



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS,
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CENTRE FOR
CONTEMPORARY ECONOMICS AND ALLIED RESEARCH,

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA

1ST VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Theme:

GLOBAL PANDEMIC, ECONOMIC GROWTH
AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

7th-8th February, 2022

AN ADDRESS OF WELCOME DELIVERED BY THE HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA, AT THE 1ST VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ECONOMICS AND ALLIED RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA, FROM 7TH-8TH FEBRUARY, 2022.

THEME: GLOBAL PANDEMIC, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The Vice Chancellor,
Deputy Vice-Chancellors
Principal Officers of the University
Deans of Faculty and Directors of Centres/Institutes
Erudite Professors and Members of the University of Nigeria Senate
Special Guests and Conference Participants
Gentlemen of the Press
Great Lions and Lionesses
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first virtual international conference of the Department of Economics UNN, titled “GLOBAL PANDEMIC, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA”. The theme was carefully chosen in order to focus the minds of researchers and policy analysts on global challenges posed by the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid-19) in 2019, which quickly spread across all countries of word in early 2020. African countries were not excluded from the ravaging effects of the virus and its emerging variants which have become a major threat to already vulnerable economic growth and development of the continent especially in the SSA countries. The pandemic triggered waves of lock down and restrictions in almost all countries of the world in the second quarter of 2020 and subsequent ones following the resurgence of the virus due to its waves and variants.

The most recent data from Johns Hopkins University as at February 5, 2022 show that about 393 million people have so far been infected by the virus worldwide resulting in about 5.73 million fatalities while 313,192,090 people have recovered. If poor testing of the population and record keeping which are mostly being observed in poor countries is accounted for, these figures would be much higher. Poor population health is a single most important factor that has adverse effects on labour productivity, economic growth and consequently economic development. In order words, human development cannot effectively happen when there is a health challenge affecting a significant proportion of the population at all ages.

FIRST VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

One lesson we have learned so far from the pandemic is that, in the event of extreme global covariate shock, countries would tend to save the lives of their own citizens first before looking elsewhere. Therefore, it has become imperative that governments in SSA should take the health of their citizens very seriously and ensure that adequate funding are made available and utilized to improve health outcomes. This should be followed by sensitization campaigns to push back on conspiracy theories which have continued to neutralize efforts to vaccinate the population and thus mitigate the spread of the virus in different forms.

As we have gathered here today to present policy relevant research in all the 13 sub-themes of the conference as listed on the Conference Flyer that provided a guide to your research, I would expect the conferees to ponder over Africa's economic growth and development challenges and how to chart the path to quick recovery in the midst of the pandemic. The good news is that the Omicron variant of the virus which is more transmissible than the Delta variant is not as deadly as the previous ones seen globally. The conferees are expected to make significant inputs to policy making in the sub-region or in specific countries of Africa through their paper presentations and interactions. I welcome you all to this first International Virtual Conference of the Department and wish you success in your presentations. The conference will be held annually in early February of each year. Thank you for participating.



Dr. Emmanuel Nwosu

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IS SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE ENTERPRISES FINANCING STILL A STRONG FORCE IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA? AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION

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Abstract

Industrial development has been one of the major challenges confronting the Nigerian economy in the recent times. However, the question whether SMEs financing still constitutes a strong force in catalyzing industrial development in developing countries has been a controversial issue among both the scholars and the policymakers. In the light of the above, this study provided an empirical investigation regarding SMEs financing and industrial development in Nigeria from 1990 to 2019 within the framework of the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS). The study utilized secondary data which was extracted from the Central Bank of Nigeria Statistical Bulletin and the World Development Indicators respectively. Consequently, after subjecting the data to the econometric analysis, the findings that emerged from the study could be enunciated as follows: commercial banks loans to SMEs and industrial development have a significant positive relationship. In the same vein, commercial bank total credit to private sector contributes a significant positive impact to industrial development. However, money supply and industrial development have a negative but significant relationship. Against this backdrop this study makes the following recommendations for the policymakers in Nigeria that whenever the goal of policymakers in Nigeria is industrial development, SMEs financing should be targeted, and the Central Bank of Nigeria should put in place the mechanism that will ensure that the commercial banks' credit policy focuses on SMEs on a sustainable manner.

Keywords: SMEs Financing, Industrial Development, OLS, Nigeria

ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH EAST OF NIGERIA

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Abstract

Covid-19 is now planet-wide, but it is hitting countries at different speeds and intensity. The spreading of Covid-19 (Corona virus) since 2019 did not spare any community, society or nation, even the rich industrialized nations. It has caused devastating socio-economic effects on the economy, businesses, health, social development, households and consumer goods. This paper seeks to find out the effects of Covid-19 on socio-economic development of the South East of Nigeria and the potential ways to overcome the problem. The paper uses secondary data from International Organizations, articles, books, journals, empirical case studies and newspaper reviews as its primary sources. The paper recommended that the most socio-economic measures needed to curb the effect of covid-19 is the creation of employment, funding the service and industrial sectors of the economy and serious improvement on health care services to prepare for the future. There is also an urgent need to address poverty.

Keywords: Covid-19, Socio-economic, Development, Economy, Pandemic

COPING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A CASE STUDY OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMES) IN LAFIA AREA OF NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA.

By

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting government restrictions have changed people's lives all over the world. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria were severely affected as a result of the restrictions. While some of these businesses closed their doors, others devised coping strategies. The goal of this study was to identify the strategies used by SMEs in the face of the COVID-19 crisis in Lafia area of Nigeria's Narsarawa State. The impact of the pandemic on businesses was also investigated. A qualitative, cross-sectional, and descriptive research design was developed with SMEs that cut across retail outlets (mini supermarkets), transportation services, ceremonies and event businesses, fast food restaurants, auto mechanic shops, among others. Data was collected from 20 SMEs using a semi-structured script (interview) that included the

categories of crisis impacts, crisis planning, crisis management implementation, and post-crisis management. A content analysis technique was used in the research. The findings reveal negative consequences, primarily financial difficulties, as well as the closure of many SMEs as a result of the crisis. Extended marketing and diversifying business offerings and services to meet specific customer demands were among the strategies used to combat the pandemic in the area. In general, the study found that SMEs do not prepare for disasters and are largely reactive to them. The findings also show that public and private institutions' performance in providing technical and financial assistance to businesses was largely nonexistent. Firms aimed for strategies that were in line with Covid-19 safety protocols in the post-crisis period, thereby reinforcing customers' sense of security. Having an insurance cover and incorporating ecommerce services in SMEs operations are some of the recommendations of the study.

**ECONOMIC POLICY UNCERTAINTY, GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS
AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN AFRICA: ARE THERE REGIONAL
DIFFERENCES?**

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Abstract

In recent years, the global economy has witnessed several uncertainty-inducing events. However, empirical evidence in Africa on the effects of economic policy uncertainty (EPU) on economic activities remains scanty. Besides, the moderating effect of governance institutions on the uncertainty-economic performance relationship in Africa and the likelihood of regional differences in the response of economic activities to EPU on the continent are yet to be investigated. To address these gaps, we applied system GMM and quantile regressions on a panel of forty-seven African countries from 2010 to 2019. We find that while EPUs from China and U.S. exert considerable influence on economic performance in Africa, the effects of global EPU and EPUs from Europe and UK were negligible, suggesting that African economies are resilient to these sources of uncertainty shocks. We also find that governance institutions in Africa are not significantly moderating the uncertainty-economic performance relationship. However,

our results highlighted regional differences in the response of economic activities to uncertainty, such that when compared to West and Central Africa, economic performance in East, North and Southern Africa is generally more resilient to global EPU and EPUs from China, U.S., Europe and UK. We highlighted the policy implications of these findings.

