AFRICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

Abstract Book

1st Annual Virtual Conference

Theme:
COVID-19 Response and Resilience: Multi-Sectoral Adaptations, Re-engineering, and Innovative Approaches to Recovery

13th - 14th October 2021

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Preface

The single most important event to affect the entire human race in the first two years of the second decade of the 21st Century was the onset and continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even now that effect continues. As of the time of this writing, according to the World Health Organization, there were over 500 million confirmed cases globally and over six million confirmed deaths due to COVID-19. Elsewhere within the health sector, social-psychological heath has been negatively affected by the pandemic. Beyond the health effects, the pandemic has taken an immense economic toll. Nearly every sector of the global economy has been disrupted: travel, finance, global supply chains, human resource management, just to name a few. As economies closed down, National GDPs slumped while Poverty indices jumped. Governments responded with economic stimulus packages designed to provide some level of cushion to their fragile economies. No less has the global education sector been affected. Schools closed, students were sent home and when some educational institutions migrated online, issues of access and equitability were raised immediately. These are just some of the disruptive effects of the pandemic on our lives!

But humans are a resilient lot! They can adapt and adjust. The past two years have seen countless small and large-scale adaptations to the disruption caused by the pandemic, including Zoom meetings, work from home policies, blended or hybrid learning, online exam proctoring systems, accelerated development and approval of vaccines, better and more effective coordination of national and global health agencies. Some jobs were lost, but other jobs were created. The pandemic, with all its hardship, brought new business, health and educational opportunities and has served as a catalyst for change in nearly every sector and every corner of our world. Without question, the pandemic has brought on a paradigm shift and a "new normal" from which humanity will likely never retreat.

In all of this, research institutions have an important role to play in helping the society at-large to sort out what has happened, to advise on how society should adapt, and then to monitor and evaluate the positive or negative outcomes of those adaptations.

Having the foregoing scenario in mind, Africa Nazarene University (ANU), through the Institute of Research (IOR), organized a virtual conference on 13 – 14 October 2021. The theme of the conference: COVID -19 Response and Resilience: Multi-Sectoral Adaptations, Re-engineering and Innovative Approaches to Recovery. The main objective of the conference was to share the COVID-19 pandemic experiences, lessons learned, research findings, innovations, and presumed solutions to inform policy for the future operations, especially amid the pandemic. The conference drew participants from academia, industry, business, religious sector, science and technology, environment and natural resources, industry, legal society, and a cross-section of professionals across the globe.

This book presents the abstracts of the presentations at the conference. Note that some abstracts are not in line with the theme; students were encouraged to share their research work to enhance their research skills and improve conference experiences. Nonetheless, all presentations contributed to the achievement of the main objective of the conference.

By:
Prof. Rodney L. Reed,
Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic, Research, and Student Affairs

MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSON

Research and innovation are presumed to find solutions to myriad societal challenges, fill gaps in knowledge, and change the way of life. Among the platforms where the research findings and innovations are shared are academic conferences. Africa Nazarene University (ANU), through the Institute of Research, organized a virtual conference, held on 13 – 14 October 2022, to enable conference participants share experiences, practices, and innovations in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Conference presenters from different sectors across the globe presented research findings, recommendations, innovations, and experiences based on the conference theme: COVID -19 Response and Resilience: Multi-Sectoral Adaptations, Re-engineering and Innovative Approaches to Recovery University. The information from the presenters was meant to serve as a source of good practices and lessons learned to inform policy in the post-pandemic future.

This book presents abstracts grouped into the following sub-themes:

i. Global Business innovation trends

ii. Humanities and Social Sciences (Education; Governance, peace and security; Mental health & wellness; Practical theology)

iii. Science and Technology (Innovations & Inventions, Communication & Innovations)

iv. The Environment & Climate Change

v. Law and Society

vi. Industry & Innovation

The purpose of this abstract book is to provide members of ANU and other academics around the world with a resource through which to discover colleagues and additional research relevant to their own work. This purpose is in correspondence with the overall mission of the Institute of Research at Africa Nazarene University.

I would like to thank all the participants, members of the conference organizing committees, the secretariat, editorial boards for putting this conference and its subsequent publications together.

Subsequently, I would like to invite you to the 2nd Annual Virtual Conference to be held on 27– 28 October 2022. The theme of the conference: "Transforming Africa through Local Solutions: A New Paradigm for Research, Innovation and Development" For more information refer to: www.anu.ac.ke

By:
Prof. Orpha K. Ongiti, Conference Chairperson
Dean of Postgraduate Studies and Director Institute of Research

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SUB THEME ONE: GLOBAL BUSINESS INNOVATION TRENDS

Value Creation Strategies and Performance of Commercial Banks in Kenya

By:
Abubaker Ramathan Mukira,Paul Kariuki, PhD
Willy Muturi, PhD
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

ABSTRACT

The Kenyan banking industry has been facing stiff competition from new entrants like mobile phone companies, international banks, and SACCOs. This led to a steady decline in banks' financial results over the years, as reflected in their profit margins. In an attempt to wither competition, they adopted market expansion strategies to realize a more extensive customer base like opening new branches and operating beyond Kenyan borders. Hence, this research aims to examine value creation strategies and the performance of commercial banks in Kenya. The specific objectives were to establish the effect of cost reduction, revenue-raising, elimination of non-productive and financial innovation strategies on the performance of commercial banks. The study also sought to determine the moderating effect of bank size on the relationship between value creation strategies and the performance of commercial banks in Kenya. The study was informed by the innovation theory, value innovation theory, concentration-stability, concentration-fragility theory, and Schumpeter's Innovation Theory of Profit. The study targeted all the 41 commercial banks in Kenya. Senior finance and senior operations managers working in the headquarters of the commercial banks were targeted from each bank. The study used both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected using questionnaires while Secondary information was acquired from the commercial banks' audited financial statements for the period 2014 to 2018. The obtained quantitative data through questionnaires was keyed into the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) computer software (version 22) for analysis. Both primary and secondary data results revealed that cost reduction, revenue-raising, elimination of non-productive elimination, and financial innovation strategies had a positive and significant correlation with the performance of commercial banks. Findings also indicated that bank size had a moderating effect on the relationship between value creation strategies and the performance of commercial banks in Kenya. Therefore, the study recommended that bank management establish measures that reduce operating, overhead, marketing and staff costs to boost their performance. In addition, commercial banks also ought to eliminate products and services that have extremely low-profit margins, retrench staff and agents whose services have been rendered redundant, and adopt business realignment to exit business lines that have high costs and low-profit margins so as they enhance their organizational performance. They ought to continuously launch new services and products to meet customer requirements. These should include real-time and electronic transactions since they enable the bank to serve customers and positively affect commission fee-based income effectively. Policymakers have to be wary of the increasing level of competition in the banking industry and put in place appropriate competitive strategies to mitigate the challenges that come with the competition. These competitive strategies will enhance their performance and eventual survival in the industry.

Keywords: Bank Size, Cost Reduction Strategies, Financial Innovation Strategies, Non-Productive Elimination Strategies, Performance, Revenue Raising Strategies, Value Creation.

Enhancing Accommodation Establishments: The Impact of Psychological Dimensions on Employee Commitment in Accommodation Establishments

By
Bongani Mphirime,
Desere Kokt, PhD
Central University of Technology Free State

ABSTRACT

Covid-19 has impacted all industries and organizations on a global scale. As one of the largest industries in the world, the hospitality industry has significantly been affected by the decline in all forms of travel and tourism that resulted from lockdown regulations instituted by many countries. The hospitality industry has continuous retention challenges and therefore needs to consider employee commitment. This study measured the impact of psychological contract and psychological capital on employee commitment in graded accommodation establishments in the Free State. The study population consisted of four graded accommodation establishments in Bloemfontein and four in Clarens, the free state province's tourist economic zones/towns. 92 questionnaires out of the 150 questionnaires distributed were fully completed. As employee commitment has psychological dimensions, this investigation aimed to ascertain the extent to which psychological contract and psychological capital impact employee commitment within accommodation establishments. The study followed a survey design. A structured questionnaire was administered to nine graded accommodation establishments in Bloemfontein and Clarens respectively. Data was interpreted and analyzed using descriptive statistics and partial least squares structural equation modeling. The results indicated a statistical relationship between psychological contracts and optimism and employee commitment. There was no statistical relationship between hope, self-efficacy, resilience, and employee commitment. The study proposes that employee commitment can be enhanced through psychological dimensions such as psychological contract and psychological capital. A framework is proposed for the management of graded accommodation establishments to improve the prevalence of these dimensions. The study provides empirical evidence of the statistical effect of psychological contract and psychological capital on employee commitment, confirming the impact of psychological dimensions on employee commitment.

Keywords: positive psychology, psychological contract, psychological contract, employee commitment.

Re-skilling for Post Covid-19 Recovery: Evidence from Minority African and Caribbean Micro-business Owners in the United Kingdom

By
Murithi, W. Kolade, O
Ogunmokun, O
Arrieta, T
De Montfort University

ABSTRACT

Recently, a new stream of research has emerged investigating the effects of COVID 19, exploring the different capabilities and responses of industries and sectors to overcome the economic struggles left by the pandemic (e.g., Aldianto et al., 2021; Appel and Hardaker, 2021). However, this new research has not yet focused on understanding business resilience or business capabilities from the perspective of an underrepresented group that relates to business owners from the African and Caribbean communities in the UK. This paper aggregates evidence and insights from a recent intervention project aimed at minority African and Caribbean business owners in the United Kingdom within post-Covid-19 recovery. The Corona virus pandemic has had a significant disruptive impact on the global economic landscape, with many businesses forced to scale down or shut down activities. In addition, resource-constrained micro-enterprises have struggled more, with minority enterprises forced to grapple with the additional institutional and cultural disadvantages associated with positioning as an underserved business community. This paper discusses the outcomes of a series of workshop and mentorship sessions aimed at minority entrepreneurs and how it is shaping their strategy for post-covid-19 recovery. Our paper provides unique empirical insights about minority enterprise coping strategies in crisis situations. Therefore, the paper presents findings from several interventions designed to support African and Caribbean businesses focusing on re-skilling businesses for a new opportunity in the COVID 19 in the United Kingdom. The study has implications for practice and policymakers.

Effect of Participation in Work Decision-Making Process on Turnover Among Nursing Employees at National Referral Hospitals in Kenya

By
Esther Kerubo Nyaribo
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Wario Guyo, Ph.D.
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Romanus Odhiambo, Ph.D.
Meru University

Francis Kangure, Ph.D.
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

ABSTRACT

Voluntary turnover of nursing employees is a major problem worldwide that adversely affects the quality of services and products offered to customers. In Kenya, national referral hospitals have been witnessing high voluntary nurse turnovers, and this has affected the quality of services and products provided to customers. It is argued that job satisfaction helps curtail turnovers. One of the facets/dimensions of job satisfaction is employee participation in the work decision-making process. The study's general objective was to establish the effect of employee participation in the work decision-making process on turnover among nursing employees at national referral hospitals in Kenya. Thus the study sought to determine the effect of employee participation in the work decision-making process on turnover among nursing employees at national referral hospitals in Kenya. The study adopted mixed methods research design using descriptive survey design with an exploratory approach and used simple random sampling to select a sample of 315 respondents from a target population of 1779 registered nurses. The study used questionnaires to collect both qualitative and quantitative data. The questionnaires used in the study were self-administered. Positive responses were received as valid from 261 respondents out of the sampled 315 respondents giving an 83% response rate. The study generated both qualitative and quantitative data. The data was analyzed descriptively using measures of central tendency and inferentially using correlation tests and a multiple regression model. Quantitative data was analyzed inferentially with the help of a statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 21. Qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis. Correlation analysis was used to test the direction of the relationship between independent and dependent variables. The study found that employee participation in the work decision-making process contributes positively but significantly to nursing employees' turnover at these hospitals. The findings of this study show that it is imperative for the employer at NRHs to put in place an urgent job satisfaction strategy and specifically emphasize employee participation in the work decision-making process to help curtail and manage the turnover of employees more effectively. This will lead to their retention for longer, which will help improve the quality of services they provide to customers. This will be a positive contribution to helping the country achieve its Vision 2030 and the Kenya Constitution of 2010 requirement, which is the provision of quality healthcare for all. Organizations should consider employee participation in the work decision-making process and its contribution in curtailing or managing turnover of employees effectively to provide quality products or services to customers.

Key Words: Employee participation in the workplace decision-making process, employee turnover, nursing employees, quality of services, products, national referral hospitals.

