decision self-efficacy. The participants consisted of 496 4th semester college students of Universitas Indonesia. They completed the support-barrier contextual self-report, career decision self-efficacy short form (CDSE-SF) and self-directed learning scale (SSDLQ). This study indicates that self-directed learning as a mediator between contextual support-barriers and career decision self-efficacy. Finally, this study discussed several empirical and methodological implications of the findings.

Keywords: self-directed learning, career decision self-efficacy, contextual support-barriers, college students
STUDENTS’ SELF-CONCEPT, KNOWLEDGE OF VERBAL REASONING SKILL AND LEARNING READINESS AS CORRELATE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN CIVIC IN SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

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**ABSTRACT**

The study examined the relationship of students’ self concept, knowledge of verbal reasoning skill and learning readiness as correlate of achievement in Civic in senior secondary schools in Osun State, Nigeria. The study employed correlational survey research design. The population consisted of senior secondary schools 2 Civic students in public secondary schools in Osun State Nigeria. Simple random sampling technique was employed in selecting 10 local governments from the 30 local governments in Osun State. Ten schools were selected using simple random sampling from each of the selected ten local governments, sixty SS2 students were then selected from each of the ten schools using simple random sampling technique. Four research instruments were developed, validated and used for the study. The data collected were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and Regression Analysis. The study concluded among others, that students’ self-concept, knowledge of verbal reasoning skill and learning readiness had composite effects on students’ achievement in Civic.

**Keywords:** self-concept, verbal reasoning, students’ readiness and achievement in Civic
WHO IS POOR? PROXY INDICATORS OF POVERTY IN THE PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT

This research is a study on identifying and assessing proxy indicators of poverty in the Philippines through coming up with principal components. The Principal components identified were flood risks, flood exposure, wealth, education, attitudes towards waste, and community participation. The study focuses on the three rural municipalities of Camarines Sur namely Canaman, Magarao, and Milaor. These municipalities were chosen as the geographical emphasis of the study because it serves as the microcosm of poverty incidence in Philippines. This study believes that the classical and widely used Income based poverty measure is a limited means to measure poverty. Poverty manifests itself in different areas of life. There are various non-monetary approaches that are effective in identifying and evaluating poverty indicators that the Income based poverty measure may omit. Methods of determining the poor is a complex process. Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomena that necessitates a holistic, objective, and comprehensive analysis. Nonetheless, this study highlights the advantages of the proxy indicators to systematically identify and target poverty variables in the three rural municipalities of Camarines Sur, Philippines. Consequently coming up with a principal component that can measure poverty effectively and aid policy makers in devising appropriate poverty alleviation programs.

Keywords: poverty, proxy indicators, non-monetary approach, Philippines
THE INFLUENCE OF 90’S U.S. JOURNALISM CULTURE TOWARD
REPUBLIKA’S HEADLINE ON FOG INCIDENT ISSUE IN SEPTEMBER 2015

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the influence of U.S. journalism culture in the 90s that involved globalization effect towards the headline of daily newspaper Republika on fog incident in September 2015. The focus of this research problem is to find the correlation between U.S. journalism culture toward the process to make the Republika’s headline about fog incident in September 2015. Data are gathered using literature research and interview method toward four Republika journalists to comprehend some factors that have intervenience to headlines making of fog incident issue. These data will be analyzed based on media framing of Zhongdang Pan and Kosicki. The results will show how Western journalism culture in the 90s affect the character of Indonesia journalists through democratization process since the Internet Highway Booming. In some third countries, the U.S. journalism culture could make a media homogenization. Meanwhile, Republika that representing one of media in Indonesia, it could create a media diversity and could more strengthen the media ideology.

Keywords: journalism, U.S. journalism culture, the 90s, Republika, headline
THE SOCIAL PROCESSES IN THE INCLUSIVE PLANNING FOR THE
MANAGEMENT OF MINDANAO RIVER BASINS & THE REHABILITATION OF
SHARED SPACES