Key words: Economic Policy Uncertainty; Governance Institutions; Economic Performance; System GMM Regression, Quantile regression

JEL Codes: D80; N20; O40; C23

**IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY,
AND POVERTY IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Covid-19 pandemic appeared to have permanently changed the mode of life, whereby covid-19 mitigating measures have become a unifying world order. All spheres of human life are greatly affected and adversely too. In Nigeria unfortunately, the food chain has become the worst-hit resulting from the crushing effects of the pandemic on agriculture. There has been a consistent increase in prices of agricultural products since the February 2020 national lockdown in Nigeria. While Nigeria continues to witness a persistent fall in agricultural output, including food, the prices of food and other agricultural produce keep hitting the roof. The abysmal government interventions riddled with corruption and effectively excluding the mass poor farmers further exacerbated their poor living

conditions, while more Nigerians are pushed into poverty. The study involved an exploratory analysis of the immediate impacts of covid-19 mitigation measures and interventions on agriculture, food security, and poverty in Nigeria. The major objective of this study is to better understand the implications of the covid-19 pandemic for agriculture, food security, and poverty in Nigeria.

Keywords: Covid-19 pandemic, Agriculture, Food security, Poverty.

Jel code: I31, I38, Q18.

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**UNCERTAINTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
TRADE DURING COVID-19 IN AFRICA**

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Abstract

Motivated by the persistent challenges of poor infrastructural development and overall economic development as well as the spike in global uncertainty occasioned by the Covid-19 Pandemic, this study investigated the roles of uncertainty, infrastructure, and economic development on trade in Africa. The study used the system GMM framework and annual panel data of 48 African countries over the period 2010-2020. The findings indicate that the effects of uncertainty and aggregate infrastructure as well as transport and electricity infrastructure components on trade are predominantly negligible. We also find that the effect of economic development on trade is positively and significantly moderated by ICT and water and sanitation infrastructures. Furthermore, we find that Covid-19 Pandemic has a negative moderating effect on the relationship between trade and the various components of infrastructure, such as transport, electricity, ICT, and water and sanitation infrastructures; and that capital accumulation impacts positively and significantly on trade in Africa, especially when aggregate infrastructure and transport, electricity and ICT infrastructure components are accounted for in the models.

Consequently, the study concludes that African policymakers should evolve policies encouraging significant investments in infrastructural development in order to drive increased trade underpinned by inclusive economic development.

Key words: Uncertainty; Infrastructural Development; Economic Development; Trade; System GMM

JEL Classification Codes: D80; H54; O11; F14; C23

MYTHS AND REALITIES OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND BORDER-CROSSING STRATEGIES BY TRADERS AND TRAVELERS IN RESPONSE TO INTERSTATE BAN IN EBONYI STATE: IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

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Abstract

Coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19 has ravaged the world and adjudged one, if not the deadliest global pandemic ever faced by mankind because of its rate of infection. As a result, countries all over the world imposed lockdown, travel ban and safety guidelines to contain the spread of the virus. These measures were also instituted in Ebonyi state, Nigeria to contain community transmission of the deadly virus. This study explored the myths and realities of COVID-19 pandemic and border-crossing strategies by traders and travelers in response to interstate ban in Ebonyi State and implications for Social Workers. Eighteen participants were purposively selected for the study, with in-depth interview as data collection instrument. Data were analysed with the use of thematic analysis and direct quotes. Study revealed that participants were crossing the closed border through bush paths, hiding in container truck, and bribing the border officials. Study recommended that government should always make adequate provisions for palliatives and adequately sensitize the public before instituting such orders, like the lockdown. Medical social workers should also be involved in the distribution of palliatives and awareness creation.

Keywords: COVID-19, Crossing strategies, Interstate ban, Myths and realities, Traders, Travelers

Sub-theme: Global pandemic, migration and law enforcement

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY IN AFRICA: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Covid-19 pandemic and its spread across the world has heavy effect on many economies of the world especially that of the African economies. This has posed a serious challenge on both health and productivity of African economies. Unlike existing studies on this subject matter, this study intends to examine whether there is significant impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the health and productivity of African economies. This study intends to employ system Generalized Method Moments (GMM) technique, and high frequency panel data of 40 African countries from 2019 to 2021. It is expected that as health spending is rising, the spread of this pandemic would be falling gradually, while the economic activity is stunned due to economic lockdown policy among African countries. The policy implication of the study would be better appreciated by African governments and its agencies involved in the control and management of Covid-19 and other infectious diseases, policy makers, health agencies, health workers, trade agencies, labour unions, and the general public.

Key Words: Covid-19, Health expenditure, Productivity, System GMM, Africa

DIVERSIFICATION STRATEGIES AND GROWTH OF THE NIGERIAN INFORMAL SECTOR

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Abstract

The imperative of diversification to the growth of any nations cannot be overemphasized. It's a growth strategy that identifies opportunities that any institution can pursue to stimulate growth either by developing new products or to venture into related or unrelated concerns. This study investigated the effect of diversification strategies on the growth of Nigeria informal sector. The work determines the effect of horizontal

diversification on self-employment; and as well examines how vertical diversification can affect the wage workers in the informal sector of an economy. To achieve the spelt objectives, the study utilized survey design; and data was collected through a self-administered questionnaire from a number of 275 respondents who work in informal sector in Nigeria. Having analyzed the data, the study found out that: concentric and conglomerate diversifications affect self-employed workers. It was also discovered that forward and backward diversification affect casual workers. The work among other things, recommends that diversification strategies should be harness to ensure the exponential growth of informal sector. It also advised that informal sector in Nigeria should be well coordinated to ensure maximum growth.

Keywords: Horizontal Diversification; Self-Employment; Vertical Diversification; Wage Workers

POTENTIALS OF SOCIAL MARKETING FOR EFFECTIVE REBRANDING OF NIGERIA'S CORPORATE IMAGE

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Abstract

This study demonstrated the potentials of Facebook and Twitter as social marketing tools for effective rebranding of Nigeria's corporate image. It sought to determine the relationship between Facebook as social marketing tool and rebranding Nigeria's image and to determine the relationship between Twitter as social marketing tool and rebranding Nigeria's image. The population of study includes graduate citizens from five states in South-eastern Nigeria. Convenience sampling was adopted and sample size of 382 was determined using Freund and William's method. Questionnaire was used in

collecting data and out of the 382 distributed, 370 were returned. Hypotheses revealed that there is a significant positive relationship between Facebook and rebranding Nigeria's corporate image. Similarly, it revealed that there is a significant positive relationship between Twitter and rebranding Nigeria's corporate image. The researchers conclude that both Facebook and Twitter as social marketing strategy, have the capability of repositioning the image of Nigeria on the global stage; as good people and great nation. In view of fully reuniting Nigeria with the global community, it was recommended that both state and federal government create a strategic and special Facebook page and Twitter account to open a dialogue with the citizens of this country on how Nigeria can move forward and fast toward polishing her image; thus expunging her name in the record of Transparency International (TI) as one of the most corrupt nations in the world.