Effect of Credit Size on the level of Non-performing loans in Commercial Banks in Kenya

By
Dalla, N. O.
Muturi, W.
Ngumi, P
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

ABSTRACT

The study's general objective was to establish the effect of bank-specific factors on the level of non-performing loans in commercial banks in Kenya. Specifically, the study sought to establish the effect of credit size on the level of nonperforming loans in commercial banks in Kenya. The target population for the study was all the forty three commercial banks in operation in Kenya as of 31st December 2014. The sampling frame was the list of all licensed commercial banks in operation as of 31st December 2014 listed in the CBK Annual Supervisory report of 2014. The study used both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected by questionnaire in 2016. Annual secondary data was collected for the period 2003-2014 from Central Bank Annual Supervisory Report, The Banking Survey, and commercial banks published reports for use in the study. The research used an explanatory research design. A census was used. The study considered all the forty three commercial banks in operation as of thirty first December 2014. Data was analyzed to obtain descriptive and inferential statistics.

The panel regression model was used to establish the effect of credit size on the level of non-performing loans. The conditional tests carried out before panel data analysis were the normality test and the Durbin-Watson test for autocorrelation. Correlation analysis established the extent of the relationship. The study findings indicated that credit size affects the level of non-performing loans in commercial banks. A change in the credit size affects the level of non-performing loans. The study recommends that the Central Bank of Kenya should strengthen its prudential lending guidelines. It should also enhance its supervision of commercial banks to ensure adherence to the prudential guidelines. Staff in the Credit department are to be adequately trained on the loan appraisal process and attend capacity-building training from time to time. This will enable them to keep abreast of the current credit administration processes.

Entrepreneurial Orientation Posture on Customer Satisfaction Within the Service Industry in Kenya: A case of Tropical Promoters Limited

By
Kirima,L.K, PhD
Gachanja. C,
Vundi A.N
Africa Nazarene University, School of Business.

ABSTRACT

There are sporadic business environments and amplified customer attrition due to competition from substitutes and complementary products. Globally, competition is attributed to the proliferation of technological advancements, which has led to the creation of high-quality products at low production costs. This is geared towards addressing the degree of customer satisfaction. The purpose of the study was to determine the influence of entrepreneurial orientation posture on customer satisfaction within the service industry in Kenya. The study was anchored on the blue ocean strategy and disconfirmation theory. Descriptive research design was adopted. The target population was the 60 corporate customers of Tropical Promoters Limited, thus the use of the census sampling method. Primary data was gathered through the use of questionnaires. Quantitative data was analyzed through the use of descriptive and inferential statistics. Piloting was carried out, and reliability coefficients were calculated, and all were greater than 0.7, which revealed that the research instrument was reliable. Regression analysis revealed positive and significant effect of entrepreneurial orientation on customer satisfaction in Tropical Promoters Limited (β= 0.399, t (54) = 4.94, p value< 0.05). It was concluded that there is a need for Tropical Promoters to devise measures geared to the development of products and services which will usher Tropical Promoters Limited into the blue ocean. Tropical Promoters Limited risk measurement and management strategies should aid in achieving customer needs. There is a need for Tropical Promoters Limited to devise measures geared toward gathering and consolidating information that would aid it in achieving a competitive advantage.

Key Words: Entrepreneurial Posture, customer satisfaction

The Role of Women in the Disruptive Season of Covid-19: A Case of St. Paul's University Women Heads of Departments.

By
Kirima L.K. PhD
Vundi A.N.
Gachanja C
African Nazarene University, School of Business.

ABSTRACT

Although the men dominate leadership and senior management positions worldwide, there is a need to examine the gender diversity implications to corporate Governance with an emphasis on the women's leadership and how they have influenced this disruptive Covid-19 season. There is a need for a mixed model of leadership and management. This means moving from the masculinity model to integrating feminism for efficiency purposes due to diversity in the way decisions are made in the organizations (De Beaufort & Summers, 2013). Descriptive research design was adopted. The target population was the 10 St. Paul's University Women Heads of Departments, thus the use of census sampling. Primary data was collected by the use of questionnaires. Analysis of the data was done through descriptive. Piloting was carried out reliability coefficient was calculated and was more significant than 0.7, revealing that the research instrument was reliable. Regression analysis revealed positive and significant effects of women's leadership during the disruptive season of Covid-19 at St. Paul's University. It was concluded that women leaders/senior managers largely/significantly influenced the institution's success through the disruptive season of Covid-19 because they were able to communicate appropriately and bring effectiveness in light of multi-dimensional challenges caused by the current pandemic and created a competitive advantage for the University.

Keywords: Women, Corporate Governance, Leadership, Management, pandemic

Investing Decisions and Financial Performance of Manufacturing Firms in the Building and Construction Sector in Kenya

By
BM.Muli, W. Muturi,PhD, J. Matanda, PhD
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

ABSTRACT

Given the prevailing situations, investing decisions need to be analyzed based on several factors. Part of the responsibility of financial managers is making investment decisions on behalf of the organization. Investing decisions relate to the choices made by top-level management in the firm regarding the projects to undertake to maximize the shareholders' wealth. Top management considers the available projects or operations and appraises them to ensure that the return of the ones undertaken is higher than their costs. They involve investment in capital projects for long-term generation of returns. When making the investing decisions, the decision-makers decide whether adding the capital assets of the firms today enhances the revenues of the firms in the future to cover the capital costs and other expenses from the assets. Critical considerations in investment decision-making include risk, return, costs, the timing of cash flows and costs, and financing sources.

The study used a cross-sectional research design. To analyze this particular study, a total of 44 manufacturing companies in the building and construction sector operating in Kenya and with annual revenues of over Ksh. 5 billion were taken. Primary data was obtained for investing decisions and financial performance. The data was analyzed using STATA statistical software. Descriptive and inferential statistics were obtained. A regression model linking investing decisions and financial performance was obtained. The model showed a declining financial performance. The study further obtained financial statements for the firms from 2015 to 2019. Trend analysis of the data showed declining financial performance. The regression model had a coefficient of determination of 0.6623, indicating an explanatory power of 66.23 % of investing decisions with respect to performance. In addition, the results revealed a p-value of 0.000 for the coefficient of investing decisions. This indicates that investing decisions as measured by a practices index reflecting portfolio diversification, risk management, and research and development positively affect the financial performance of manufacturing companies in the building and construction sector in Kenya. Financial performance was measured by profitability and revenues. Overall, the results indicate that the firms' profitability in Kenya's building and construction sector can be enhanced by reflecting a good portfolio diversification policy, proper risk analysis techniques, and conducting research before the commencement of any investment venture.

Key Words: Investing decisions; Financial Performance; Profitability

Effect of Strategic Business Agility Enablers on Performance of Postal Corporation of Kenya, Nairobi County

By
James Muya, PhD
Kisii University
Priscila Omagwa, PhD
University of Eldoret
Ann W. Thuo
Kisii University

ABSTRACT

The current business environment is vibrant, volatile, turbulent, and unpredictable. A business's success in such a sporadic environment is pegged on its adaptability to sense and react to environmental change quickly. As a result, many businesses have devised their own business strategic abilities to adapt to the ever-changing business environment to remain a going concern. The general objective of the study was to investigate the effect of business strategic agility enablers on firm performance.

The specific objectives were to; establish the effect of innovation on firm performance, examine the effect of Information Technology Integration on firm performance, find out the effect of human resource capability on firm performance and determine the effect of management commitment and support on firm performance. The study employed Knowledge Based View (KBV) theory, Resource Based View (RBV) theory, and Dynamic Capability View (DVC) theory. The study used a descriptive survey research design. A stratified random sampling technique of a sample size of 274 from a population of 866 employees at Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK) was used. Data was collected using closed-ended questionnaires. Supervisors and research experts were used to ascertain the validity of the study instruments. Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to determine the reliability of research instruments. The descriptive statistics used standard deviation, mean distributions, variances, tables, and frequency distribution percentages to display the study findings.

Inferential statistics of multiple regression analysis was used to show the relationship, while Pearson correlation analysis was used to show the strength of the relationship. Innovation, Information technology, and management commitment and support were highly correlated with performance from the study findings. Human resource capability showed a weak positive correlation with performance. The study found out that business simulation, encouragement of new business strategies, and new product development innovation positively affected performance at PCK. Additionally, the embracement of management information systems (MIS) and the existence of a non-hierarchical business network positively affected performance. Recruitment and selection process at PCK on job demands, the organization conducting firm regular explicit training to its employees were also found to have a positive effect on the organization's performance. The study further concluded that management commitment and support highly influenced the performance of PCK through the existence of employee encouragement practices as well as reasonable remuneration and overtime payments.

Key Words: Strategic agility enablers, performance, Innovation, ICT integration.

Covid-19 Response and Resilience: Multi-Sectoral Adaptations, Re-Engineering and Innovative Approaches to Recovery

By
Gabriel Juma Okumu, PhD
Kenya Institute of Management

ABSTRACT

Global trends provide businesses with a broad range of options to increase their revenues. The COVID-19 Pandemic, coupled with tremendous technological innovation in the last decade has fundamentally re-defined businesses and changed the way we live and work. It is envisaged that this will only accelerate further in the coming decade. Consequently, companies that take heed of the major technological trends today will lay the foundations of the digital enterprises of the future. This paper reviewed the global business innovation trends that are likely to shape the new future and its implications on businesses in Kenya. The paper further analyzed pathways that businesses can adapt to remain relevant and profitable. The study was a descriptive desk-top review of literature with a view to gaining a deep understanding of technological trends that will underpin global business in the 21st century. Purposive sampling was used to select journal articles, research papers, dissertations and other academic publications. The systematic review method was used to identify and analyze the literature on the global technological trends. The reviewed papers were sought from different search engines such as Google scholar, Google and Yahoo. With each identified article, snowballing was used to identify more articles from references therein. The key recommendations have been discussed and a framework to guide businesses transition to the technological innovations developed.

Key words: Emerging Technology, Digital, Innovation Trends, Analytics, Big Data.

The Investment Spectrum and Financial Performance of Pension Funds in Kenya

By
Roba Adan A.B, Muturi M, PhD,
Mouni G. PhD
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

ABSTRACT

Different pension schemes have posted different financial performances. A detailed study was required to determine how financial performance of pension funds was affected by the investment spectrum adopted. The main objective of this study was to assess the influence of investment spectrum on the financial performance of pension funds in Kenya. The specific objectives of the study were to establish how financial performance of pension funds in Kenya is affected by investments in the government securities, quoted equity investments, immovable property, guaranteed funds and corporate bonds. The study also determined the moderating effect of membership on the financial performance of pension funds in Kenya. A descriptive research design was used with data collection form used to gather secondary data. The target population for this study was 1,258 registered schemes as per RBA as at 31 December 2020. The sample consisted of 294 registered schemes. Secondary data was obtained from the Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) for the study variables for the five-year period between 2015and 2019. The data was analyzed using multiple linear regression and subjected to diagnostic tests. The study findings revealed that Kenya Government Securities had a negative and non-significant impact on performance of firms; quoted equity had a negative and significant impact on performance of firms; immovable property had a negative and significant impact on performance of firms; guaranteed Funds had a negative and non-significant impact on performance of firms and Listed Corporate Bonds had a negative and significant impact on performance of firms. Further the study findings revealed a statistically significant moderation effect of membership on the influence of independent variables (Government Securities and Listed Corporate Bonds) and financial performance of pension funds in Kenya. However, the moderation effect of membership on the influence of guaranteed funds on performance was not supported. Based on the study findings, the study concluded that investment spectrum indeed influences the financial performance of pension funds in Kenya. It further concluded that government securities and guaranteed funds had a negative and insignificant influence on pension fund performance whereas quoted equity, immovable property and listed corporate bonds have a negative and significant influence on pension funds' performance. The study also concluded that membership had a significant moderating influence on all the variables except guaranteed funds which was not significant.

Investments in Technological Innovation and Financial Performance of Small Scale-Tea Industry in Kenya

By
Vicky Obanyi Mobegi
Tabitha Nasieku, PhD
Samuel Obino Mokaya, PhD
Bichanga Walter Okibo, PhD
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

ABSTRACT

The Agricultural sector in Kenya has been facing the challenge of increased cost of operations as a result of outdated technology. The purpose of this study was to establish the effect of technological innovation investment on financial performance of small-scale tea industry in Kenya. The study variables were investments on Fermentation innovations, Pruning innovations, Weighing innovations and Information systems innovations on the financial performance of small-scale tea firms in Kenya. Theories explored were; Schumpeterian Theory on Innovations, Efficiency Theory, Technology Acceptance Model and Theory of Innovation Diffusion. The targeted population was 66 small scale tea factories in Kenya. Secondary data for a period of 5 years (2014-2018) was used for analysis using a panel regression model. Person correlation results indicated that investment on technological innovation, significantly associated with financial performance of small-scale tea industry. Before introducing technological innovations in the tea sector, cost of tea production in Kenya was high compared to other producing countries that earlier incorporated tea production technological innovations in the tea sector. In 2013 the cost of tea production in Kenya was USD1.33 per kg, while in Vietnam it was USD 0.81 per kg. In India, the cost of tea production was USD 0.96 per kg, and in China it was USD 0.72 per kg. In Kenya, technical innovations in the tea sector were introduced in the year 2014.However, it is not empirically clear whether technological innovations in the tea sector brought more benefits in terms of increased tea production or costs surpassed the benefits. Panel results revealed that there was a positive and significant relationship between investment on technological innovation and financial performance of small-scale tea industry in Kenya. The study recommends the management can consider acquiring more fermentation machinery, invest on pruning machines, acquiring electronic weighing machines, acquiring modern machinery and information processing systems to aid in the generation, storage and relaying of data on tea prices, quantity and costs.