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ABSTRACT

Some parts of Mindanao have been accustomed to the sparing of large scale disturbances of climatic anomalies until the recent years when areas in the southern part of the Philippines have been subjected to multiple climate change challenges in many different forms and scales. It is argued that the continued denudation and non-sustainable consumption of the resources in the natural watersheds largely contributed to the manner disasters make themselves known in the Northern Mindanao Region. Thus, highlighting the need to assess and plan for the rehabilitation of the watersheds as a mechanism to prepare for the possibilities and to establish plans for adapting and mitigating its effects. Cagayan de Oro River Basin Management Council (CDORBMC) and Agusan River Basin Council (ARBC) are composed of state, religious, and civic organizations working with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in the conduct of consultations, workshops, and planning activities adapting the PESTEL framework for the management and rehabilitation of the area. Focusing on the challenges, needs and the importance of the social component in the overarching concern of the planning, management, and the rehabilitation of river basin systems; this paper argues the need to highlight the human component in the formulation of measures, policies, and plans in management as the social processes, i.e. the contact with and communication of plans, policies, measures, and mechanisms that will manage and rehabilitate the shared spaces, greatly affect success of managing and rehabilitating mechanisms of the shared spaces.

Keywords: inclusive management, shared spaces, river basins
COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS AROUND COMPANY OIL PALM PLANTATIONS: CASE STUDY PT. MITRA UNGGUL PUSAKA, PELALAWAN DISTRICT AND PT. IVO MAS TUNGGAL, SIAK DISTRICT, RIAU PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia is an exporter of CPO (Crude Palm Oil) the largest in the world from 2008 until now with the oil palm plantations area of 11.4 million ha. The increase oil palm plantation expansion is inseparable from the role of investors indicated by national private plantation area and foreign reaches 51.6% of the total land area of Indonesia's palm oil. The expansion of oil palm plantation company generated a lot of positive and negative accusations, to the impact of economic, social, and environmental communities. To prove it is necessary to study on the perceptions of the people living around the oil palm companies. This study aims to identify the perceptions and characteristics of the people living near the oil palm company, and analyze the relations between the characteristics of the community to the public perception of plantation companies. The research location in the Village Tambak, Pelalawan district, and Village Jambai Makmur, Siak district, Riau province. Research was used interviews with questionnaires instrument interview. Respondent selection technique that is accidental sampling (Convenience sampling). The results showed >85% of respondents in a prosperous village tufts Javanese migrants and 95% of respondents Village Pond native of Riau. Of the total respondents 50% elementary school >70% were under 50 years, 60% income Rp. 2 million until Rp.10 million. The average community argue that oil palm plantations impact both on the economic and social basis, respectively for 63.13% and 57.83%. But people argue significantly worse (46.59%) of the environmental impact of the oil compa.

Keywords: company oil palm plantations, community perception, Riau
THE ACCESSIBILITY EVALUATION OF THAI E-GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

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ABSTRACT

Web accessibility is a current important agenda as our lives have been revolutionized by the web in many aspects: education, communication, recreation, e-commerce, and especially, e-government. The government should provide equal opportunity and equal access to citizen in their country, including disabled persons. To highlight the importance of web accessibility and raise awareness on this issue in the Thai government sector, this research aims to evaluate the conformance levels of the Thai e-government websites. The examples were 20 websites from 20 ministries in Thailand. An automated web accessibility checking tools were used to test conformance to the Web Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 provided by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). The results show that most of Thai ministry websites do not conform with WCAG 2.0. Moreover, the results show the conformance levels of each Thai ministry website, the numbers and types of unsuccessful guidelines. In light of this research results, several recommendations are suggested for improving web accessibility levels.

Keywords: web accessibility, e-government, website, Thailand
THE FORMATION OF MALLED-KAMPUNG AS THE NEW URBAN ELEMENT

Reconciliation the public life in private space by the development of traditional market into shopping mall in Surabaya, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The rising dominance of shopping malls in Surabaya, the second largest city in Indonesia, has not only responded to the trend of shopping mall booming in the 1990s but also provided a new form of public space for both modern and traditional people’s everyday practices. Some Surabaya’s malls have peculiar characteristics that relate to their functional and structural developments in their context. These malls were built either according to typical modern integrated megamall models, while others were incrementally built on indigenous traditional markets. Particularly in city centre, with the introduction of shopping mall within consolidated kampungs - the traditional districts semi-autonomously built by the residents over the last century – different types of development seem to produce various degrees of integration between malls and their immediate contexts.

Analysing the development of kampungs where traditional market have developed and integrated into shopping malls, this paper reports on an empirical study on the complex transition of public life into the quasi-private space of the malls. It uses two major Surabaya’s shopping malls as case studies, Darmo Trade Centre and Kapas Krampung Plaza, to explore the reconciliation of public activities in public and private spaces after the profound transformation of the kampungs operated by these modern commercial structures. Focusing on people’s everyday practices in public spaces and urban amenities, this paper will describe how the aggregation of public-private space results in the production of a new urban element – the malled-kampung – that combines shopping mall and surrounding kampung, providing public spaces and urban amenities to accommodate the changing needs of local communities.