Keywords: Social marketing, Facebook, Twitter, rebranding Nigeria, corporate image, media richness theory

“MY BODY IS A TEMPLE”: EXPLORING THE REASONS BEHIND COVID-19 VACCINE HESITANCY AMONG THE NIGERIAN CHRISTIANS

By

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Abstract

With the upsurge of COVID-19 cases nationwide, the Nigerian government considered it necessary that vaccination be prioritized to facilitate herd immunity. However, there is an increasing number of Nigerian Christians seeking exemption on religious grounds. One of the prevalent refrains among this sect is the assertion, “My body is a temple.” Given its near-ubiquity in the sphere of health and wellbeing, it is pertinent to state that this phrase is culled from Paul's exhortation in 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20. Most Christians in Nigeria frequently allege that being forced to take the COVID-19 vaccine is a breach of their religious beliefs, claiming that their body is a temple, and they are obliged to keep it pure. This claim is prevalent for a variety of reasons. This article, therefore, is an attempt to explore the reasons behind the COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among Nigerian Christians and the way forward using expository and phenomenological design. It made use of data obtained from a) interviews with some Christians in Nigeria, b) articles and

commentaries on the websites of Nigerian newspapers and c) existing works of literature. The findings showed that most Christians in Nigeria believe the vaccine has harmful side effects, while some said contains microchips. Others are of the view that the vaccine has the ability to change DNA, or induces infertility-all which are capable of defiling their body. This paper suggests that these responses can be most effective in mitigating the issue when combined with interventions that include empathy, re-orientation, and proper exegesis of 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20.

Key Terms: COVID-19, vaccine hesitancy, Nigerian Christians

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**EFFECT OF JOB SURVEILLANCE ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE
HOSPITALITY SECTOR IN SOUTH WEST, NIGERIA.**

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Abstract

The world was afflicted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the index case was recorded in Nigeria on 27 February, 2020 in Lagos State. The scale and severity increased to a level of public health threat that justified restrictions. The governments both at the state and Federal levels put various measures in place to curb the spread of the pandemic; ranging from lockdowns, restrictions, quarantine, isolations and travel bans. Chief amongst the measures is the imposition of lockdown in the various states. These closures, while essential, have had negative and ripple effects across all sectors and segments of the country, but mostly affected are the individuals, micro and small enterprises, and daily wage earners operating in the informal sector and the private sector in general. It is on this premise this paper sought to critically evaluate the effect of covid-19 on job security in the hospitality industry in south west, Nigeria.

Method of the Study

Our study will be conducted in Lagos and Oyo States in South West Nigeria. Ibadan is the 3rd largest city by population in Nigeria; also, Lagos is the largest commercial and industrial centre. Hence, the study will be focused on the hospitality industry covering hotels and tourism in both states. The analysis will basically be qualitative. Descriptive statistics will also be used in the presentation of results.

Anticipated Outcomes

We expect to establish the theoretical link between COVID-19 preventive measures and government responses on job security in the hospitality industry, extent to which job security was affected under Covid-19, disruptions of activities in the hospitality industry and their coping mechanisms and the consequences of Covid-19 and government responses (curtailing measures) on job security in the hospitality industry.

Value Addition

Very limited studies have investigated the effect of Covid-19 on job security in the hospitality industry especially as it concerns South West Nigeria; so, there is little empirical evidence available on the consequences of job insecurity on the Nigerian private sector employees. This study will therefore, add value to existing literature as it relates to Covid-19 and job security in the hospitality Industry. It will also provide policy options on how avoid future loss of jobs in the industry as a result of pandemic.

Keywords: COVID-19, job security, hospitality, government responses

JEL Classification Code: H53, I38, P46

**ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (SSA) COUNTRIES:
IMPLICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH AND
EDUCATION**

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Abstract

Recent literature gesticulates that low level of human capital development in terms of health and educational factors worsen economic growth of developing nations (Sub-Saharan Africa countries inclusive). On this note, this paper is out to examine the impact of government expenditure on health and education, on economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries. The study used annual time series data spanning from 1980 to 2020 and sourced from regional SSA 2020 edition database out of African countries economic blocs. The theoretical underpinning for the study is endogenous growth theory of human capital by Schultz (1961). Panel Autoregressive Distributed Lag (PARDL) approach and VAR Granger causality model were used as estimation techniques for the study. Results showed that government expenditure on health and education and as well school enrolment exhibits profound positive and predominant negative influence on real gross domestic product (RGDP) in SSA region respectively as evidence in both short and long runs. The result of ECM-1 showed that about 76% of the adjustment from short-run to long-run is very high. Thus, the disequilibrium errors that occurred in the previous year are corrected in the current year. Result of VAR Granger causality test showed that RGDP is necessary for enhancing government expenditure on education just as enhanced government expenditure on education is needed to improve economic growth in SSA region. While no causal relationship exists between government expenditure on health

and RGDP. The study therefore recommends improvement in educational system through increased expenditure and accountability that enhances the efficient use of public funds, and as well improvement of health facilities in SSA region most especially in rural areas for possible enhancement of their mental and physical activeness towards contributing to the growth of SSA countries' economy.

Keywords: *Economic Growth, Government Expenditure on Health and Education Panel ARDL, VAR Granger, SSA countries*

**IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON NIGERIAN AGRICULTURAL
SECTOR CROP PRODUCTION**

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Abstract

This study examined the impact climate change have on crop production by the Nigeria agricultural sector within the period of 1990 to 2020. To achieve the objective of this study, this study employed the Non-linear Autoregressive Distributed Lag (NARDL) Model. The appropriateness of NARDL for the estimation of the model of this study was confirmed by the unit root test which revealed a mixed order of I(0) and I(1) and Wald test which confirmed the existence of non-linearity between climate change and crop output of the Nigerian agricultural sector. This study established the existence of long-run relationship between climate change and the Nigerian agricultural sector crop output. In the short run, this study found that increase in the current rainfall index have a positive impact of climate change though the impact is not statistically significant while the lag of increase in rainfall index has a positive and statistically significant impact on crop output. Decrease in the current index of rainfall as a result of climate change was found to have a negative but statistically insignificant impact on crop output while the past value of decrease in rainfall has a positive and statistically significant impact on crop output. Decrease in temperature has a positive impact on crop production at both the current and lagged value but only the lag is statistically significant. In the long-run both increase and decrease in rainfall as well as increase in temperature indices were detrimental to crop production why reduction in temperature is beneficial to crop production. This study thereby conclude that in the short-run, though the impact of climate change on crop production in the short run is mixed but the impact of climate change on crop is felt more in the succeeding planting season than the current season. Also, in the long-run, climate change is detrimental to crop production by the Nigeria agricultural sector. Based on the findings of this study, this study recommends the provision of irrigation facilities such as dam, pumping machines, hoses, wells and boreholes to farmers as this will help

ameliorate shortages of water caused by climate change and discouraging of deforestation, bush burning and all others activities that lead to the emission of greenhouse gasses as this lead to the elimination of greenhouse effect which has been blamed for the warming of the planet.

Keywords: Climate, Climate Change, Crop Production, Agricultural Sector

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: IMPACT OF CHANGES OF NIGERIA FISCAL BUDGET ON HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION

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Abstract

The emergency brought about by the novel Covid-19 pandemic is plunging the Nigeria economy into unknown depths since the Second World War, adding to the misfortunes of an economy that was at the point battling economic, political and social crises. Like several economies around the globe, Nigeria is relinquishing its yearly proposed budget plans with expectation to recoup the unexpected and disrupt in the economic chain. Nigeria economies are known with deficient fiscal budget. This study investigated the implication of covid-19 on Nigeria fiscal budgets and relatively impact on household consumption. Through the use of questionnaire, descriptive statistics with illustration on table frequency was ensured as the methodology. Though, the study confirmed that the presence or recorded cases of Covid-19 is still low in Nigeria compare to what is obtainable in other continents, the spill-over effects from the overwhelmed developed economies may still lead to faltering economic activity and consequently affect the year fiscal budgets. The highly dependency of Nigeria economies vis-à-vis foreign economies predicts a negative economic spinoff for the country. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is significant to the Nigeria household that home a huge number of low income earners. With the negative impact of covid-19 on Nigeria government fiscal budgets, and how it has affected the household expenditure, the effectiveness of the government's response is low and does not in any way cushion the severity on the household.