Keywords: Financial performance, Industry, Investment, Technological innovation, small-scale tea farmer

Analysis of Economic Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Kenyan Economy

By
Siringi, Elijah Mirwoba
The East African University

ABSTRACT

COVID-19 virus can be described as one of the worst global pandemic ever experienced in the 21st Century. Focusing on the pandemic the study's main objective was to analyze direct and indirect economic effect of COVID-19 pandemic and establish the extent to which the virus has affected Kenya's key economic sectors contributing to the country's GDP. Anchoring the study on the economic analysis theory, the study adopts a content analysis methodology to make inferences. Data analysis results indicate that COVID-19 poses an unprecedented disruption of economic activities in Kenya with the positivity rate of 2.8% as at 8th October, 2021. The confirmed COVID-19 cases are 250,898 and cumulative tests conducted stand at 2,598,722 in the same period. The study further indicates that delta variant dominant in the country has exacerbated the pre-existing fiscal vulnerabilities. Kenya's current account deficit has declined drastically in capital flows. The GDP in 2020 shrank to 1.1% down from. 5.7% in 2019.The country on the other hand is experiencing risk of collapse of health systems that are under pressure from spread of the virus; households have fallen into poverty; and a huge number of losses of employment have been experienced across all sectors estimated to about 4. 64 million. Whereas the Kenyan Government focuses on re-engineering the economy by implementing economic stimuli package of fiscal, monetary, wage, and social protection policies aimed at arresting the economic recession. The study recommends that in the short term, the government may consider increasing health infrastructure development; engage in extensive program of mass testing and vaccination of Kenyan citizens; engage in sovereign debt restructurings; expand affordable loan programs to the informal sector; and, increase cash transfers to cushion vulnerable households as a strategy of enhancing recovery of the economy.

Key Words: Covid-19 Pandemic Effects, Kenyan Economy, Economic Growth Rate, GDP

SUB THEME TWO: COMMUNICATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

GIG-Konnect' Platform as Digital Cloud Computing Service

Brian Kimurgor Karoney
Africa Nazarene University,
School of Science and Technology

ABSTRACT

Covid-19 pandemic has upended the normal ways of doing things; either economically, socially and more specifically the interactions in the digital world. It has accelerated the cloud computing services which have revolutionized the dynamics of IT industry. This has contributed to the development of flexible, accessible, functional, highly reliable, and more powerful and secure platforms which have been widely embraced to mitigate the harsh effects of covid-19. On the other hand, it has created an opportunity and shifted focus to inventions which have significantly contributed to the scalability and progress of business, companies and boost service providers. Also, it has boosted an attempt to bridge the mismatch of skills of graduates and the skills needed in the market. The paradigm shift to embracing cloud-computing services can be used to tap the huge smart phone penetration or rather smart phone ownership to create employment opportunities and bridge the skyrocketing issue of unemployment especially among the youths in Kenya. Presently number of companies is trying to adopt this new technology either as service providers, enablers or vendors by establishing strong roots and ready to hit the market with better technological problem solving solutions. Evidently, this can be achieved entirely by focusing on utilizing the available technological advances at our disposal. Significantly, in order to mitigate the issue of unemployment, this paper, focused on creating a digital oriented platform service provider. This can be realized by coming up with a cloud computing service which amalgamates the three cloud models such as software as a service, platform as a service and infrastructure as a service, to create a platform namely 'Gig-Konnect' to tap and fill in the gap of online service seekers and connect them to service providers. Its focus is to review the benefits of cloud computing services and break barriers in adopting cloud computing and provide an opportunity to the people with skills and lack platform to show case their skills.

Animation Film Portrayals of Health Matters During the Covid-19: The Case of Selected Films in Kenya

By
Raphael N. Ogutu, PhD
Africa Nazarene University,
School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

ABSTRACT

Animation films have the potential to communicate film stories, entertain and educate viewers. These films employ character/s depictions or representations or portrayals in their discourse strategies. This study is a semiotic research analysis of five Kenyan animation films in 2-Dimensional (2D) and 3-Dimensional (3D) representations, composition, and communication of health matters during Covid-19 in Kenya. Moreover, it is about the how in the film structure and what a narrative in the film is portrayed through artistic styles, using techniques like mise-en-scene. Mise-en-scene is setting or scenery, props, and behaviour of performers. Analysis of selected film via narrative styles, non-diegesis, and diegesis such as music, and various sound effects offers another perspective of the film structure. The population is limited because this is a new phenomenon and therefore the sample is only five animation films related to Covid-19 produced in Kenya. Furthermore, it explores deep semiotic interpretation of animation films in qualitative research and focuses on subjective interpretations. The main objective of this study is to investigate animator's use of particular animated communicative forms in addressing Covid-19 health matters in Kenya. The research instrument is a code book used for film observation and to record text related to the film, and semiotic analysis is used to analyze, understand and interpret signs, the meanings of signs, and the interaction of signs and sign systems in the films. This study hence is set to determine the semiotic content and communicative artistic form of five selected Kenyan animated films. There is therefore an association and meaning gaps between what viewers ought to see, with what film animators can offer about how they structure and show their animation film content of Kenya. In view of that, this study is about visual meaning and composition of the animation film in Kenya, using selected films during the Covid-19 pandemic. It will contribute in the field of animation film studies in Kenya. Film animators in Kenya use both deliberate and envisaged efforts as an avenue of addressing Covid-19 causes, transmission and prevention.

Automated GIS Story Creation and Telling of Difficult Subjects

By
Kurt Johnson
Miami University

ABSTRACT

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are currently used in a variety of research and presentation platforms and outlets to present hard to explain data in a mapping environment. This current method works, and works well, however it requires that the presenter spend significant amounts of time and research becoming literate in GIS mapping systems, and then not only showing, but explaining the presentation. To solve this problem this project was designed to allow the researcher to focus their efforts on the data and story telling while providing an immersive experience for the end-user. The end result is a system which auto-generates and then runs a kiosk based story telling system, including allowing the end-user to experience images, audio and video all related to the exact location and current time of the presentation. The original case data used in creating the story telling system was based upon the historical events surrounding concentration and extermination camps of WW2, with the very first train from the Warsaw ghetto on July 22, 1942 to Treblinka II. This was the beginning of the extermination camp phase of the Holocaust in Poland and a difficult subject to explain, and explore, especially for students who have barely heard about the topic, much less studied it in depth. The system was designed to provide a way for students to understand this deportation from both a high-level historical view while including an understanding of the personal consequences for those involved. The current system is comprised of a web based configuration system whereby the researcher prepares and tests the data, and a web based display system, suitable for a kiosk, for end users to explore the story. This includes time based movements on the map, along with images, videos and sounds, all based on current location and time. Along with this rich data are hard data showing the implications of this journey. In the case of the above train, it displays starting populations, and then how many escape, die or are still living based on weather, travel conditions and genocide. Planned updates to the system include a full attribution system, the migration to a serverless cloud environment, GIS mapping system updates and the addition of computer simulation tools.

A Review of Bandwidth Management Techniques and Their Appropriateness for Use for the Current Spikes in Bandwidth Demand Caused by Covid-19 Mobility Restrictions.

By
Kithinji Joseph
Mutua Stephen
Meru University of Science and Technology
David Gitonga
Chuka University

ABSTRACT

While it has been a challenge to meet bandwidth demand in the past in most organizations, the covid-19 pandemic has caused bandwidth demand to surge significantly due to teleworking and social distancing rules. Bandwidth being a limited and expensive resource over provisioning is not the viable option in these tough economic times. However management of the available bandwidth if implemented well can improve quality of experience among users in the network. In this paper a literature review of the various bandwidth management techniques available based on the TCP/IP model has been done. The results indicate those techniques based on network access layer are easy to implement while those in the network layer introduce additional overhead when used. Further the results shows that at the network layer and transport layer there is room for a lot of flexibility. At the network layer there could be policies implemented using routers to manage bandwidth dynamically. Even though there could be additional overhead for running the algorithm well-designed algorithm would require negligible computation time. At the transport layer varying window sizes could be used to dynamically adjust bandwidth. However the application layer uses bandwidth caps which are static and therefore not ideal for handling spikes in bandwidth demand. It is expected that the findings of this paper will provide insights and guidelines to systems administrators when choosing appropriate bandwidth management technique to use specifically in response to spike in bandwidth usage caused by the Covid-19 containment measures.

Media Reports on Opportunities and Challenges of Online Learning During Covid-19 Pandemic: The Case of University Education In Kenya

By
Raphael N. Ogutu, PhD
Africa Nazarene University,
School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

ABSTRACT

Covid-19 or Corona as commonly known has brought about the “new normal”, and everybody has to adjust to a new way of living. World over lifestyles and working conditions have been interrupted, learning and teaching is one of them. It was predicted that it was going to be a disaster of tremendous magnitude the moment Covid-19 virus lands in Africa. This paper is an on-going research about media reports on opportunities and challenges of online learning in higher institutions of learning in Kenya during Covid-19 pandemic. Online education was previously underutilized as emphasis was on face-to-face; however, the current pandemic has compelled higher education system in Kenya to rely on it and to develop strategic plans to implement it. This study is a qualitative research design, and its purpose is to employ qualitative thematic content analysis to analyze themes emerging from data on the opportunities and challenges of online teaching and learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. These themes, which are the population, are articles which were reported by the 2 main media houses Kenya, The Standard and Nation media groups. Thematic analysis helps researchers understand those aspects of a phenomenon that participants talk about frequently or in depth, and the ways in which those aspects of a phenomenon may be connected. The research instrument is a reflexive journal entry diary for recorded text related to the topics and data analysis through thematic analysis that is a method for identifying, analyzing, organizing, describing, and reporting themes found within a data set. The Sampled articles for this study are a small sample size of 30, which qualitatively is large enough to allow the unfolding of a new and richly textured understanding of the phenomenon under study, as well as for deep analysis. The way forward is to use virtual labs and gamification tools for practical units, use of open resource materials, investigate factors influencing the acceptance of online learning, educational training using in blended modes of learning, and choice of appropriate tools for teaching online education in Kenya.

Adoption of Technology and Promotion of Graduate Programmes: The Case of Graduate-Hub

By
Simmy Mwita Marwa, PhD
Hannah Bula, PhD
Gabriel Juma Okumu, PhD
Graduate hub

ABSTRACT

The novel corona virus that broke out in Wuhan China led to global physical closure of businesses, sports activities and vast majority of schools worldwide. Data from UNESCO revealed that in the education sector, over 1 billion and 575 million students in nearly 188 countries around the world were reported to have been affected by the closure of schools and universities due to preventive measures taken by countries against the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, the circumstances created by COVID-19 caused a great deal of distress among students. However, unlike in China where majority of learning institutions adopted online learning almost immediately, In Kenya the government responded to the pandemic by closing all schools, colleges and universities for a whole year leading to great apprehension among graduate students. It is against this backdrop that Graduate-Hub was formed with the aim of providing support programmes to graduate students to ensure they remain on track and are able to navigate through the challenges posed by the pandemic to complete their graduate programmes on time. Graduate Hub leveraged technology to design and implement various interventions to safeguard uninterrupted access to various programmes to ensure graduate students were kept on track. This paper therefore explored the efficacy of the various initiatives introduced by Graduate Hub to support graduate students during the pandemic. The paper further analyzed verbatim feedback from graduate students who had registered as members and gone through various programmes introduced by Graduate Hub to mitigate against the pandemic.

Key words: Graduate programmes, Technology, E-learning, Initiatives, Covid-19 pandemic.