Keywords: shopping mall, Surabaya, Kampungs, Malled-kampung, public space
SUBSTANCE USE IN PERFORMING ARTISTS: EXPLORING LINKS TO CREATIVITY AND PERFORMANCE

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ABSTRACT

The paper aimed at assessing attitudes of performing artists in India towards use of substances and current status of substance use prevalent in amongst them. Their perceived reasons for the usage were explored along with their beliefs towards the effects of substances on creativity and performance. Non-probabilistic sampling was used to collect data from 77 artists through a self-developed quantitative questionnaire and 10 in depth interviews of artists in the age range of 18-35 years were taken. The quantitative data was analysed by calculating descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings were then supported by the themes emerging from the qualitative interviews. Results indicated a positive expectancy of using substances in the field of performing arts, especially related to stress relief, loss of inhibitions, increasing energy and experiencing the character more fully. A subjective increase in creativity was reported by majority of the sample. Substances were reported to be acceptable in the industry for the purposes of networking and leisure. Commonly reported factors for initiation of usage were curiosity and experimentation which have been stated in literature, while specific reported factors maintained the usage such as coping with physical and emotional strain, hectic schedules, lack of support from family and financial and occupational instability. There is potential for research on the grounds of establishing statistical associations between substance use, creativity and performance. Issues faced by Indian performing artists triggering and maintaining substance use and abuse could be further explored in depth.

Keywords: substance use, performing artists, creativity, addiction
THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL CULTURE THROUGH TRADITIONAL GAMES FOR CHILDREN AT RUMAH PENDIDIKAN ASAHI ASIH ASUH

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ABSTRACT

Rumah Pendidikan Asah Asih Asuh is a community initiated by youth that feel our local culture has been eroded at younger generation, especially regarding tolerance and politeness. Therefore, this community is formed to develop local culture among children who will be the successor to the nation's culture. Considering the development of children that prefers learning through playing model, this community develop learning strategies with traditional games. Through this game, children are taught how to respect and loving others in politeness. In addition, children also learn about social communication, not only with friends of his age but also with younger or older. This study, as a preliminary study, are trying to describe Rumah Pendidikan Asah Asih Asuh to develop local culture among children that join with this community. This study uses qualitative approach by conducting interviews with three Rumah Pendidikan Asah Asih Asuh initiators for data collection. The results of this study indicate that the initiators feels the children develop positively after join this community. They see that this community helps them gain tolerance to others. The children also more polite and respect to their parents. Parents also conveyed when this community make some gathering for them. They said that their children now always taking care of their own stuff, always kissing hands when go out, tolerance to their sibling and more communicative. This result also recommends that playing traditional games are still needed and cannot be replaced by high technology gadget-based games.

Keywords: development, local culture, traditional games
CLIMATE ZONING IN ANTICIPATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION
AND CLIMATE CHANGE: A CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS IN INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to create models and strategies accelerated development in the focus of the main activities in the economic corridor of Java, as drivers of industry and national service in the form of model reconstruction legal drafting regulations climate zoning in order to accelerate the adaptation and mitigation of climate change and carbon trading in order to realize governance either in the area. Climate zoning in anticipation of environmental degradation and climate change must to be done. Climate zoning can be done as one of the solutions to overcome environmental damage in Java islands. If a macro scale we know carbon trading, then on a smaller scale there are climate zoning. The concept is very simple actually. In addition to being the first step towards the dream of 2020 achieved a 26% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, climate zoning creates community resilience through the efforts of partnerships with various groups of people. Climate zoning requires a coherence construction and formulations in a legislation both central governments and local governments in Indonesia. Several types of activities are simple but excluded from modern thinking, even, some form of activity outside the calculations in efforts to reduce the impact of climate change has not been made. It is therefore necessary formulation to establish and create regulations based on academic legal drafting in order to create the climate zoning in an effort to accelerate the adaptation and mitigation of climate change and carbon trading are both integrated.