Keywords: Covid-19, Fiscal Budget, Household Expenditure

GENDER INEQUALITY: ECONOMIC PROSPERITY & THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

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Abstract

The formal economy has proven to be key, if not the major contributor to economic prosperity. This is irrespective of gender considerations. However, issues have been raised as to the role/s women have to play in achieving this and the United Nations (UN) consider it indispensable. She observed that “Empowering women in the economy and closing gender gaps in the world of work are key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” as contained in goal 5 of the Millennium Development Goals. In sum, gender inequality in formal and informal sectors has been found to be neglected by policy makers with regard to intake and position of men and women in such sectors. This paper, therefore, is a systematic review aimed at finding the manifestation of gender inequality in both sectors of the economy, focusing on Africa, bringing to fore, the importance of gender equality in these sectors as well as solutions. The study showed that few women compared to men are found in the formal sector in contrast with the informal sector. Secondary data were used while Patriarchy and Women Subordination served as the theoretical orientation, having found this disadvantaged position of women to be of men's creation. It therefore found gender inclusiveness to be of great essence and recommends, among others, an increase in women engagement, in formal and informal sectors, towards helping to achieve Sustainable Development and economic prosperity.

Keywords: Gender, Inequality, Economic Prosperity, Role & Women

**TACKLING THE POPULATION PROBLEM IN POST COVID-19 NIGERIA:
THE ROLE OF THE CHRISTIAN PRIEST.**

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Abstract

Of all the challenges that had befallen humanity in the recent times, none is as scary and devastating as the Covid-19 pandemic. It caused massive economic depletion globally and Nigeria in particular. As Nigeria is still grappling with the dire effects of Covid-19,

the challenge of unabated population growth has emerged as a very serious socio-economic issue that if not checked would plunge the country into deep socio-economic crises now and in the future. Accepted that Nigerian governments at various levels and Non-Governmental Organizations are already in the fight to achieve population reduction, yet there is a gap that must be filled if the battle must be won. This paper recommends that the place of priests in the socio-religious and economic cum political lives of the people is so strong that if well integrated would go a long way in bringing down the tide of population growth in Nigeria by communicating the population policies. This development would enable the government to re-strategize in this post-Covid-19 era to make its economy flourish again. To achieve the thrust of this paper, primary sources of data collection would be adopted as well as secondary sources of reviewing relevant literature, periodicals and dailies.

Key Words: Tackling, population, problem, role, Christian, priests.

**PRODUCTIVITY AND YOUTHS EMOTIONAL WELLBEING IN THE
MIDST OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC: EVIDENCE FROM SOUTHEASTERN
REGION OF NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The outbreaks of COVID-19 pandemic in a fragile and distressed economy like Nigeria with high public health challenges can undoubtedly lead to decline in labour productivity, especially among the youths. Health crisis such as Covid-19 pandemic can bring fear and anxiety, which may lead to emotional disorder that weakens productivity in youths with and without existing record of health challenges. The youths although not at high risk of contracting COVID 19 can have feelings of distress and anxiety while living with safety conscious rules and lockdown measures that confine people around the world and limit productive activities. In the light of this, this paper examined the influence of COVID-19 pandemic induced emotional wellbeing on youths' productivity in Nigeria, a case of Southeastern geopolitical zone. Data for the analysis will be gathered using questionnaire and focus group discussion. A total of 350 youths is proposed to be surveyed across the five states of southeast geopolitical zone. Descriptive analysis will be employed on the data collected. It is expected to find that COVID-19 pandemic has brought emotional disorders in the youths. A good number of youths may be irritated over some slight behaviours of others in this pandemic period, and may see COVID-19 pandemic and its preventive measures as causing a major setback to their productivity. COVID-19 pandemic and its mitigating measures most have rendered some youths idle since the outbreak of the pandemic due to disorder in their emotional wellbeing.

Key words: COVID-19, Social wellbeing, Emotional wellbeing, Southeast Nigeria

**THE IMPLICATIONS OF FOOD INFLATION AND TERRORISM ON
HUNGER PREVALENCE IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The rate of hunger in Nigeria which continues to rise amidst unfavourable macroeconomic conditions has negative implications on the quality of life as well as the welfare of individuals and households in the country. It is as a result of this problem that this study investigated the effect of food inflation and terrorism on hunger in Nigeria. Data used for the analysis were sourced from the World Bank Hunger Statistics (2021), Global Terrorism Database (2021), World Development Indicators (WDI) 2021, the Central Bank of Nigeria (2021) statistical bulletin, and the Global Consumption and Income Project Data Catalog 2020, while analysis were done using the Johansen's Cointegration test, the Fully Modified OLS (FMOLS) estimation technique, and the Granger Causality test. Our results suggest that rising food inflation, terrorism incidence, and terrorism fatalities all significantly increased the risk of hunger in the country. Furthermore, the result showed that increases in other covariates such as GDP significantly reduce hunger, while increase in the rate of unemployment significantly increases hunger in the country. Also, the result further showed that terrorism incidences and fatalities both had a causal effect on hunger in the country. The study concluded by stressing the need to address the surging prices of food items, as well as the rising rate of terrorism incidences and fatalities.

Keywords: *Hunger, Food Inflation, Terrorism, Economy, Fully Modified OLS*

**GLOBAL PANDEMIC, ENTREPRENEURIAL FINANCIAL SOCIALIZATION
AND ENTREPRENEURIAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA**

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Abstracts

The limited research focus on the effects of entrepreneurial financial socialization on entrepreneurship development in post-COVID-19 lockdown in Nigeria can undermine the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria. Therefore, the objective of this study is to address this gap. Data were collected from the randomly selected 497 SMEs owners through a Likert scale questionnaire to determine how entrepreneurial financial socialization impacts entrepreneurial business development in post-COVID-19 lockdown in Nigeria. Simple linear regression was used to test the proposed hypotheses. Contrary to expectations the outcomes indicate that

entrepreneurial financial socialization has a significant positive association with entrepreneurial intention in post-COVID-19 lockdown in Nigeria. Also, it was found that entrepreneurial mentoring has a significant positive relationship with entrepreneurial intentions in post-COVID-19 lockdown in Nigeria. Therefore it is concluded that there is a significant impact of entrepreneurial financial socialization on entrepreneurial business development in Nigeria in post-COVID-19 lockdown. The study suggests the need for the government to come up with a policy framework that will stimulate entrepreneurial financial socialization for entrepreneurial business development in Nigeria.

Keywords: *COVID-19 pandemic, entrepreneurial socialization, digital age, entrepreneurial development, Nigeria*

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH EXPENDITURE AND HEALTH OUTCOME IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examined the nexus between financial development, public health expenditure and health outcomes in Nigeria between 1981 and 2020. Annual time series data was extracted from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) statistical bulletin and the World Development Index (WDI), and the data was analysed using the Autoregressive Distributed Lag Model (ARDL) with Bounds Testing. The result showed that that government expenditure on health worsens health outcome (life expectancy) in the short run while it improves life expectancy in the long run. Also, we found out that health outcome positively and significantly influenced government expenditure on health both in the short run and long run. Furthermore, the result showed that the effect of financial development on health outcome and government expenditure on health is sensitive to the financial development indicator employed while economic growth (RGDP) insignificantly influenced health outcomes in Nigeria. The study recommends increased spending on the health sector by the government and a stable financial sector, in order to significantly drive the desired level of health outcome in Nigeria.