Stepping Up Resilience Against Corona Virus Scourge Through Viral Memes: An Incongruous Theoretical Approach

By
Ogal George Ouma
Ntabo Victor Ondara
Laikipia University

ABSTRACT

The ravaging impact of Covid-19 on all sectors of the global economy cannot be gainsaid. Although much attention has been directed to the role of innovative approaches in mitigating the pandemic, the place of viral memes in reinforcing resilience has attracted little scholarly ink. Against this backdrop, therefore, the present study set out to investigate the role of humorous memes in initiating and reinforcing positive response to the Corona virus pandemic. Memes are typically humorous texts, images or videos that are rapidly spread by internet users with varying degrees of variations. The organic ideas compete for recognition while at the same time acting as the vehicle for disseminating contemporary phenomena. Using purposive sampling and deductive content analysis, the chapter analyzes 14 memes collected from Face book in terms of their humor types and role in promoting responsible behavior. The general finding of this study is that the virality of Covid-19 awareness memes depends on the likeability, forwarding and sharing of humorous content. Through humor types such as silliness, comparison, surprise, pun, comparison, hyperbole, and sarcasm, meme creators make witty banters to amuse people and expose the incongruities between their current situation and the recommended global response strategies. Further, the study found out that memes use different types of humor to not only entertain the audience but also foster behavior change. We conclude that behind the doses of laughter in the Covid-19 related memes, there is a covert appeal to observe the Corona virus protocols and embrace positive behavior. The study, therefore, recommends that social media users who consume memes should dig beyond humor to unmask the response and resilience measures implied in the photos or texts.

Keywords: Memes, Corona virus, humor, incongruity, virality, resilience.

Utility of Real Time Digital Data on the Recovery Trajectory of Youth Businesses From Covid-19 Effects in Nairobi; Kenya

By
Wanjiru Nderitu, Ph.D.
Africa Nazarene University, Business School.

ABSTRACT

The outbreak of the novel Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) in China (December 2019) instigated the spread of the virus globally which triggered massive global crisis of unprecedented scale and character (Niewiadomsky, 2020).This stemmed into travel restrictions, lockdowns, and quarantines that have affected production and disruptions of value chains. In Kenya, crisis on health and the cost of living has posed an economic recession that will impact most Livelihoods for a long time. This study sought to establish how utility of real time data contributes towards the recovery trajectory of youth businesses in Nairobi; from the economic effects of Covid -19 pandemic. The study used a sample size of 248 youth members who were selected from the target population of 700 youth led business owners; using both simple random and proportional random sampling procedures. The study adopted descriptive survey and co relational research designs using participatory action research approach. Research instruments entailed questionnaires interview guide and structured forms for content analysis. Qualitative data was analyzed and presented in themes narratively while quantitative data was analyzed descriptively using percentage frequencies, mean, and standard deviation. Inferentially, Pearson Correlation Coefficient and multiple regression analysis were used as tools of analysis to test for significance among the variables. The findings of the study revealed among others that, digital data skills had a statistical significant value of (β=.624, $t(247)=16.1, p \leq .05$); meaning that enhancing business resilience may indirectly enhance a range of other capacities. This implied that multifaceted approach is necessary to achieve a resilient recovery trajectory pertaining to youth businesses. The study recommends the adoption of digital real time data technologies to transform youth businesses through financial modeling, including creation of digital products and services supported by the use of online platforms.

SUB THEME THREE: THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Bird Species Composition and Diversity Along an Ecological Gradient on Mount Kasigau in Taita-Taveta County, South East Kenya

By
Bernard Amakobe
Wildlife Works

ABSTRACT

Interactions of bird species with their biotic and abiotic environment influence their occurrence and spatial distribution. This is because physical and biological conditions vary along an ecological gradient. Elevation gradient, vegetation mosaic and climate variations can influence avifaunal diversity and assemblages. Birds being very good indicators of the state of the environment can be used to demonstrate the impact of these changes on species communities especially in an Afromontane environment in face of unprecedented habitat loss and vagaries of climate change. This study assessed trends in avian diversity, distribution and composition along an elevation gradient and different vegetation mosaic at Mount Kasigau. Birds were captured at various elevations using mist-nets set on a 300-meter-long transect per each ringing ecotone from 850 meters up to 1,550 meters above sea level. The captured birds were identified and ringed and their sex and ages determined, through a series of biometrics such as body mass, wing, and tarsus, and molting. The habitats were mapped, vegetation cover, canopy height and dominant plant species along transects were determined. Four habitats related to altitude were used: bushland (850-1104m), woodland (1105-1327m), evergreen forest (1328-1546m), and montane cloud forest (1547-1640m). Data was analyzed using both descriptive statistics and inferential statistics Plant species recorded on the mountain were 84 belonging to 36 families. Plant species composition decreased with increase in altitude from 48 species and 23 families in the bushland; 27 species and 15 families in the woodland; 18 species and 17 families in the evergreen forest; and 15 species and 13 families in the montane cloud forest. Bird species richness recorded on the mountain was 53 species belonging to 31 families and the relative abundance ranged between 1.9 and 11.3. Relative abundance of bird species ranged from 0.24 to 10.78. There were temporal differences in bird species diversity over the seven (7) year period of the study (2011-2019) and these differences were statistically ($p < 0.05$) significant. There were no statistical ($p > 0.05$) significant correlation (r) between bird species diversity and the mean annual rainfall distribution. Bird species distribution was related to differences in altitudinal physical (abiotic) conditions and biotic (vegetation differences). To guide the conservation of bird diversity the conservation interventions should be geared at safeguarding the integrity of these valuable ecosystems. Conservation managers can use these results to detect, measure and accurately predict range shifts to promptly mitigate impacts on biodiversity.

Natural Resource Project - Induced Displacement and Resettlement and Its Effects on the Well-being of Communities Displaced from Titanium Mining Areas of Kwale County, Kenya

By
Catherine Kanini Ndunda
Mount Kenya University
Mark N. Mutinda
Africa Nazarene University, School of Science and Technology.

ABSTRACT

Natural resource development projects tend to cause involuntary displacement and resettlement of communities to areas far from their original home. The displaced communities face a lot of challenges in their new homes, which affects their livelihoods and well-being leading to impoverished communities. This study aimed at studying the effects of these involuntary resettlement programmes on the well-being of the displaced communities using the case of Titanium mining in Kwale County, Kenya. A stratified random sample of 234 households was selected from three ethnic communities (Digo, Duruma and Kamba) from a sampling frame of 600 households that were resettled by the titanium mining project. A pretested structured questionnaire was used to collect data. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data in a Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS version 26). The socioeconomic well-being of the settled communities was found to be of medium level (range 5.0 to 6.99) with a mean of 6.43 on a scale of 1 to 10. Statistically significant positive effects were found to exist between the well-being of the settlers and provision of social amenities (β=.871, t=22.82, p<.001) and community social organisation (β=.410, t=2.77, p=.006), while significant negative effects were found to exist between the well-being and the number of people living in the household (β= -.265, t=3.40, p<.001). Age and agency coordination were found to have no significant effects on well-being of the resettling communities. It was recommended that the provision of social amenities and initiation of community social organizations to the settling communities could be useful in enhancing their well-being and should be given priority when assisting the resettling communities.

Land Use and Cover Changes and their Effects on Elephant Home Ranges and Distribution In Mara Landscape, Narok County, Kenya

By
Lokitela Peter Erot
Mark Ndunda Mutinda
Africa Nazarene University, School of Science and Technology.

ABSTRACT

The Maasai Mara landscape supports one of the richest wildlife populations remaining on earth but over the last century, it has experienced land transformation notably through conversion of former rangelands used mainly for tourism and production of grains such as wheat. Elephants like other landscape species, have both temporal and spatial requirements, which if not provided, will render them vulnerable to the land-use practices of people. The study aimed to assess the changes that have occurred in land use and land cover within the Maasai Mara landscape using remote sensed data from 1997 to 2017; examine the elephant distribution in relation to land use and land cover changes within the Mara landscape and to determine changes in elephant home ranges in relation to Land use and cover changes in the Mara landscape. In examining the land use and land cover changes on the elephant ranges and distribution, an integrated methodological approach was employed in which the changes that have taken place within the study area over a period of 20 years was determined by analysis involving a 10-year changes in land use and land cover using three epochs from 1997, 2007 and 2017. Six spectral signatures were identified each representing a land use/ land cover class and classification was finally carried out using Maximum Likelihood Classifier for each epoch in conforming to Land Cover Classification System. The study found out that there were significant changes of various classes across the years. Distribution of elephants has been restricted to high densities within a specific habitat hence accelerating rate of habitat destruction and degradation due to their high densities within a specific habitat. These changes have reduced drastically foliage for elephants thus necessitating them to travel longer distances in search and as a result increases elephant home ranges.

Keywords: land use change, land cover changes, Maasai Mara Landscape, elephant distribution, home ranges.

Determinants of the Effectiveness of Payment for Ecosystem Services Scheme in the Upper Catchment Areas of River Malewa in Nyandarua County, Kenya

By
Eva Chepkorir Malel1
Mark Ndunda Mutinda1
Benard K. Kirui2
1Africa Nazarene University, Kenya
2Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya

ABSTRACT

Human beings have been exerting growing impact on earth's ecosystems as they seek various ecosystem services resulting in ecosystem degradation. To mitigate degradation, motivational approaches such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) have been used to provide incentives to land owners to undertake environmental conservation measures. Due to degradation in River Malewa upper catchment resulting from agricultural production, PES scheme was introduced to provide incentive for farmers to carry out environmental conservation measures with a view to enhancing water quality and quantity in River Malewa which recharges Lake Naivasha. The aim of this study was to evaluate how selected factors affect the Effectiveness of Payment for Ecosystem Services (EPES) scheme in River Malewa upper catchment, Nyandarua County. A descriptive survey research design was used. A stratified random sample of 260 respondents was interviewed using a structured questionnaire. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The study found out that the majority of the farmers had very significantly ($\chi 2$ =137.36, df=2, p<.001) high levels of EPES (M=4-5 on a scale of 1-5). Land use diversification (agro-pastoralism) was found to have higher effects on the EPES than crop and livestock farming. Significant positive relationships were found between EPES and capacity building (β= 430, t=7.657, p< .001), mode of payment (β= 494, t=9.133, p< .001) and land tenure (β= 313, t=5.273, p< .001). No significant effects were found between EPES and socio-economic characteristics of the farmers (age, sex and land size). It was concluded that to have an effective PES, the scheme should have a secure land tenure system, capacity building, diversified land use types, and a good mode of payment system in order to design and upscale future PES schemes for the management of natural resources for sustainable environmental services.

SUB THEME FOUR: HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (EDUCATION)

University Preparedness for Online Teaching and Learning Amid COVID–19 in Kenya

By
Stanislaus Agava,
Sahaya G. Selvam, PhD
Judith Pete.
Tangaza University College

ABSTRACT

Globally, the COVID-19 pandemic took institutions of learning and the workplaces by surprise. Offering online learning was an alternative for institutions of higher learning. Were the Kenyan institutions adequately prepared for this? The present study had three specific objectives: (a) to establish the status of policy-preparedness of online teaching and learning in Kenyan universities; (b) to explore the infrastructural-preparedness of the universities; and (c) to find out the level of competency-preparedness of lecturers and students in embracing the facilities for online teaching and learning. The study had an embedded mixed method research design. Data was gathered using an online questionnaire, from 112 lecturers and 372 students, who were conveniently sampled, representing 34 universities and university colleges, drawn from a population of 74 universities in Kenya. Quantitative Data was analysed using descriptive statistics and relevant inferential as per research questions and the nature of data (such as chi-square; Mann Whitney U test, t-test, Pearson's test for correlation). Qualitative data was used to compare and contrast with the numerical results. Findings suggest that almost all represented institutions have a policy on online teaching and learning, though 50% of participant's report that the policy did not exist prior to the onset of COVID-19. On the level of infrastructural preparedness, the personal ownership of digital devices among participants is very impressive, though 50% of institutions do not provide any device. Thirdly, the level of competency in the use of the three sets of online platforms for teaching and learning, namely, Learning Management Systems, Facilitation Technology, and Teleconferencing, is far below the expected average, but this is improving since the onset of COVID-19. Lecturers have statistically more perceived competence than students ($p<.01$). The implication of these results is discussed. And we conclude that the period of forced online teaching and learning need not be considered as a stopgap measure during COVID-19. The outcome of the study is likely to offer insight for the management and faculty of the Kenyan universities to improve their digital-based teaching and learning. It challenges the competency of faculty and students in self-learning and lifelong learning.

Keywords: COVID-19 pandemic, Learning During COVID-19; Online Teaching and Learning; Kenyan Universities; Digital Learning Preparedness; Learning Management System.