Keywords: climate, zoning, environmental, degradation, climate change, regulations
SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC IMPLEMENTATION ON SOCIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTION IN THE REMOTE AREAS AS AN EFFORT OF ACCOMPLISHING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (A CASE STUDY OF SOCIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTION “HARAPAN” BAJULMATI, INDONESIA)

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ABSTRACT

This paper is devoted to the problems of the Sustainable Development Goals accomplishment in the developing country, particularly in Bajulmati village as the representative model of the remote areas in Indonesia. The authors are implementing the qualitative approach and the case study method, where the data is obtained by doing interview, observation and documentation. The result of this research shows that a social and educational institution initiated by the society can resolve the problems of the Sustainable Development Goals accomplishment in the remote areas of the developing country. The institution establishment process is begun by stimulating and providing a media for the society to discuss about the development problems around them. Through this research, there are two stages known to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals. The first stage is attained by establishing the long-life learning education for the children and the training for the adults as the concrete form of sustainable education. Then, the second stage is reached by creating business based on the potentially local resources to enhance the economic welfare of the society. If the sustainable education and economic has been implemented by the society, the points of the Sustainable Development Goals initiated by the United Nations can be achieved. In this study, it will figure out that social education institution in Bajulmati can be example for another remote area to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

Keywords: developing country, social education institution, sustainable development goals
IDENTIFYING BASIC INDICATORS FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS: THE CASE OF THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

Human rights indicators (HRI) are pivotal for state to implementation of human rights obligation under international law. Recently, the United Nations human rights organs issued the guideline for the development of HRI, and urged state to use it for analysis states’ human rights situation. Recently, the Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRT) has developed set of basic HRI which will be used to assess the government’s compliance of human rights duties. This article explains how HRI has been developed. It discusses the elementary questions such as “what are obligations”, “how to identify obligations” and “what good indicators are”. It illustrates how to identify key elements responding particular human rights problems in the Thai society and what sorts of data/ information shall be used for the assessment of their linkage to the indicators characteristics and to respond obligation to respect, protect and fulfil. Five categories of the basic indicators are given to the readers.

Keywords: indicators, human rights obligation, Thailand
DRUG ABUSE AND ADDICTION IN INDIA (PREVENTION AND REMEDIAL MEASURES)

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ABSTRACT

This paper’s primary focus is to answer whether prohibition or regulation is the solution to reduce the psychological dependence on different psychoactive drugs consumed? We believe that this war-on – drugs has been one of the biggest policy failures of modern society. Statistics reveal that at least 25,426 people committed suicide due to drug and addiction related problems in the last 10 years across India. Appalling truth is that suicides due to drug related problems exceed dowry, poverty and money related suicides in India in most of the last 10 years. According to official data from the ministry of social justice and empowerment, India has an estimated 3.4 million drug abuse victims. This number excludes alcoholics, who figure at around 11 million in the country. This paper seeks to provide strategies and solutions to prevent further drug addiction as well as treating existing drug addicts. Further, to resolve the complexity of drug addiction and resume productive lives government strategies are required to control, prohibit and regulate the rising drug abusers by including education related to drug addiction at secondary level curriculum and campaigns to demonstrate that these psychoactive drugs add to the number of anti-social elements that disrupt the peaceful social life. This paper attempts to go an extra mile to the government’s subsisting policies to reduce drug abuse and help people get rid of their drug addiction

Keywords: drug prevention, government policies, education on drug addiction & drug abuse
MAQASID AL-SHARIAH AND THE RIGHTS OF PATIENTS IN ISLAM: AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

The concept of maqasid al-shariah as one of the important pillars in Islam is a way of life or in other words, the spirit of Islamic Syariat. Muslim scholars opined that the ultimate objective of maqasid al-shariah is the pursuit of justice and to serve the interest of all human beings and save them from harm. It includes five main areas and one of the important area is the protection of life (al-nafs). Islam emphasizes on health care as part of protection of life because Islam prohibits causing harm to one self and encourages Muslims to maintain their health and to take all preventive measures against illness. A good doctor–patient relationship is central to the practice of healthcare and is essential for the delivery of high-quality health care in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Hence Islam propagates a good doctor–patient relationship in the form of justice, ihsan and skill namely to maintain a professional rapport with patients, uphold patients’ dignity and respect their privacy and to be skillful and competent in their treatment. In this article, the authors consider whether Islam acknowledges the rights of patients in terms of patient autonomy and self-respect. Library research of Islamic jurisprudence is used including Al-Quran, Al-Hadith, Ijmak and Qiyas. Findings suggest that patient autonomy and self-respect are important aspects in Islam as part of maqasid al-shariah.