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT IN AFRICA: EVIDENCE FROM INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL PANEL DATA

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Abstract

This paper examines the determinants of high school dropout, using longitudinal data from South Africa. Employing a random-effects probit model, we account for possible selection bias in the decision to drop out from high school by estimating both observable and unobservable factors that determine high school dropout. We allow for both parametric and non-parametric distributions of individual-specific unobserved heterogeneity in our estimations. Empirical results show that ignoring unobserved individual differences understates the likelihood of dropping out of high school and the

curtail its spread. Stay-at-home policies, or even complete lockdown and social distancing have been universally adopted as the best means of reducing the spread of new cases of the pandemic. Therefore, the pandemic presents urgent situation to policy makers, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and humanitarian agencies to review the impact of the pandemic on livelihood of the individuals. This is because, measures taken with view of limiting the spread of the virus like lockdown and stay-at-home have adverse economic consequences which in turn disproportionately affected pre-existing inequality in less developed countries (LDCs). Against this backdrop, the paper intends to: (i). Estimate the effects of employment status on inequality during the pandemic in Nigeria; (ii). Examine the effects of the public intervention on food security during the pandemic in Nigeria; and (iii). Assess the implications of the pandemic on urban household's access to safe drinking water in Nigeria. Nigeria COVID-19 Rapid Assessment Survey 2020 dataset collected by the National Bureau of Statistic (NBS) with technical assistance by World Bank will be employ in assessing the implications of the pandemic on economic outcomes in the country with specific reference to women

POTENTIALS OF SOCIAL MARKETING FOR EFFECTIVE REBRANDING OF NIGERIA'S CORPORATE IMAGE

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Abstract

This study demonstrated the potentials of Facebook and Twitter as social marketing tools for effective rebranding of Nigeria's corporate image. It sought to determine the relationship between Facebook as social marketing tool and rebranding Nigeria's image and to determine the relationship between Twitter as social marketing tool and rebranding Nigeria's image. The population of study includes graduate citizens from five states in South-eastern Nigeria. Convenience sampling was adopted and sample size of 382 was determined using Freund and William's method. Questionnaire was used in collecting data and out of the 382 distributed, 370 were returned. Hypotheses revealed

probability of completing a high school education. Results further identify little or no mother's education, being black or coloured, poor academic performance, low innate ability, teacher's absenteeism, and living in an urban area as observable factors that drive selection into high school dropout.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
NEXUS: AN EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN
COUNTRIES**

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Abstract

Increasing demand for energy consumption as a result of increase in population, urbanization and increase in standard of living has further enhanced economic growth. This has necessitated increasing demand for traditional energy such as fossil fuel and coal, and has negative impact on the environment due to its immense contribution to CO₂ emissions. Renewable energy could provide a possible positive impact on the economy by not having any significant negative impact on environmental quality. Utilizing the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) framework, this paper examines the relationship between renewable energy consumption and economic growth for a panel of 38 Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries over the period 1980 – 2020. The system GMM technique is employed to establish the relationship between the variables. Results will show extent to which renewable energy consumption reduces CO₂ emissions and improves economic growth, as well as energy policy implications for SSA.

Keywords: Renewable Energy Consumption, Economic Growth, System GMM, EKC, SSA

**GENDER A/SYMMETRY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN LESS
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: A LONGITUDINAL SURVEY IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Reducing inequality and increase access to basic needs and fundamental rights of all individuals is not only a major public issue but also a key objective of the Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations, 2015). Nevertheless, achievements recorded can be reversed as a result of the outbreak of the pandemic and policies implemented to

that there is a significant positive relationship between Facebook and rebranding Nigeria's corporate image. Similarly, it revealed that there is a significant positive relationship between Twitter and rebranding Nigeria's corporate image. The researchers conclude that both Facebook and Twitter as social marketing strategy, have the capability of repositioning the image of Nigeria on the global stage; as good people and great nation. In view of fully reuniting Nigeria with the global community, it was recommended that both state and federal government create a strategic and special Facebook page and Twitter account to open a dialogue with the citizens of this country on how Nigeria can move forward and fast toward polishing her image; thus expunging her name in the record of Transparency International (TI) as one of the most corrupt nations in the world.

Keywords: Social marketing, facebook, twitter, rebranding Nigeria, corporate image, media richness theory

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**AGROPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN THE ERA OF COVID-19;
CHALLENGES AND PANACEA: VIEWS OF SMALL-SCALE POULTRY
FARMERS IN IDEMILI NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF ANAMBRA
STATE NIGERIA**

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Abstract

This study x-rayed the challenges of Agropreneurship development since the outbreak of Coronavirus with views of small-scale poultry farmers in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State Nigeria. The potency of small-scale businesses in driving the socio-economic growth and development of nations particularly developing nations with emerging economy is incontrovertible. The owners of small-scale businesses are also known as entrepreneurs who incur losses sometimes and are faced with challenges which could have devastating effects on the business. These challenges have compounded by the outbreak of Coronavirus globally at the end 2019. The study employed descriptive survey design and utilized thematic method of analysis to analyze generated data. The study found out some challenges facing the small-scale poultry farmers to include hick in prices of chick, feed and drugs, drastic drop of sales and unhealthy competition in the market from large scale farmers and lack of government support. In line with these hurdles, following recommendations were made: concerted efforts by government to avail financial support in terms accessible soft loans to small-scale farmers, organize capability building exercises to enhance entrepreneurial skills acquisition of small-scale business owners and regulation of market prices to protect infant businesses.

Key words: Agropreneurship, Small-Scale Poultry Farmers, Covid-19 and Anambra State.

**LOCATION AND GENDER ANALYSIS OF CLIMATE CHANGE
VULNERABILITY AND IMPLICATION FOR POVERTY REDUCTION IN
TARABA STATE, NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The study examined location and gender dimension of climate change and its implication for poverty reduction in Taraba State, Nigeria. Using a multi-stage sampling technique, 492 respondents from 12 communities in 6 local government areas were selected for the study. in-depth interviews were also conducted for the study. Adopting the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (2007) and Deresse, Hassan, and Ringer (2008) Vulnerability Index as applied by Gebreegziabheret. al (2012), the study found that Taraba North is the least vulnerable among the three senatorial zones followed by Taraba South while Taraba Central senatorial zone is the most vulnerable. Similarly, the result suggests that male farmers were more vulnerable than their female counterparts. On the basis of the results, the study recommends the need to improve the adaptive capacity of farmers in Taraba State through the strengthening of those variables that improve adaptive capacity such as training/seminar as well the government providing facilities for farmers to enable them engage in dry season farming.

Key words: climate change vulnerability, vulnerability index, poverty reduction, food security

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS EFFECTS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES IN
NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Climate change has been identified as one the biggest threats to human health and existence. As such, this study investigated the impact of climate change on health outcomes in Nigeria using annual time series data ranging from 1980 to 2019. The measures of climate change incorporated (as core variables) in the model are average annual rainfall (ARF), carbon emission (CO₂) and average annual temperature (ATR);

government expenditure on health sector (GHE) and real GDP per capita (RGDP_{pcap}, a proxy for standard of living) were introduced as control variables while health outcomes (using mortality rate as a proxy) was incorporated as the explained variable of the study. The data for the study were extracted from the annual CBN statistical bulletin 2020, World Bank (World development indicator, 2021) and United Nations (World Population Prospects, 2021). Using ordinary least squares regression model, the result showed that ARF and CO₂ have statistically significant positive effects on mortality rate, RGDP_{pcap} has a statistical significant inverse relationship with mortality rate, while ATR has a negative but statistically insignificant impact on mortality rate for the period of study. Sequel to the findings, the study therefore recommended that the Nigerian government takes more drastic measures in the global fight against the catastrophic effects of climate change and improve the standard of living of the people.