Influence of Ecological Social Transformation Management Interventions on Teenage Pregnancy: A Study of Teenage Mothers in Public Secondary Schools in Mombasa County, Kenya

By
Joseph Theuri, PhD
Jacob Jeketule, PhD
Susan Gitau, PhD
Africa Nazarene University,
School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

ABSTRACT

Girls, who become pregnant as teenagers, eventually drop out of school creating a significant challenge for education in many underdeveloped nations. Despite efforts to address the issue, the COVID-19 pandemic worsened the situation, with Kenya reporting a 40% rise in the country's monthly average for teen pregnancy as a result of lockdowns. Furthermore, there is a scarcity of focus literature on the subject. As a result, the purpose of this study was to: assess the impact of ecological social transformation management interventions on teenage pregnancy: a study of teenage moms in Mombasa County, Kenya. Specifically, the study sought to establish the influence of family-based interventions; assess the influence of school-based interventions; explore the influence of community-based interventions; influence of faith-based interventions and; moderating influence of government measures on teenage pregnancy. The study was anchored on Ecological Systems and Problem Behavior Theories. The cross-sectional study adopted descriptive survey design. The unit of observation was seven public secondary schools in Mombasa County. The study sampled 349 girls from a population of 3,801 form three girls using the simple random sampling technique. The study also selected 15 guidance and counseling teachers and seven principals from the seven schools targeted as well as 8 ministry of education officials and 30 religious' leaders from the county using the purposive sampling technique. To deal with attrition, the study included five more guidance and counseling teachers, 50 more girls and five more religious leaders. Data from students was collected using survey questionnaires while the school principals, guidance and counseling teachers and the ministry of education officials were interviewed using interview guides. On their part, the religious leaders took part in focus group discussions. Data from interviews and FGDs was analyzed thematically and the results obtained used to validate those from students' questionnaires. The findings of the study show that there was significant relationship between dependent variables (Family-Based Interventions, School-Based Interventions, Community-Based Interventions, Faith-Based Interventions and Government Measures) and the independent variable (Teenage Pregnancy).The study further found that there are high levels of teenage pregnancy in the community. However, the study deduced that government measures about sex education reduced chances of the girls becoming pregnant. The study recommends that religious organizations and parents need to give more support to programmes that educate teens on how to avoid early pregnancy.

Keywords: Family-Based Interventions, School-Based Interventions, Community-Based Interventions, Government Measures, Faith-Based Interventions; Teenage Pregnancy, Ecological Social Transformation; Management Interventions

Covid-19 Pandemic and Online Learning Experiences: The Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

By
Kimani Gichuhi, PhD
Stephen Githii
Victoria Mukami
Africa Nazarene University,
School of Business.

ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about an unprecedented change in the way the educational sector is run. Numerous country lockdowns meant the closure of all physical educational facilities for lengthy periods. While online learning has been lauded as a viable alternative to physical classes during the numerous closures, it has been marred by various challenges. The challenges vary from unreliable internet access, lack of focus by the students due to the nature of the online environment, lack of personalized learning, mediocre course content to lack of preparation by the students and facilitators. The study focused on the following objectives i) understanding the students' experiences of online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, ii) identifying the challenges faced by students during online learning, iii) determining the effect of student challenges on online learning and iv) proposing recommendations for improvement of online learning. The study employed a qualitative approach to data collection to maximize the richness of research findings. An online survey was used for data collection with NVivo being employed for thematic analysis. The target population was 947 students who were actively involved in online learning during COVID lockdown in the year 2020. Out of this population, 274 students were randomly targeted for the study with a response rate of 51.5%. Of the respondents, 91.1% had one or more challenges with online learning. A majority of the students' hailed the online registration process, preferred the evaluation process found in the online environment with indications of improved grades. Students indicated that it was challenging to transition from physical classes to online with high costs of data, poor network connectivity and unreliable electricity exacerbating the situation. Student recommendations included the provision of data bundles by the university, better scheduling of virtual classes, timely feedback, faculty availability for consultation and prior setup of groups to make the transition to online learning easier. After the COVID-19 lockdown, learning institutions tried to fill the gap by switching fully to online learning. The researchers observed that while online learning filled the gap especially at Africa Nazarene University, it was not without its challenges as highlighted by the study. Based on the findings of the study, the researchers make the following recommendations. First, the university should prioritize the training of faculty and invest more in online learning. Second, there should be a proper mechanism for supporting students throughout their online learning journey. Finally, more investment by the African governments for infrastructure will ensure reliable electricity and an increase in Internet coverage. This will in turn support the efforts by universities to promote online learning.

Effect of Covid-19 Pandemic on Social and Economic Well-being of Families Living in Kibera Slum in Nairobi County

By
Rodgers Shijenje Lukano
Africa Nazarene University, Business School.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to determine the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on social and economic well-being of families living in Kibera slum in Nairobi County. Specifically, the study looked at the prevalence of COVID-19 among families living in Kibera slum and the innovative strategies used by families to cope with the adverse effects of COVID-19. The study adopted a descriptive research method. The study population comprised of all household heads in Kibera slum. A total sample of 300 household heads was considered in this study. A structured questionnaire that contained closed ended questions was used to collect data from the respondents. Random sampling technique was used in this study where the researcher administered the questionnaire individually to all respondents and maintained a register of the questionnaires sent out and received questionnaires to guide on the response rate. The questionnaire was administered using pick and drop and pick later method. The researcher used telephone calls and personal visits to follow up on the respondents to ensure that they complete the questionnaires and submit them back. Data collected was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential techniques specifically correlation and regression analysis at a 95% confidence interval in order to examine significance of the relationships between the variables where analyzed data was presented using tables and figures for ease of interpretation. The study found that the pandemic has led to closure of businesses, employees working from home and redundancies. The study concludes that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic downturn, many people's mental health in slums has deteriorated, and new barriers have emerged for those who already suffer from mental illness or drug and substance abuse disorders. Due to fear and tension over the Corona virus, the majority of the people are experiencing particular negative effects on their mental health and well-being, such as difficulties sleeping or eating, increased alcohol use or substance usage, and worsening, chronic diseases. The study recommends counseling sessions for those who lost their jobs and reverted to alcohol and drug and substance abuse, and also government and other well-wishers including NGOs to come up with programs that would ensure people gain temporary employment opportunities to feed their families including provision of credit facilities to small business enterprises to cushion their businesses.

Key words: COVID 19 pandemic, Social and economic well-being, Kenya slums, Household heads

KICD'S Innovative Strategies to Supporting Learning During Covid-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Lessons Learnt

By
Joel Mabonga, PhD
Kenya Institute of Curriculum Studies (KICD)
Orpha K. Ongiti, PhD
Africa Nazarene University, Education Department

ABSTRACT

To stem the spread and fatal impact of Covid-19 pandemic, the Government of Kenya ordered the closure of all Educational Institutions in Mid-March 2020. Fifteen million learners in primary and secondary schools were sent home. The closure of schools was followed by a directive from the Minister for Education that called upon the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) to facilitate learning for the period that students were at home. The KICD, a semi-autonomous agency of the Ministry of Education, came up with innovative interventions including up scaling remote learning programmes for learners who were at home. This paper adopts an experiential methodological approach (EMA) that incorporates desk – based research to examine KICD's interventions on the back drop of global remote learning practices. Literature related to this study domiciled at KICD and online were analyzed to bring out the debilitating impact of Covid-19 pandemic on learning in Kenya, strategies put in place by KICD to ensure continuity of learning, successes and challenges of the KICD interventions, lessons learned and recommendations towards a resilient remote learning in Kenya. This paper brings out salient considerations in initiating and institutionalization of remote learning and makes recommendations for targeted investments, capacity building for blended learning and enhancement of strategic partnerships to avert loss of learning in future unprecedented seasons.

Key Words: Curriculum, Competency Based Curriculum, Remote learning, Primary School Learners, Secondary School learners

Competency-Based Training in the Era of COVID-19: Dilemma, Strategies and Prospects

M.K. Barifaijo
J.L Nkata
R.R. Okello
A.T. Nshakira
R.M. Nansubuga
J.F. Namukas
Uganda Management Institute

ABSTRACT

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, education institutions have resorted to abrupt transition to emergency remote learning, thereby diminishing competency-based training strategies, which might impede applicable graduate skills and competencies at all levels of education. The paper proposes a model of Practical, Relevant and Constructive Curriculum Alignment (PRACCA) to be used in mitigating training gaps by all educational institutions in order to guide the alignment of curricula towards the content for sustainability and address current and future societal challenges for continued learning and other training strategies. The authors found how technology-assisted learning through zoom and other computer-assisted modes have replaced physical interaction, thereby diminishing instructional strategies that develop competencies among the learners. Using Friedrich List's Innovation Systems (IS) approach (1789 - 1846), the paper concludes that; considering that education is a key enabler of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, as well as responsible for knowledge generation and dissemination, there is need for innovative and comprehensive strategies to develop competencies and skills required for world of work. Similarly, education leaders need to be more strategic and think proactively and move beyond managing the 'anticipated' to managing 'unanticipated' adversities that lead to institutional resiliency, sustainable strategies, high reliability and develop the required competencies among learners. The paper recommends immediate review of existing curricula to incorporate critical competencies in order to mitigate similar future adversities that left education leaders, educators and researchers perplexed.

Key words: competency-based training, computer-assisted learning, innovative systems

Teacher Preparedness in Using Computer Based Tools to Teach Children With Hearing Impairment

Pamela Mkamburi Kiletta
Orpha K. Ongiti, PhD
Eric N. Osoro, PhD
Africa Nazarene University, Education Department

ABSTRACT

Computer based instruction tools can succeed in advancing the quality of learning for people with disabilities by making children with hearing impairment (HI) more self-directing. This paper focused on investigating teacher preparedness in using computer based tools to teach children with hearing impairment under the guidance of the Technological, Pedagogical and Content Knowledge (TPACK) theory. This was a correlation survey design and information was gathered through a mixed-method strategy of research instruments. The target population comprised of 15 head-teachers and 705 lower primary school teachers from 15 primary schools offering integrated learning in Taita – Taveta County. Sample size of 263 made up of 8 head – teachers and 255 teachers was obtained. Head – teachers were selected purposely while teachers were selected using random sampling. Quantitative data was collected using teacher questionnaire, while qualitative data was collected using interviews from head – teachers. Validity of data collection instruments was estimated using opinion of the university lecturers and other skilled personnel in the department of education while reliability of the data collection instruments was approximated using pilot – testing. The reliability index of the piloted instruments was accepted at Cronbach's alpha > 0.70. Normality of data was tested using Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk (W) tests. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages were used to analyze quantitative data from questionnaires, while inferential statistics for example regression analysis and Pearson correlation coefficient were used to analyze quantitative data. On the other hand, thematic framework was used to analyze qualitative data. Appropriate interpretation, discussions and recommendations were derived from the analyzed data. The key findings revealed that teacher's personal characteristics such as age and gender influenced computer use and ICT tools accessibility was found to be a barrier to ICT use. The teachers were found to have weak computer skills with sampled schools not having a standby technician. Thus, all the above challenges hindered teacher preparedness to use ICT in teaching learners with hearing impairment. This paper concludes that when teachers' personal characteristics are enhanced, ICT tools made accessible, teacher-training improved and technical support availed, teacher preparedness will improve. This paper recommends the need for regular refresher ICT courses, need for schools to make proper electricity installation with standby generators, improved networking and purchase solar powered computers.

Key Words: Teacher Preparedness, Teachers' Personal Characteristics, Computer-Based Tools, ICT Training, Technical-Administrative Support

Pedagogue.21: Training in Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century During and Beyond COVID-19 in Kenya.