Keywords: Maqasid Al-Shariah, Protection of life, healthcare, doctor-patient relationship
INVESTIGATING FLOOD VULNERABILITY REDUCTION IN MAKASSAR CITY
INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

On-going urbanization, rapid population growth and climate change have increased urban vulnerability to flooding. Flood risks continue in threatening urban dwellers unequally, devastatingly on the poor and marginalized. It is the local government (LG) who is responsible for enhancing community’s resilience to flooding and reducing their vulnerability with equal concern. However, it is not clear how LGs assess flood vulnerability which is not merely caused by the physical exposure of hazards but also by social, economic and political factors that situating individuals or groups into poverty, living in risky habitation, having unequal public service and limited access to resources. Insufficient flood vulnerability assessment may lead to improper response and adaptation options. This study aims to examine how LGs assess and reduce community vulnerability to flooding using local knowledge and experiences, case study in Makassar City Indonesia. By critically reviewing government policy documents and reports and interviews with four city managers and a community leader, this study finds that flood vulnerability assessment and reduction in Makassar have not sufficiently identified the different flood risk posed by individuals or groups in the community. This affects the city flood management system which is mostly carried out with top-down technical solutions such as canalization and flood embankment which do not yet tackle the underlying causes of vulnerability to flooding. This paper suggests a more comprehensive research of flood vulnerability partnering LG, scientists and local communities to develop the most suitable framework in assessing and reducing flood vulnerability of different groups in the community.

Keywords: Climate change, flooding, community vulnerability, local government
VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS
ABSTRACT

The paper examined technological capability as an initial factor in Nigeria’s development agenda, using local refineries in the Niger Delta region as point of reference. It x-rayed the creativity, ingenuity and innovations in the establishment of local refineries in the region. The paper posits that for Nigeria to move from consumption to a productive economy, indigenous technological capabilities in the oil and gas sector must be fully harnessed. The present approach of the Federal Government in destroying the local refineries should be reviewed; rather the ingenuity of the operators should be refined through articulated research and development (R & D). Also, there is the need to review latent laws on refining of Petroleum products and ensure that the host communities are integrated into the development agenda.
THE NEXUS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: A STUDY OF NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Purpose-This paper examines the nexus of economic activities and the environment exploring the validity of the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) hypothesis for Nigeria using time series data from 1981–2013 with deforestation as an indicator (explained variable) for environmental degradation, and four explanatory variables (economic growth, energy consumption, population and trade).

Design/methodology/approach -The Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) bounds testing approach to co-integration and the VECM–Granger causality test were applied using time series data from 1981–2013.

Findings-The results from the analysis confirmed the existence of co-integration among the variables. However, the increasing negative impact of economic growth on deforestation in the long-run invalidates the EKC hypothesis for deforestation in Nigeria. Moreover, trade variable unidirectional Granger causes deforestation. A bidirectional causal effect is detected between deforestation and economic growth and population while energy consumption does not show any causality with deforestation. However, energy consumption, population and trade are found to granger cause economic growth.

Practical implications-The variables under consideration show that they are dynamically interacted though economic growth degrades the environment both in the short and long run and invalidates the so-called environmental Kuznets curve. This implies that sustainable development can be achieved not only through economic progress but also through environmental vitality.

Originality/value-The contributions of this study is to help policy makers proffer policies on how economic activities can be managed to sustain the environment. Therefore, economic goal should not only be recalibrated like measuring GDP as an indicator of economic performance and social progress. Rather, environmental vitality should also be included as an indicator in measuring sustainability.

Keywords: economic activities, environment, deforestation, economic growth, energy consumption, Nigeria
A STUDY OF THE DUSK OF JOGINS: THE SEXUAL SLAVES OF SOUTH INDIA

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ABSTRACT

In the religiously religious land of India, in the hearts of the bifurcated southern states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, there exists the exploitative custom of ritual sexual slavery- the Jogini system (a local variation of the Devadasi system) of marrying young girls to a deity. This social evil has resisted against the legal measures aimed at curbing it till date, despite having been prohibited since the Devadasi Prevention & Abolition of Dedication Act (“Jogini Act”) became a law in Andhra Pradesh in March 1988. Although, education and increasing awareness of human rights has yielded great positive results in terms of the decline in Initiations, yet cases still exist. This paper is based on the qualitative study of two Jogins in the Mahbubnagar district of Telangana, in an attempt to understand the reasons behind the persistent decline yet existence of this practice, through the eyes of those directly affected by it; the Jogins, their families and the community; to get an insight into the ancient practice and how it shapes their lives.