Keywords: Climate Change, Rainfall, Temperature, CO₂, Health Outcomes, Mortality Rate

**AN ASSESSMENT OF HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL STRATEGIES DURING
COVID-19 LOCK DOWN IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The outbreak of coronavirus (otherwise known as covid-19) which the World Health Organisation (WHO) later classified as a global pandemic was invasive and pervasive such that it triggered economic lock down around the world in most of the 2020. Since then different variants of the virus have continued to evolve and spread rapidly across the globe, and are posing adverse economic consequences that threaten household survival especially in poor countries. Nigeria went into lock down in the early part of 2020 and this was eased gradually in July of that year due to the pressure it posed on human existence. The lock down affected households' economic activities such that one wonders how they were able to cope in the midst of covariate shock in which there was almost the collapse of social capital in form of assistance from friends and relatives. The purpose of this study is to assess households' survival and coping strategies during covid-19 lock down Nigeria using the Covid-19 longitudinal survey data conducted in Nigeria in 2020 and 2021 through mobile phones. The findings reveal that most households relied on reduced consumption, previous savings, postponement of non-food consumption expenditure, selling of harvests in advance, borrowing from friends/family, assistance from friends/family, additional income generating activity, and the sale of agric/non-agric assets. The study recommends diversification of economic activity especially in the rural areas and widespread agricultural practices to ensure constant consumption over a long period following a prolonged shock. Also, governments should ensure that relief packages are distributed and targeted fairly for them to achieve the intended objectives.

**EFFECT OF COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC ON SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY
CHAIN MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The devastating effect of the yet-to-be-resolved COVID-19 pandemic permeated all spheres of human endeavour, basically every nation across the globe is still grappling with the solution to an exit plan from the global widespread cataclysm. The climax of the epidemic led to a global shutdown of all economic transactions globally in march 2020; leading to negative economic experiences such as depression and recession by many economies. Supply Chain Management (SCM) involves the layout, organization, execution, management and monitoring of the free flow of goods (raw materials, work-in-progress and finished goods) as well as services amongst individual or organization from origin to the final consumer. Empirical evidence has shown that the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic is traced to Wuhan, China in late 2019. The main objective of this study is to examine the effect of the global pandemic on sustainable supply management in Nigeria. The foremost issues this study seek to clarify includes; shutdown in traditional export/import activities, increased demurrage on un-cleared goods and reduced capacity utilization. The study will elucidate on the basic conceptualization of Supply Chain Management, COVID-19 and Sustainability; specifically, the study will adopt the Network Perspective (NP) theory to comprehensively explain Supply Chain Management concept. Descriptive research methodology will be adopted in conducting the study, this will involve the administration of questionnaires to respondents as well as personal interviews to clarify areas where the questionnaire could not cover effectively. Data collected from the respondents will be collated and analysed to ascertain the relationship between the variables; global pandemic and supply chain management. The outcome of the study will form the basis of the study discussion of the findings. Based on study objective and the discussion of findings, recommendations and conclusions will be deduced to ensure that all stakeholders make adequate input to eradicate terrorism in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Supply Chain Management (SCM), COVID-19, Sustainability and Customers.*

**IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON EXTERNAL SECTOR ECONOMY
IN NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

The coming of COVID-19 as a pandemic has impacted negatively on the macroeconomic indicators of both emerging and advanced economies. However, this ambush also greatly affects the external sector of the Nigerian economy. Global border closures as efforts to contain the pandemic disrupted export and import of Nigeria which led to decline in foreign reserve and foreign exchange. Notably, a sharp decline in oil price at international market has put pressure on the Nigerian economy which has contributed to the increase in external debt accumulation by the Nigeria government in order to push the economy to equilibrium. The paper analyses the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on external sector economy in Nigeria and provides vital recommendations for possible recovery and sustainability on the Nigerian economy.

Keywords: COVID-19, Export, Import, External Debt, Foreign Exchange

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE MIST OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA: A
DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS**

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Abstract

Covid-19 Pandemic is a global diseases that cut across the whole world with varying number of deaths and infected persons in different countries of the world. There is no doubt that COVID-19 pandemic has had profound impacts on the lives of adults and children in addition to their careers. The expectation of the western world was that the pandemic will wipe off Africa because of poor health facilities and inadequate hospitals in the region. This paper explains the emergence of Covid-19 pandemic in the mist of multiple security challenges in Nigeria. Descriptive statistics will be used to analyze the expenses incurred on Covid-19 and that of defence in trying to protect the life and security of Nigerians. Stata 13 will be use for the estimation of the data generated. The real cost of these expenses on the pandemic and multiple security challenges will be examined with special interest on the amount spent in preventing the pandemic and the provision of arms and ammunition in fighting insurgency in the country. The man-hour

loss during the pandemic will also be given adequate attention as each man-hour loss has a real cost. Policy conclusion from this study will be useful for policy makers and other experts in Nigeria.

**ADVERSE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 IN NIGERIA'S ECONOMY IN THE
YEAR 2020-2021**

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Abstract

Man is a social being even in business organizations, people interact with each other because human beings make up part of the organization. Other resources of the business cannot be properly coordinated without effective communication between and among personnel of the organization. Hence, communication or interaction and other social activities like exercising (walk out), working, traveling, and business operations have become indispensable in man's daily activities. On January 23, 2020, the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee advised that "all countries should be prepared for containment, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of 2019-NCOV infection, and to share full data with WHO." On January 30, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 to be a public health emergency of international concern. The aim of this study is to critically examine the effect of Covid-19 on the social, health, economic, educational and religious well-being of Nigerians, the health sector preparedness, and the role of Nigerian social workers in the fight against Covid-19. The study adopts a qualitative phenomenological research design and descriptive method for data analysis. Personal interview forms a primary source of data collection while the secondary source includes library sources. This method of study was chosen to allow the data collected to speak for themselves without any interference from the researcher. The study reveals that social Stigmization, Economic recession, poor quality education, poor health conditions, lack of faith in God etc. have been observed among some Nigerians during the Covid-19 pandemic. The study recommends among other things the observance of all Covid-19 protocol as provided by the *Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)* for a healthy living since a healthy nation is a wealthy nation.

Key word: *Adverse; Effects; Covid-19; Nigeria; Economy*

**ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND
AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OUTPUT IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The persistent volatility in the price of crude oil coupled with the outbreak of the global pandemic has renewed the call for diversification of Nigeria economy. Since the agricultural sector was the mainstay of the economy before the discovery and subsequent exploration of crude oil, many economists and scholars have emphasized the need to reconsider the sector for succor in the face of global climate change challenges. Therefore, this study evaluated the impact of climate change on agricultural sector output in Nigeria between 1980 and 2020 using annual time series data. The study is based on multiple regression analysis using Agricultural GDP (a proxy for agricultural sector output) while climate change (measured using carbon emission, CO₂, annual rainfall and annual temperature), inflation rate (IR), exchange rate (ER) and government expenditure on agriculture (GEXA) were introduced as core and control variables respectively. The regression result showed that annual rainfall (AR), government expenditure (GEXA) and exchange rate (ER) have statistically significant positive relationship with agricultural productivity (AGDP); CO₂ and inflation rate (IR) have statistically significant negative impact on agricultural productivity while annual temperature came out with a negative sign but not statistically significant. Based on the findings, it was recommended that government invest more in agricultural sector and also take necessary actions to protect the sector from the consequences of climate change.

Keywords: Economic Diversification, Climate Change, Agricultural Sector

**HEALTH BURDENS AND LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY IN AFRICA'S
MIDDLE AND LOW-INCOME ECONOMIES: IMPLICATION FOR COVID-
19 PANDEMIC**

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Abstract

The effect of health burdens on labour productivity in Africa's middle and low-income economies in the advent of Covid-19 pandemic was investigated in this paper. It

employed Common Correlated Effects (CCE) estimation of Heterogeneous Dynamic Panel data Models to estimate a sample of 45 African countries with 30-panel series from 1990 to 2020. The authors discovered that the Covid-19 epidemic has aggravated the catastrophic health burdens (morbidity and mortality rates) in the panel countries. It shows that health burden has dynamic negative long-term spilling effect on labour productivity, such that a 1% increase in health burden, ceteris paribus, would reduce labour productivity by 13% in the upper middle income economy, 17% in the lower middle income economy, and 19% in the low-income economy, respectively. The findings also show divergence effects; with low- and lower-middle-income nations bearing the highest brunt of health burden crises due to Covid-19 pandemic and its mitigation measures, even in the face of inadequate health systems, lowering their labour productivity. As a result of this finding, an increase in health burdens devalues these countries' labour assets and raises the health risk of overburdened economies. The paper proposes that Africa countries should develop a regional inclusive health scheme with a financing target to raise the health system with particular attention to the low and lower-income countries. A healthy child grows into a productive adult in the future; hence the African Union should enact and enforce a regional health program that provides free child healthcare.