Sahaya G. Selvam, PhD
Ngure Githinji
Don Bosco Youth Educational Services, Nairobi

ABSTRACT

What will be the nature of study, work, and life by 2050? While we thought 2050 is a remote possibility, COVID-19 has forced us to leap-frog our strategies in study and work. Definitely, the 21st century calls for a new set of competencies in the realm of teaching and learning, and preparation for the world of work: self-learning, collaborative learning, digital proficiency, information literacy, intellectual agility, and skills in communication, creativity, and critical thinking. Are the educational institutions in Kenya ready for it? Are our teachers up for the demand of the times? The lockdowns and the subsequent closure of educational institutions necessitated by COVID-19, largely put our teachers and learners out of gear. We need solutions that will not only assist us in dealing with the requirements of remote teaching and learning, but also equip our teachers to accompany learners in acquiring the necessary competencies for the 21st Century. Pedagogue.21 is a hybrid (online and face-to-face) training programme evolved by the Don Bosco Youth Educational Services (Nairobi) reaching out to teachers and educators in rural and urban, secondary and technical educational institutions in Kenya and Tanzania. Since October 2020, this cost-effective initiative has trained almost 200 teachers in five cohorts, drawn from over 30 educational institutions. The aims of the paper presentation are: (a) to provide background to the challenges of teaching and learning in the 21st century; (b) to present the theoretical background to Pedagogue.21 training; (c) to describe the modality and content of the training; and finally (d) to present a case of an institution where the training has been successfully implemented, thus pointing to the learning points. The paper is likely to enthuse participants of the conference towards learning more about teaching and learning in the 21st century

Remote Learning for Learners with Hearing Impairment During Covid-19 Era and Beyond

By
Boniface Njuguna Mwangi, PhD
Senior Lecturer at Africa Nazarene University
Naomy Aluso Kwendo
PhD (Special Education) student at Kenyatta University

ABSTRACT

On March 15, 2020, the Kenyan government closed all learning institutions nationwide in response to COVID-19. The Education Ministry developed online content for school going children that was accessed through various channels to ensure uninterrupted learning for learners in the country while at home. However, there were many learners that were excluded from remote learning due to myriad challenges. The purpose of this study was to establish the challenges encountered by learners with hearing impairment since the onset of Covid-19 with a view of exploring on strategies that will ensure access and equity in provision of quality education for this category of learners. The study used descriptive research design. The study targeted 60 class 7 and 8 learners, and 28 teachers from three special schools in Vihiga County. The sample frame consisted of 18 hearing impaired learners and 8 teachers who were selected through simple random sampling. Learners' questionnaire and teachers' interview schedule were employed to gather information. Both qualitative and quantitative data were analyzed. The study found that the virtual mode of learning cut off many learners due to lack of internet access, electricity and lack of appropriate gadgets. Learners with special needs such as hearing impaired were especially most affected since they highly depended on their instructors. Although the resumption of physical learning while observing health protocols has been a welcome relief, it has inadvertently created new educational challenges for students with hearing loss such as the loss of visual cues and auditory-signal attenuation from face masks, reduced access to sign language interpreters, and lack of captioning or transcripts for online lectures or meetings. Identifying current educational challenges will enable audiologists, teachers of students who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing, and other school personnel to improve educational access, learning, and engagement for students with hearing loss. It will also ensure continued access to provision of quality, equitable and inclusive education during and after the pandemic.

Keywords: Remote Learning, Hearing Impairment Learners, Covid-19, Health protocols

Aligning Online Higher Education Pedagogy to meet Learners' Needs during and post COVID-19 pandemic: the Kenyan Private University Context

By
Orpha K. Ongiti, Ph.D.
Africa Nazarene University, Education Department
Beth Wokabi
Africa Nazarene University, Education Department

ABSTRACT

Online education is not a new phenomenon in the academic arena. However, COVID -19 pandemic forced learning institutions, including universities to close and migrate to Online education, enhancing the profile of online learning to the center of teaching and learning. Unfortunately, most African universities were not equipped for digital learning, and found themselves in the deep end, learning and adapting while continuing to offer online learning.

This study explores the preparedness for online learning for both faculty and students, and the adaptations that took place to align the learning to the learner needs at Africa Nazarene University. The university carried out surveys among faculty and students to assess their preparedness for online learning, and to gauge how effective this mode was compared to the face-to-face mode of learning. The data was collected using Google forms that were emailed to all the students and faculty who were enrolled or teaching in the January, May and September trimesters of 2020. Over 500 responses were received for each survey from the students, while 46 responses were received from faculty. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, while qualitative data was thematically analyzed. The findings revealed that most faculty members had basic knowledge in online teaching but identified areas of support as further training on online pedagogy, and technical training on online complementary technologies. While faculty were generally comfortable with the online mode, the students faced many challenges such as; access to reliable internet, devices to work with, challenges working remotely without easy access to peers, lecturers, and lack of electricity at home. This raises the issue of equity in student's access to online education. These findings have informed the university interventions, which have included training for both faculty and students on online pedagogy, as well as partnerships to provide both students and faculty with devices and data bundles to facilitate online learning.

Key words: Online education, pedagogy, higher education, learners need

Instructional Techniques and Academic Performance of Distance Learning students in Selected Kenyan Public Universities

By
Rebecca Mwikali Wambua, PhD
Africa Nazarene University, Education Department

ABSTRACT

Distance Learning is a mode of study in which educators reach many learners in diverse locations at reduced costs unlike the conventional mode study. However, one of the major concerns of researchers in distance learning is the issue of students' academic performance. In developed countries, research findings indicate that there is no significant difference in performance between distance learners and on campus learners or traditional students but in developing countries, similar researches revealed contradictory results. This study sought to determine the influence of instructional techniques on academic performance of distance learning students in selected Kenyan public universities. The study adopted an ex-post facto design. Two public universities namely Kenyatta University and the University of Nairobi were purposively selected for this study. These two universities have offered distance learning programmes for more than 10 years. The target population consisted of 847 Bachelor of Education (Arts) third year distance learning students, 149 lecturers who teach Bachelor of Education (Arts) third year distance learning students and two administrators in charge of distance learning programmes in the selected Kenyan public universities. The sample size from the selected Kenyan public universities consisted of 475 Bachelor of Education (Arts) third year distance learning students, 125 lecturers teaching Bachelor of Education (Arts) third year distance learning students and 2 administrators in charge of distance learning programmes Data was collected through, questionnaires, interviews, document analysis and the instrument for measuring academic performance. Descriptive statistics used to summarize qualitative data were mean, frequencies and percentages. Inferential statistical procedures were used to analyze quantitative data. The test of hypothesis established that instructional techniques, positively and significantly influence students' academic performance. The findings support the Systems Theory which underscores the importance of all elements of an institution. The study has contributed to the existing body of knowledge by establishing that instructional techniques influence students' academic performance. The study recommends that a similar study be done in selected Kenyan private universities to test whether the outcome will be different.

SUB THEME FIVE: HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY)

The Response of South Sudan Government Towards the Global Covid-19 Pandemic

By
AMP – AMULE MOSES PAULINO
Africa Nazarene University

ABSTRACT

Since the declaration of the novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) outbreak on 11th of March 2020 by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a global pandemic, a country engulfed with on-going civil war has tried to avoid its effects. However, as the disease continued to spread further through the African continent and East African Region, the War-torn South Sudan needed to careful standardize its response to avert a dangerous escalation. As stated by the ministry of health on the 29th of September 2021, 27 new cases were reported in the country tallying to 11,981 cases in different states. The total fatalities registered remains at 128 persons in the whole country, after the ministry of health had conducted test of 230,886, in which 11,570 cases have recovered since the virus was confirmed in 2020. The purpose of this research was to analyze the responses taken by the government of South Sudan to avert the spread of the dangerous disease (COVID-19 pandemic) in the border counties of Yei, Morobo, Lainya and Juba counties. The study aimed at specifically: establishing government efforts towards mitigating COVID-19 pandemic health risk on the internally displaced persons and voluntary returnees, evaluating government responses in terms of assistance (cash and food) to the vulnerable groups amongst the internally displaced persons and voluntary returnees. The study also aimed at assessing government strategies towards provision of opportunities to school going children among the IDPs, and voluntary returnees and establishing government efforts toward averting the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the internally displaced persons and voluntary returnees. The study used methodology design that combines quantitative and qualitative studies to gather the required data for the analysis. Conspiracy theory, aging theory and control theories were adopted to analyze the responses taken by the government of South Sudan to avert the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. A conceptual framework was adopted to demonstrate the interrelationship between the social dilemma theory and the phenomena. The researcher considered a target population of 240 interviewees both young and aged persons for the study. The selection was made in Juba, Lainya, Morobo and Yei towns for a random sample size of 72 young and aged persons. In order to gather evidence for this study, the researcher used both the questionnaires and the interview guides. The instruments were pilot tested in Yei and Lainya town on interviewees with identical features to evaluate reliability. Finally, in terms of substance and face validity, the test instruments were checked. Using informative statistics (frequencies, means & percentages), data obtained shall be stored, evaluated and displayed. Windows version 25.0 was included in the data collection by The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). The verification of the hypothesis was carried out at $\alpha = 0.05$.

Covid-19 Curfew Rules Precipitate Fair Sentencing Claims from "Battered Men Syndrome" Convicts in Kenya

By
Charles A. Khamala, PhD
Kinyua Wanjohi
Africa Nazarene University, Law School

ABSTRACT

In spousal homicide cases, the man is invariably at fault, labelled as the "perpetrator," ostensibly disregarding the evidence he tables or the circumstances. Conversely, the woman is predominantly the "victim."Invariably, battered women may claim battered women syndrome (BWS) as a mitigating factor in a bid to procure a lenient sentence. Most probably they will succeed, unlike for men. Yet the society is now witnessing a change of roles. Since March 2020, Covid-19 restrictions in Kenya include night curfews, a ban on public gatherings and limited attendance to houses of worship, political or social gatherings. This paper considers the application of the BWS defense, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, where economic and emotional strains are causing increased tensions within the family domain. We interrogate sentencing disparities that come with BWS and how the Kenyan criminal justice system is appreciating the use of BWS as an emerging alternative defense. The paper applies two main criminological theories, namely Merton's strain theory and Wolfgang's victim precipitation theory to explain increased domestic violence. They establish what precipitates spousal homicides and the criminal law's response to increased family-based crimes within and outside this pandemic. Distinctions between BWS in connection to loss of self-control, on one hand and self-defense and provocation on the other, are elaborately discussed in our comparative survey of criminal law statutes and cases. Following the Kenyan Supreme Court's landmark Muruatetu decision, mandatory death sentences are unconstitutional. Nowadays, in spousal homicide cases our courts may mete out lenient sentences. However, men are yet to benefit from "loss of control" defense. Nonetheless, like cases should be treated alike. Sentencing disparities between abused men and women who kill their partners, while the latter are sleep, are therefore unconstitutional. We conclude that, if women can assert BWS, men should equally be able to assert "battered men syndrome" where evidence exists. Most prominently, it is realized that battered men undergo double trauma of partner violence and being disbelieved. Hence, in seeking sentencing reforms, this paper inquires into whether "slow burn" or "cold anger" mitigating factors are available to men, including pre-Muruatetu convicts. If not, is it a gender-biased rule?"

Key Words: Abusive relationship – battered women syndrome – Covid-19 curfew – gender-biased sentencing – Kenya – "loss of control" – manslaughter – murder – provocation – self-defense.

SUB THEME SIX: HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (PRACTICAL THEOLOGY)

The Influence of Innovativeness on Sustainable Competitive Advantage of Islamic Commercial Banks in Kenya

By
Mohamed A.
Omwenga Q.J.
Wario G.
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

ABSTRACT

In the past few years, the Islamic finance sector has surpassed the average growth rate attained by conventional banking as well as overall financial industry. However, despite the global growth trend, the Islamic banks in Kenya have reported declining profits with First Community Bank's (FCB) net profit plunging by nearly half and Gulf African Bank (GAB) reporting slower growth in earnings. Thus, the main objective of this study was to assess strategic determinants of competitiveness of Islamic commercial banks in Kenya. One of the study objectives was; To examine the influence innovativeness on sustainable competitive advantage of Islamic commercial banks in Kenya. This study was informed by Resource-Based View (RBV) Theory, Dynamic Capability theory, Porter's Theory and Configurational Theory. The study followed pragmatism paradigm and employed both descriptive and explanatory research design. The study targeted 210 HOD, managers and supervisors from the headquarters of the 5 banks offering Islamic banking (2 were fully fledged Islamic banks and 3 conventional banks were offer Islamic banking services). Stratified and Simple random sampling was used in this study to select 111 sampled respondents. The study used questionnaires to collect primary data. The primary data was collected using interviews and questionnaires which comprised both open and closed- ended questionnaires. To find out the reliability of the instruments, the instruments were reviewed to find out if they could yield same results after pre-testing. The reliability of the instrument (questionnaire) was analyzed using Cronbach's alpha. Data was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The study used Multiple Linear Regressions to test hypothesis 1 to 5 while Hierarchical Regression for Testing Moderation Effect hypothesis. The findings showed that Shari'ah governances moderated the relationship between leadership, strategic planning, adoption of technology and sustainable competitive advantage. This implies that shari'ah governances enhance the relationship between leadership, strategic planning, adoption of technology and sustainable competitive advantage. It is therefore recommended that the top management of the Islamic commercial banks to embrace good leadership practices, undertake and encourage proper planning, focus on innovation (systems, process, products features, business practices and service market) as well as allocate resources to improve skills of employees so as to realize and sustain competitive advantage.

Key Words: Innovativeness, Strategic determinants, Sustainable competitive Advantage

Christian Solidarity and Love Among Believers in Response to Covid-19 Effects.