Keywords: sexual exploitation, discrimination, Jogin, slavery, education, India
FAMILY RISK FACTORS AND THEIR IMPACTS ON THE YOUNG OFFENDERS IN VIETNAM

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, youth offending has become a significant threat to public safety in Vietnam. Instances of youth offending have become more severe with the increase in not only the numbers of criminal activities committed by young people but also the seriousness of youth offending. The juvenile offenders committed various types of crime, including the violent and serious crime like murder, robbery, rape and other crimes. Recently, though there was a slight drop in the numbers of young offenders, the seriousness of the offences committed by the young people, however, even increases. Thus, there is an emergent need of investigating the causes of youth offending in Vietnam to formulate better intervention programs. Research had confirmed the significant role of the family as the primary socialization agent and the strongest support for the young people. However, the adverse factors in the family were also identified as significant predictors for youth offending. The previous studies in Vietnam, and other countries also pointed out the significant influences of family factors on the young people and their offending. From the findings of this research, the factors in the family had been identified to have significant effects on young people. This paper will investigate the impacts of these factors on Vietnamese young offenders and their involvement in offending.

Keywords: risk factors, family, youth offending, Vietnam
GENDER EQUALITY: THE NEED FOR ENFORCEMENT OF LEGISLATION IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper studies the struggle for gender equality in Nigeria and findings indicated that despite the ratification by the Nigerian Government on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1985 and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa in 2005; the lives of Nigerian women are yet to attain a commensurate level of improvement, as Nigerian women rank lower than men in all indices of development in the country. The paper also observes that the rights of women enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution are consistent with the ideals of humanism. But unfortunately, the rights and ideals have remained paper tigers, mere theoretical postulations without any practical bearing on the lives and conditions of the Nigerian women. Other findings revealed that despite some positive actions taken by the Nigerian government in promoting gender equality as showcased by adoption of a gender policy in 2007 and establishment of women development centers in all states in Nigeria amongst other credible initiatives; there were salient failures as discovered in the current patriarchal structure of the Nigerian society; and failure of the national assembly to pass the gender equality bill. The paper recommends series of concrete strategies that should be adopted to acculturate gender equality in Nigeria, which should be anchored on legislation of laws, both at federal and state level that premise on promoting gender equality.

Keywords: women, legislature, equality, gender, law, Nigeria
THE IMPACT OF MICROFINANCE LOANS IN SME SECTOR IN SRI LANKA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE WOMEN INVOLVED ENTERPRISES

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ABSTRACT

Developed and developing countries are facing a common problem to alleviate poverty from non collateral women who are in rural areas. Poverty is not only on a steady increase but also wide spread in rural areas. In the quest for solutions to the country’s development challenge and poverty alleviation, microfinance is becoming one of the most popular options as credit has been identified as a barrier facing the poor. Microfinance is poverty alleviation tool which replicating most of the countries in the world. It provides the access to financial services to people specially women who are below the poverty line of the country. In Sri Lanka Microfinance Institutes provide more support to rural women, who have limited controls and power in business and household decision making. This paper analyze factors improving after getting the loans by rural women, comparing loan utilization among small groups, analyze the relationship between characteristics of the rural women and success of the loan utilization and also success factors of loan grating to the rural women in Mahaweli area. In this paper twelve hypotheses were accepted and it shows the significant relationship in income, education, land ownership, savings and decision making with financial, production, marketing, infrastructure, and loans.

Keywords: decision making, empowerment, poverty, impact
FACTORS AFFECTING BODY WEIGHT: THE ROLE OF CIGARETTE SMOKING AND COFFEE CONSUMPTION

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ABSTRACT

The investigation of the factors that affect body weight can be the cornerstone of nutrition and health interventions to prevent and treat obesity. The present study explores the effect of cigarette smoking and coffee consumption on BMI adjusting for various socio-demographic characteristics. Individual level data were collected from a random sample of 2946 German consumers. Since both obesity and smoking are associated with major health consequences, the empirical analysis accounted for potential interactions between smoking and body weight and also addressed the heterogeneous effects of smoking and coffee consumption on BMI distribution using a quantile regression approach. According to the estimations, both cigarette smoking and coffee consumption are negatively associated with the BMI of overweight individuals but appear to have no statistically significant impact on the normal weight and obese groups. In addition, the direction and the magnitude of the influence of the socio-demographic characteristics are found to vary among different BMI brackets. Therefore, nutritional and health promotion programs should be tailored according to the specific characteristics of different consumer segments.

Keywords: BMI, smoking, coffee consumption, ordered probit model, quantile regression