Key words: Health Burdens, Covid-19, Labour Productivity, Africa

**IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND STOCK MARKET SHOCKS
BEFORE AND DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC ERA ON NIGERIAN
ECONOMY**

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Abstract

This study investigates the impact of agricultural sector and stock market shocks before and during the Covid-19 pandemic era on Nigerian economy. The study employs Vector Auto Regressive (VAR) Model for the analysis. Natural log of Agricultural output is used to proxy Agricultural sector shock while All Share Index is used to proxy stock market shock. The finding from the Vector Auto Regressive Model estimate reveals that the Agricultural sector has a significant positive impact on the Nigerian Economy before the Covid 19 Pandemic era. The stock market has a negative impact the Nigerian Economy before the Covid 19 pandemic era. The finding also reveals that the covid-19 pandemic has a significant negative influence on Agricultural sector and stock market which in turn negatively impact on the Nigerian Economy. The study recommends the need for Capital Market authorities to design and implement more efficient fiscal incentives that rewards investors, strengthen the Nigerian Capital markets and abide by applicable rules and regulations. Also technical measures aimed at improving the functional performance level of the infrastructure in agricultural sector are necessary to enhance physical resilience.

Keywords: agricultural sector; stock market; shock; covid-19; pandemic; Nigeria.

**COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGIES AND GOVERNANCE IN
NIGERIA AND GHANA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

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Abstract

The character of government responds to the untold health challenges occasioned by the emergence of Corona virus-Covid-19 pandemic in Africa has remained unimagined. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about a significant disruption in the world economic order, as Africa became the worst hit due to inadequacies of public policies and executive will to fashion out robust recovery strategies. However, while the study explored the socio-economic and health implications, it as well interrogated governance competency and resilience recovery strategies initiated by Nigeria and Ghana. Methodologically, the paper appropriated documentary method and data were ostensibly generated through secondary sources of data collection and analyzed in content. Anchoring on the Welfare State theory, the study drew a comparative discussion between Nigerian and Ghanaian Covid-19 economic recovery responses. The study found out that the enforcement of COVID-19 preventive measures were implicated in the economic vulnerability of Nigeria and Ghana, as there was a high degree of exclusion and inequality in the social protection and distribution of resources Nigerian and Ghanaian governments. Arising from the findings, the study recommended that investment in the real sector of the economy should be given priority, to provide for sufficient cash flow that would help sustain economic performances in Nigeria and Ghana. Also, a robust institutional mechanism should be put in place to ensure effective and efficient distribution of COVID-19 relief materials and the economic stimulus package.

Keywords: *Governance, Covid-19, Economic Recovery, Welfare State, Social Protection*

ENERGY IN (SECURITY) IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Superlative words and acronyms adorn the frequency in use of describing the natural resource endowments and potentials of Nigeria, and of her economy. No doubts, ephemeral statistical figures feature prominently to substantiate and buttress the claims. Specifically, this study focus is on Nigeria's energy resource endowment in both fossil-

based energy and of its renewable resources too. Employing the econometric model technique of autoregressive distributed lag, the study constructed indices with which regression tests the resilience assumption of energy supply security accessibility indicator for Nigeria. Findings indicate that no long run relationship exist for the model for the data period 1986 to 2018. The policy implication is that in spite of her claimed pride as Africa's largest producer and exporter of crude petroleum, the energy supply security independence of Nigeria is questionable.

Key Words: Growth, Policy, Energy Supply, Energy Security, JEL Classification: H4, O2, Q4

EXCHANGE OF TRIBAL GARMENTS BY NIGERIANS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIO-CULTURAL INTEGRATION

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Abstract

Covid-19 pandemic created economic set-back globally. It is therefore necessary to pursue measures that will stimulate economic development globally and in Nigeria today. This study proposes the integration of exchange of indigenous garments of Nigeria's ethnic groups by Nigerians into Nigeria's "National Friday Wear" programme. This is whereby, on every Friday, every Nigerian will dress to work in indigenous outfit that is not of his own ethnicity. For instance, the Hausa-Fulani people will dress in Igbo attires to their offices and terminate the dressing of themselves in Hausa-Fulani fashions. Likewise, the Igbo will dress in Hausa-Fulani gears to their places of work and discontinue kitting themselves in Igbo fashions. The same becomes of Yoruba, Bini, Ijaw and other ethnic groups in Nigeria. This will generate development in Nigeria's indigenous textile industries and boost in her indigenous textile sales. The post-Nigeria's-civil war resolution, reunion, reconstruction and restoration of marginalised ethnicities into Nigeria also stand to be achieved if this proposal is effected. Data that informed this paper were gathered from book, book chapter, magazines, journal articles, internet and observations of the researcher. The method of data elucidation adopted in this study is descriptive thus qualitative research method of data analysis was engaged.

Keywords: Economic Development, Nigeria's Indigenous Garments, Textile Sales, Ethnic Cohesion.

EXCHANGE RATE INNOVATION, GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND STOCK MARKET RETURNS: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM ECOWAS COUNTRIES

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Abstract

Innovations in exchange rate and stock market returns have received a lot of shocks due to COVID-19 pandemic that has bedeviled the global economy, ECOWAS countries not excluded. This study therefore, intends to utilize Panel VAR impulse response function (IRF) model and high frequency data from World Development Indicators and World Health Organization from 2019 to 2021 to examine the response of innovations in exchange rate and stock market returns to COVID-19 pandemic in ECOWAS countries. It is expected that the findings of the study and policy implication would be of great relevance to ECOWAS country governments and its monetary policy regulators, stock market regulator and operators, investors, and the general public.

Keywords: Exchange Rate Innovation; Global Pandemic; Stock Market Returns; ECOWAS; Panel VAR; Impulse Response Function.

EFFECTS OF FINANCIAL CREDIT ON HOUSEHOLD WELFARE: A CAUSAL EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE.

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Abstract:

Evidence on the effects of financial credit on household welfare is quite controversial from both the credit demand and supply channels for many developed countries as many studies find positive impact as opposed to the others. However, micro causal evidence for middle-low income countries is very scarce due to the unavailability of panel micro data for many decades. Available results from cross-sectional studies have shown a mixed result majorly because of the problems of endogeneity. This study investigates the causal effects of financial credits on household welfare in a middle-low income country like Nigeria. We find that although credit improves welfare (consumption pa capita), this effect is not deep enough across other welfare measures and at various time periods.

GENDER ROLES IN THE ALLOCATION AND INVESTMENT DECISIONS OF AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS IN NSUKKA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA.