By
Patrick Mburu Kamau, PhD
Africa Nazarene University
School of Religion and Christian Ministry

ABSTRACT

Charitable giving is well-grounded in Biblical teaching towards affected believers. Both the Old and New Testament provides practical teaching and examples geared towards alleviating problems associated with pandemics and other notable disasters. The Old Testament tells of various stories of abject poverty resulting from periods of conquest. Psalm 112:9 crowns it all by saying giving charity arms to the needy is a godly act. The book of Acts 11 and 1 Corinthians 9 shows a charitable collection in response to the great famine that affected the believers in Palestine. Various parables in the New Testament show Jesus' teaching on how to deal with physical wants as a sign of solidarity and love towards the body of believers. Since the onset of the Covid19 pandemic in 2019 to date many believers have been left in a state of reduced proficiency, while others are in destitution due to limited resources resulting from income loss. Whether in rural or urban areas, covid19 effects are being felt globally. Various resource-generating industries and small sector firms have been largely affected. Several Christians who were able to meet their basic needs are left in a state of powerlessness and physical want. This would then beg the question of how the Christian community would better respond to the effect associated with Covid-19. Therefore, this article will focus on Christian solidarity and love among believers in response to Covid19 effects. The Biblical interpretation methodology to be used in this article is the mimetic quality of a text. Mimetic quality entails the relationship between the real world and the world of the text to gain meaning and application. This helps the reader to discover some truth to which the author of a biblical text pointed to and its application to contemporary society.

SUB THEME SEVEN: HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS)

Challenges in MHPSS Intervention Strategies in Kiambu County: Reflection on the Rising Cases of Suicide and Gender Based Violence During COVID -19 Pandemic-Kiambu County

By
Gitau Wambui Susan, PhD
Ngugi Wanjiku Joyce
Africa Nazarene University,
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

ABSTRACT

Following COVID – 19 pandemic in the country, between April – June, 2021 Kiambu county was leading in suicide cases with 376 out of 483 cases in Kenya. Kiambu was the third highest in Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) cases from the GBV hotline 1195 reports by Citizen Digital, August 2022. Other challenges include high levels of alcohol and substance abuse among the youth, teenage pregnancy and child sexual abuse. These mental health related challenges are a big threat to the development of the county and the nation at large. Absence of data for evidence-based interventions is a huge gap that requires the good will of all stakeholders. There is a critical need for collective response by professionals, county leaders and researchers to develop MHPSS intervention strategies to address these psychosocial issues.

Key words: Mental Health Psychosocial Support, Advocacy, Capacity, Leadership and Governance

Influence of Selected Psychosocial Factors on Learners' Performance in Science Subjects in Public Secondary Schools in Moyale Sub-County, Kenya

By
Joash Mwandike Kirui
Kenyatta University
Veronica Kaluyu, PhD
United States International University- Africa

ABSTRACT

Science subjects form the bedrock upon which the study of science, technology and engineering lies. However, academic performance in Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) science subjects has been poor over the years; hence the need to investigate causes of unimpressive performance in sciences. The purpose of this paper was to examine influence of selected psychosocial factors on learners' performance in science subjects. This paper was guided by Social Cognitive Learning Theory and Psychoanalytic Theory. Descriptive survey design guided this paper. Target population was 1292 consisting of 9 principals, 64 science teachers 588 parents and 631 learners from 9 public secondary in Moyale Sub-County. Sample size of 296 made up of 3 principals, 14 science teachers, 135 parents and 144 was obtained by use of Bertlett, Kotrilik and Higgins formula. Principals and parents were selected purposively while learners and science teachers were selected using stratified random sampling for observation. Data was collected using questionnaire for learners, interview schedules for principals and parents, and observation checklist for science teachers. Validity of data collection instruments was tested using peers and experts while reliability of the data collection instruments was estimated using pilot-testing. The reliability index of the instruments was accepted at 0.70 Cronbach's alpha. Collected data was coded and analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically in line with the research objectives. Statistical analysis such as counts, frequencies, percentages, tabular matrices and charts were used to examine descriptive statistics whereas hypothesis testing was computed using analysis of variance (ANOVA). Among the major findings are: (1) science anxiety significantly influences learners' performance in science subjects ($\eta 2$=.850); (2) parental involvement significantly influences learners' performance in science subjects ($\eta 2$=.798). Furthermore, the study found evidence to conclude that: very high science anxiety may influence learners' performance by lowering learners' performance in science subjects (Mean = 16.83, SD = 5.10); very high parental involvement may influence learners' performance by increasing learners' performance in science subjects (Mean = 56.32, SD = 4.73). The study recommends that since the school is the second home to a learner; principals, teachers and parents should strive to develop adequate learning environment where learners are free to consult them when in need, provide reading materials and arouse interest in learners to work hard. Future studies should investigate ways to reduce science anxiety and make science more interesting and less stressful to learners, particularly to female learners.

Key Words: Learners' Performance, Parental Involvement, Science Subjects, Science Anxiety, Peers Influence, Poor Performance, Psychosocial factors Teacher Preparedness.

Relationship between Institutional Child Support Intervention Systems and Child Delinquency. A Case of Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers in Kabete Constituency, Kiambu County

By
Mutahi.V,
Ngure. J, PhD
Osoro. E, PhD
Africa Nazarene University,
School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

ABSTRACT

Child delinquency is alarmingly increasing global phenomenon that is characterized by persistent antisocial behavior, where delinquents offend the society with their aggression and may harm themselves as well. Considerable resources have been deployed by various governmental and non-governmental agencies in trying to address the vice, only with dismal success. In spite of the efforts made by governments, psychologists, families and religious entities to curb child delinquency, there is still reported an exponential increase of the problem nationally and globally. It is for this reason that this study endeavored to establish the relationship between institutional child support intervention systems and child delinquency in Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers in Kabete, Kiambu County. The objective of the study was to determine the relationship between institutional support intervention systems and child delinquency in Kabete, Kiambu County. The target population was 118 comprising of juvenile delinquents admitted in KJRC and DGRC, managers, teachers/trainers and children welfare officers in the centers. The research employed descriptive research design and used census method for sampling. Juvenile questionnaire was used for collecting data from juveniles and in-depth interview schedules on the managers, teachers/trainers and children welfare officers. The study was guided by Brofenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory. Pilot study was done in Tumaini Rehabilitation Center with 20 participants, where its result of Cronbach Alpha (α) = 0.76 qualified reliability of the research instruments. Research expert examined the content for criterion validity. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze data. Tables were used to present the data while mean was used to show the distribution of data. Simple linear regression was used to test if there was any relationship between the child intervention systems and child delinquency. Institutional support was given to the delinquents through the academic programs, vocational training and administering of strict discipline in the center. Although the technical programs offered in the center are few and limited in scope, they have however significantly helped delinquents to find purpose in life. Findings indicated that there existed positive relationship between institutional support and rehabilitation of delinquent children ($R=0.938$, $P<0.05$). The study concluded that institutional support intervention systems played a significant role in the rehabilitation of delinquent children. It hence recommended introduction of secondary section as well as increase of variety of technical courses in the centers. The study may benefit the education policy makers, national and county governments as well as institutions as they develop programs for alleviating child delinquency.

Keywords: Delinquency, institutional, intervention, support, reformation and alleviating

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Program: VIRTUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE *13-14, October 2021*

Theme of the Conference: '*COVID -19 Response and Resilience: Multi-Sectoral Adaptations, Re-engineering and Innovative Approaches to Recovery*'

DAY 1: Wednesday *13th October 2021*

Time: 8:00 am-3:00 pm (East Africa Time)

	Session 1: Opening of Conference	
	Moderator: Dr. Simon Obwatho **Rapporteur:** Dr. Victoria Mukami	
Time	**Activity**	**Responsible**
8:00-8:15am	Registration of conference participants	Ms. Mary Wambui Ms. Imelda Ndomo Mr. David Kanyi
8:15-8:25am	Welcome Address, prayer, and Introductions by the chair of the conference	Prof. Orpha Ongiti
8:25-8:35am	Deputy Vice Chancellor's Welcome address and introduction	Prof. Rodney Reed
8:35-8:55am	Vice Chancellor's Welcome address	Dr. Stanley Bhebhe
8:55-9:00am	Introduction of Guests	Dr. Simon Obwatho
9:00-9:30am	Keynote Address	**Amb. Simon Nabukwesi**
9:30-9:35am	Q & A	Dr. Patrick Kamau
9:35-10:05am	Speech by Guest Speaker	**Dr. Manu Chandaria**
10:05-10:10am	Q & A	Dr. Patrick Kamau
10:10-10:40am	Speech by Guest Speaker	**Dr. Shikoh Gitau**
10:40-10:45am	Q &A	Dr. Susan Gitau
10:45-11:15am	Presentations at the Plenary **S. G. Selvam** : *Pedagogue.21: Training in Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century during and beyond COVID-19 in Kenya:* ***Tangaza University College; The Catholic University of Eastern Africa***	Dr. Eric Osoro

	Raphael N. Ogutu : *Animation Film Portrayals Of Health Matters During The Covid-19: The Case Of Selected Films In Kenya:* ***Africa Nazarene University***	
11:15-11:25am	Q & A in the plenary	Dr. Eric Osoro Dr. Susan Gitau

	LUNCH BREAK

Session 2: Break Out Rooms

Moderator: Dr. Jane Ngure

Rapporteur: Dr. Gift Mtukwa

Break Out Room 1:11:30-1:00

Sub-Themes: ***Global Business Innovation Trends***

- Chairperson – Dr. Kimani Gichuhi
- Rapporteur- Mr. John Ngila
- Discussants: Dr. Wanjiru Nderitu; Mr. Stephen Githii

Presentations:

Siringi, Elijah Mirwoba: Analysis of Economic Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Kenyan Economy. **The East African University**

W. Murithi: *Re-skilling for post Covid-19 recovery: evidence minority African and Carribean micro-business owners in the United Kingdom:* ***De Montfort University.***

A. Thuo, J. Muya, P. Omagwa: *Effect of Business Strategic Agility Enablers On Performance of Postal Corporation of Kenya, Nairobi County:* ***Kisii University***

Esther Kerubo Nyaribo, Dr. Wario Guyo, Prof. Romanus Odhiambo, Dr. Francis Kangure: *Effect of participation in work decision-making process on turnover among nursing employees at national referral hospitals in kenya:* ***Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology***

Dalla, N. O., Muturi, W., & Ngumi, P *Effect of Credit Size on the level of non-performing loans in commercial banks in Kenya* ***Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology***

Break Out Room 2 : 11:30-1:00

Sub-Theme: *Communication, Science & Technology*

- Chairperson: Dr. Ngare
- Rapporteur: Ms. Imelda Ndomo
- Discussants: Dr. Victoria Mukami, Dr. Edward Ombui

Presentations:

Kithinji Joseph: *A Review of Bandwidth Management Techniques and their appropriateness for use for the current spikes in bandwidth demand caused by Covid-19 mobility restrictions:* ***Meru University of Science and Technology.***

Brian Kimurgor : *'Gig-Konnect' Invention as a digital platform aimed at providing platform as a service and utilizing the huge smart phone penetration in Kenya:* ***Africa Nazarene University.***

R.N. Ogutu : *Media Reports On Opportunities And Challenges Of Online Learning During Covid-19 Pandemic: The Case Of University Education In Kenya:* ***Africa Nazarene University.***

Break Out Room 3: 11:30-1:00

Sub-Theme: *The Environment & Climate Change*

- Chairperson: Dr. Victor Boiyo
- Rapporteur: Mr. John Henry
- Discussants: Dr. Obuhuma; Dr. Sharon Jones

Presentations:

B. A. Amakobe : *Bird Species Composition And Diversity Along An Ecological Gradient On Mount Kasigau In Taita-Taveta County, Southeast Kenya.* ***Wildlife Works***

Eva Chepkorir Malel : *Determinants of the effectiveness of payment for ecosystem services scheme in the upper catchment areas of River Malewa in Nyandarua County, Kenya:* ***Africa Nazarene University.***

Break Out Room 4: 11:30-1:00

Sub-Theme: *Humanities and Social Sciences (Education)*

- Chairperson: Dr. Boniface Mwangi
- Rapporteur: Ms. Beth Wokabi
- Discussants: Dr. Rebecca Wambua; Mr. Charles Nyaranga;

Presentations:

Agava Stanislaus, Selvam Sahaya, Pete Judith : *University Preparedness for Online Teaching and Learning Amid COVID–19 in Kenya:* ***Tangaza University College; The Catholic University of Eastern Africa***

Joel Mabonga, Orpha. K. Ongiti: *KICD'S innovative strategies to supporting learning during covid 19 pandemic: challenges and lessons learnt:* ***Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD)***

O. K. Ongiti and B. Wokabi: *Aligning Online Higher Education Pedagogy to meet Learners' Needs during and post COVID 19 pandemic- The Africa Nazarene University Context:* ***Africa Nazarene University***

Break Out Room 5: 11:30-1:00

Sub-Theme: ***Humanities and Social Sciences (Governance, Peace and Security)***

- Chairperson: Dr. Emily Okuto
- Rapporteur: Dr. Joseph Mutungi
- Discussants: Ms. Njiriri; Mr. Likaka

C. A. Khamala and K. Wanjohi: *Victim Precipitation under Lockdown in Kenya attracts Sentencing Disparities for "Battered Woman Syndrome"****Africa Nazarene University. t***

Abdi Mohamed, Muthomi Simon, Kirima Lucy : *Contribution of Counter-Narrative in Response to Youth Radicalization in Garissa Township Sub County, Garissa County, Kenya:* ***Africa Nazarene University.***

Moses Paulino Amule: ***The response of South Sudan government towards the global covid-19 pandemic: Africa Nazarene University.***

Break Out Room 1 :1:30-3:00

Sub-Themes: ***Global Business Innovation Trends***

- Chairperson – Dr. Kimani Gichuhi
- Rapporteur - Mr. John Ngila
- Discussants: Dr. Wanjiru Nderitu; Mr. Stephen Githii

Catherine Gachanja, Amy Vundi, Lucy Kirima: *Entrepreneurial orientation posture on customer satisfaction within the service industry in Kenya: A case of Tropical Promoters Limited:* ***Africa Nazarene University***

Amy Vundi, Catherine Gachanja, Lucy Kirima:*The role of women in the disruptive season of Covid-19 in Nairobi County, Kenya.* ***Africa Nazarene University***

BG Mphirime; D Kokt: *Psychological contract, positive psychological dimensions and employee commitment* ***Central University Of Technology Free State***

Abubaker Ramathan Mukira, Paul Kariuki & Professor Willy Muturi: *VALUE CREATION STRATEGIES AND PERFORMANCE OF COMMERCIAL BANKS IN KENYA* ***: JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY***

Break Out Room 2 : 1:30-3:00

Sub-Theme: *Communication, Science & Technology*

- Chairperson: Dr. Ngare
- Rapporteur: Ms. Imelda Ndomo
- Discussants: Dr. Victoria Mukami, Dr. Edward Ombui

Ogal, G.O; & Ntabo, V.O: Stepping *up Resilience against Coronavirus Scourge through Viral Memes: An Incongruous Theoretical Approach:* ***Laikipia University***

K.E. Johnson : *Automated GIS story creation and telling of difficult subjects:* ***Miami University***

Simmy Mwita Marwa, Hannah Bula, Gabriel Juma Okumu, *Adoption of Technology and Promotion of Graduate Programmes: The Case of Graduate-Hub:* ***Graduate Hub***

Break Out Room 3: 1:30-3:00

Sub-Theme: *The Environment & Climate Change*

- Chairperson: Dr. Victor Boiyo
- Rapporteur: Mr. John Henry
- Discussants: Dr. Obuhuma; Dr. Sharon Jones

Catherine Kanini Ndunda: *Natural Resource Project - Induced Displacement and Resettlement and Its Effects on the Wellbeing of Communities Displaced from Titanium Mining Areas of Kwale County, Kenya* ***Africa Nazarene University***

Lokitela, P.E. and Mutinda, M.N : *Land Use And Cover Changes And Their Effects On Elephant Home Ranges And Distribution In Mara Landscape, Narok County, Kenya:* ***Africa Nazarene University.***

Linda Ethangatta, Rhenson Muchiri, Githii Kagwathi, Bonface Ngari, Kendi Muchungi, Kimani Gichuhi: *Aflatoxin as a factor in the decline of agricultural incomes and impacts on food security in two counties in the eastern region of Kenya..****Africa Nazarene University.***

Break Out Room 4: 1:30-3:00

Sub-Theme: *Humanities and Social Sciences (Education)*

- Chairperson: Dr. Boniface Mwangi
- Rapporteur: Ms. Beth Wokabi
- Discussants: Dr. Rebecca Wambua; Mr. Charles Nyaranga;

Presentations:

Mwangi, B. N. and Kwendo N. A.: *Remote Learning for Learners with Hearing Impairment During Covid-19 Era and Beyond:* ***Africa Nazarene University***

Joseph Theuri, Jacob Jeketule, and Susan Gitau: *Influence of Ecological Social Transformation Management Interventions on Teenage Pregnancy: A Study of Teenage Mothers in Public Secondary Schools in Mombasa County, Kenya* ***Africa Nazarene University***

Break Out Room 5: 1:30-3:00

Sub-Theme: *Humanities and Social Sciences (Governance, Peace and Security)*

- Chairperson: Dr. Emily Okuto
- Rapporteur: Dr. Joseph Mutungi
- Discussants: Ms. Njiriri; Mr. Likaka

Presentations:

Jacob Barasa Wanyama, Mark Ndunda Mutinda, Paul Mutua. Makenz: *Peace policy initiative and its contribution to the wellbeing of households affected by natural resource-based conflicts in Laikipia North sub-county, Laikipia county Kenya* ***Africa Nazarene University***

Williams C. Iheme and Sanford U. Mba: *The Economic Impact of Covid-19: Assessing the Responses of African Governments-*

Mulyungi Kiema Ignatius, Muthomi Simon, Muhingi Ndege Wilkins: *The Role of Urban Refugees in Organized Crime: A Case of Starehe Sub County in Nairobi, Kenya:* ***Africa Nazarene University.***

DAY 2: Thursday *14th October 2021*

Time: 8:00 am-3:15 pm (East Africa Time)

Time	**Session 3: Recap and Review** **Moderator**: Dr. Duncan Ojwang **Rapporteur**: Dr. Kendi Muchungi	
	Registration of conference participants	Ms. Mary Wambui; Ms. Imelda Ndomo; Mr. David Kanyi
8:30 -8:40am	Welcome Address, prayer, and Introductions by the chair of the conference	Prof. Orpha Ongiti
8:40-8:50am	Recap of the proceedings of Day 1	Dr. Simon Obwatho Dr. Victoria Mukami
8:50-9:00am	Introduction of Guests	Dr. Duncan Ojwang
9:00-9:30	Keynote Address	**Prof. Bitange Ndemo**
9:30-10:00am	Guest Speaker	Ms. **Catherine Murage**
10:00-10:15	Q &A	Dr. Titus Mwanthi
10:15-10:45am	Guest Speaker	**Prof. Pai Obanya**
10:45-11:15	Guest Speaker	**Mr. Hery Henry**
11:15-11:30am	Q & A	Dr. Rebecca Wambua

Session 4: Break Out Rooms

Moderator: Mr. Paul Kahenya
Rapporteur: Dr. Muthomi

Break Out Room 1: 11:30-1:00pm

Sub-Themes: ***Global Business Innovation Trends***

- Chairperson: Dr. Wanjiru Nderitu
- Rapporteur: Ms. Mary Wambui
- Discussants: Dr. Simon Obwatho, Dr. Lucy Kirima

Presentations:

Francis Ekaale Ekales, Mark Ndunda Mutinda, Justus Muteti Kavoi: *Socioeconomic Wellbeing of Turkana Communities Influenced by Oil Drilling in Lokichar Location, Turkana County, Kenya* ***Africa Nazarene University***

Vicky Obanyi Mobegi; **Tabitha Nasieku,Samuel Obino Mokaya,**; **Bichanga Walter Okibo** *investments in technological innovation and financial performance of small scale-tea industry in kenya*: ***Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology***

Gabriel Juma Okumu: *Global Technological Trends and Implications on businesses in Kenya:* ***Kenya Institute of Management.***

Roba Adan A.B, M. Muturi, Mouni G. *The Investment Spectrum and Financial Performance of Pension Funds in Kenya* ***Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology***

Muli B.M, Muturi W, Matanda J: *Investing Decisions and Financial Performance of Manufacturing Firms in the Building and Construction sector in Kenya:* ***Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology***

Break Out Room 2: 11:30-1:00pm

Sub-Theme: ***Humanities and Social Sciences (Education)***

- Chairperson: Dr. Boniface Mwangi
- Rapporteur: Mr. Charles Nyaranga
- Discussants: Prof. Rodney Reed,

Presentations:

Rebecca Mwikali Wambua:*Instructional techniques and academic performance of distance learning students in selected Kenyan public universities:* ***Africa Nazarene University***

J. Oguta, E. Osoro, Menge Dickson:*Effect of Teacher Readiness on The Implementation of Competency Based Curriculum in Public Primary Schools in Awendo Sub County, Migori County, Kenya:* ***Africa Nazarene University***

M.K Barifaijo, J.L Nkata, R.R Okello, A.T Nshakira, R.M Nansubuga & J.F Namukasa: :*Competency-Based Training in the Era of Covid-19: Dilemma, Strategies and Prospects for the education sector:* ***Uganda Management Institute***

Break Out Room 3: 11:30-1:00pm

Sub-Theme: *Humanities and Social Sciences (Education)*

- Chairperson: Beth Wokabi
- Rapporteur: Dr. Eric Osoro
- Discussants: Prof. Ongiti,

Presentations:

Kimani Gichuhi, S. Githii, V. Mukami:*COVID-19 pandemic and online learning experiences: the challenges and opportunities:* ***Africa Nazarene University***

Mwangi, B. N: *Teacher digital literacy: an inevitable necessity during covid-19 era and beyond:* ***Africa Nazarene University***

Break Out Room 4: 11:30-1:00pm

Sub-Theme: ***Science and Technology (Communication & Innovations)***

- Chairperson: Dr. Edward Ombui
- Rapporteur: Ms. Beatrice Muthanga
- Discussants: Dr. Ogutu, Mr. Sanya

Presentations:

Kendi Muchungi:*A Framework for Simulating the World of Work in Learning Spaces Within Higher Education to Promote the Employability of Graduates:* ***Africa Nazarene University***

Wanjiru Nderitu : *Utility of real time digital data on the recovery trajectory of youth businesses from Covid-19 effects in Nairobi; Kenya:* ***Africa Nazarene University***

Break Out Room 5: 11:30-1:00pm

Sub-Theme: *Humanities and Social Sciences (Practical theology)*

- Chairperson: Dr. Patrick Kamau
- Rapporteur: Dr. Gift Mtukwa
- Discussants: Mr. Kisoi, Rev. Omollo

Presentations:

Mohamed A., Omwenga Q. J., Wario G.: *The influence of innovativeness on sustainable competitive advantage of Islamic commercial banks in Kenya:* ***Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture***

P. M. Kamau: *Christian solidarity and love among believers in response to Covid19 effects:* ***Africa Nazarene University***

Mulyungi Kiema Ignatius, Muthomi Simon, Muhingi Ndege Wilkins: *The Role of Urban Refugees in Organized Crime: A Case of Starehe Sub County in Nairobi, Kenya:* ***Africa Nazarene University***

Break Out Room 6: 11:30-1:00pm

Sub-Theme: ***Humanities Social Sciences (Mental Health & Wellness)***

- Chairperson: Dr. Susan Gitau
- Rapporteur: Rev. Richard Muguongo
- Discussants: Dr. Jane Ngure, Rev. James Mbugua

Presentations:

Joash Mwandike Kirui, Veronica Kaluyu: *Influence of Selected Psychosocial Factors on Learners' Performance in Science Subjects: A Case Of Public Secondary Schools In Moyale Sub-County, Kenya-****United State International University***

Mutahi.V, Ngure. J and Osoro. E: *Relationship between institutional child support intervention systems and child delinquency. A case of juvenile rehabilitation centers in Kabete constituency, Kiambu*

*County-****Africa Nazarene University***

Goris Acha, Susan Gitau: *Social Distancing and You:How to Survive the COVID-19 Pandemic Psychologically and Emotionally -* ***MidAmerica Nazarene University***

Joyce Ngugi (Deputy Governor, Kiambu County) & **Susan Gitau:** *Challenges in MHPSS intervention strategies in Kiambu County: Reflection on the Rising Cases of Suicide and Gender Based Violence during COVID -19 Pandemic-****Kiambu County***

1:15-.3:15	**Session 5: Closing of Conference** **Moderator:** DVC, Prof. Rodney Reed **Rapporteur:** Dr. Jane Njuguna	
	Introduction of the speaker	Prof. Rodney Reed
	Closing Speech	**Dr. Goris Acha**
	Closing remarks	VC, Dr. Stanley Bhebhe
	Presentation of Certificates and Awards	Dr Sharon Jones Ms Beth Wokabi Ms Imelda Ndomo
	Vote of thanks	Prof. Orpha Ongiti
	Closing Prayer	Rev. James Mbugua



AFRICA NAZARENE
UNIVERSITY

+254 703 970 520/5
+254 20 252 7170-5
info@anu.ac.ke / marketing@anu.ac.ke
Main Campus, Ongata Rongai