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to examine gender roles in the allocation and investment decisions of agricultural households in Nsukka Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria. The major motivation for this study is that most of the policy failures such as not adopting new technologies are as a result of lack of understanding regarding the position of gender in allocation and investment decisions. The study specifically described the types of decision-making models used by farm households; identified gender roles in the intra-household decision making process and examined the socioeconomic factors influencing the type of decision-making models employed by farming households. Multi-stage random sampling technique was used in selecting 60 respondents used for the study. Well-structured questionnaires were used to collect data. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, means and Multinomial Logistic Regression were used to analyse the data. The results of the study show that majority of the households use cooperative decision-making model. So, major decisions on resource allocation and investment are taken by both husband and wife. This was followed by husband only; women especially female adults are majorly excluded when it comes to major decisions pertaining to agricultural production and allocation. Though, this is not the case when it comes to making decisions related to labour. The study also showed that membership of farmer organization or other social groups was inversely related and statistically significant ($p > 0.01$) in influencing the type of decision-making model employed by farm households. The study hereby recommends or encourages farmers to form and belong to cooperative organizations for self-help and improvement of their socioeconomic status instead of totally depending on the government for most of their self and community growth and developmental needs.

Keywords: gender, decision- making, farm households

GLOBAL PANDAMIC: TOWARDS A PARADIGM IN INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY IN NIGERIAN HIGHER EDUCATION.

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Abstract

The current context with respect to the threat of the global pandemic as a result of COVID-19 creates series of catalytic transformations and technological resurgence in

the different spheres of social, political, labor, educational and economic life. This study

examined the current trend of instructional technology in the context of global pandemic caused by COVID-19. The global health emergency situation has caused the confinement of people and with it, the closure of educational institutions and the reactive shift from face-to-face instructional process to digital education strategies with a model that takes advantage of ICTs. Faced with these facts, educational technologists are confronted with greater progressive challenges of coping up with the trend of the new instructional media and approaches, presenting higher levels of technological innovations and creativity suitable for instructional efficiency and effectiveness in higher education. The purpose of this study is to identify and examine the instructional technological shifts, the resultant challenges and to suggest optimal ways of managing the trend in tertiary institutions within current context of the pandemic through the sporadic resurgence and innovations in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

Keywords: *Global Pandemics, Instructional Technologies, ICTs, Tertiary Education*

REMITTANCE INFLOW, INVESTMENT, HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION
AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN AFRICA DURING THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC

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Abstract

Many African economies have experienced slow-down in economic activities in recent times, especially following the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The crisis considerably halted economic activities across the globe, thereby significantly constraining the circular flow of income significantly. Interestingly, attempts to attain desirable level of investment and sustainable economic growth in developing economies would generally require foreign savings to bridge the savings-investment gap and the foreign exchange gap, and this is achievable through capital inflows. While a plethora of studies (e.g., Oteng-Abayie, Awuni, & Adjeidjei, 2020; Sutradhar, 2020) have examined the relationship between remittances and economic growth with mixed outcomes. Other studies (e.g., Adeseye, 2021; Younsi, Bechtini, & Khemili, 2021) examined the relationship between remittances and investment. In addition, studies (e.g., Bansak, Chezum & Giri, 2015; Dhakal & Oli, 2020) investigated the relationship between remittances and consumption, and further contributed to the controversies in the extant literature. Hence, additional empirical evidence is required for a more comprehensive understanding of these relationships. This study fills this gap in the literature by investigating the following questions: (i) what are the effects of remittance inflow and investment on economic growth in Africa amid the Covid-19 pandemic? (ii) What is the effect of remittance inflow on investment and household consumption in Africa amid the Covid-19 pandemic? To answer these questions, the study will utilize the dynamic system GMM modeling framework while the data would be sourced from the World Development Indicators (WDI, 2020).

Keywords: Covid-19 Pandemic; Remittance; Investment; Household Consumption; Economic Growth

JEL Classification Codes: E32; F41; F21; E21; O40

HR OPERATIONS AND WORK FAMILY-INTERFACE

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Abstract

The objective of this paper was to empirically study the effect of employee perception of human resource operations on work-family interface – work-to-family conflict (WTFC), family-to-work conflict (FTWC) work-to-family facilitation (WTFF) and family-to-work facilitating (FTWF). Data were obtained from a sample of 330 respondents drawn from 1896 staff working at the NNPC South-South Regional offices of Nigeria. Descriptive statistic was done using mean and inter-item correlations, while the hypotheses were tested using the moderated hierarchical regression on the Analysis of Moment Structures (AMOS) for the Structural Equation Model, and the Andrew Hayes Script PROCESS plug-in on SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). The empirical results showed that employee perception of human resources had no statistically significant effect on work-to-family conflict, but had a statistically significant effect on family-to-work conflict. Also, a statistically significant effect was found between employees' perception of human resource operations and family-to-work facilitation, but not between employees' perception of human resource operations and work-to-family facilitation. The findings of this study implies that employees who hold a positive perception of human resource activities were more likely to be the same group whose work-family facilitation drive them to perform better, without an influence on the work-family conflict domain. It is recommended that future studies could adopt a cross-regional or cross-sectoral/industry design for a more comparative evaluation.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTIRETROVIRAL REGIMENS USED FOR POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS PROGRAMME AT UNITED STATES' PEPFAR-APIN CLINICS IN NIGERIA: A RETROSPECTIVE PHARMACOECONOMIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Background: An appropriate economic evaluation of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) should take into consideration the effectiveness of different regimens prescribed for the clients. Studies have not considered the comparative effectiveness of different post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) antiretrovirals (ARVs) based on their costs. The aim of this study was to determine the cost-effectiveness of ARVs regimens used for PEP in Nigerian

**GLOBAL POLITICAL RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:
ANALYSING ABDUAZIMOV'S *RELIABILITY OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY***

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Abstract

The unprecedented emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic has left the world full of tensions, resulting in all manner of extraordinary responses by the international community. Not only has the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) demanded a global ceasefire, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been frantically making efforts to ensure a stable, healthy world during this chaotic period since November 2019. A variegated approach by scholars has involved rethinking existing approaches to international relations, with a greater focus on health diplomacy, border politics, trade, transport, migration; and there have been accusations and counter-accusations and conspiracy theories leading to vaccine nationalism and hesitancy by both developed and developing nations. Muzaffar Abduazimov's had listed six major trends caused by the pandemic, which are: *acceleration* of ICTs penetration; *reappraisal* of information security; ensuring the *reliability* of public diplomacy; further *diversification* of responsible duties; the *growing role* of psychology; and the emergence of the *hybrid* diplomatic etiquette and protocol. This paper, which discusses global political responses to the Covid-19 pandemic, takes particular interest in analysing the reliability of *public diplomacy* as a way of understanding the role it plays in international politics and diplomatic relations. The study uses the documentary method and will analyse data using content analysis and deductive logical reasoning to interpret documentary data. Possible policy recommendations will be made at the end of the study.

Keywords: Covid-19 pandemic, global responses, World Health Organisation, Muzaffar Abduazimov, public diplomacy.

tertiary hospitals.

Methods: This cross-sectional study collated patients' demographic and clinical data from PEP databases of United States' President Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief – AIDS Prevention Initiative in Nigeria hospitals. The costs of ARVs were obtained from the donors' price list. Effectiveness was measured as the percentage of HIV-negative patients one month post-PEP. Average cost-effectiveness ratios (ACERs) were computed as the unit cost of the regimens/HIV infection averted (HIA). Probabilistic sensitivity analysis was conducted using 1000 iterations in a Monte-Carlo Simulation.

Results: Out of 575 clients identified, 198(34.4%) had non-occupational exposure. Of the 14 regimens, Tenofovir (TDF)/Lamivudine (3TC)/ritonavir-boosted Atazanavir (ATV/r) was prescribed for 230(40.00%) clients. HIV negative result was documented in 129 (22.4 %) of the patients. AZT/3TC/ATV-r was the most effective [63 (95.5 %) of 66] regimen while TDF/Emtricitabine (FTC)/ritonavir-boosted lopinavir (LPV/r) was the most expensive (\$23.66). With an ACER of \$2919.60/HIV infection prevented (95 % CI: \$2898.00 – \$2941.20), TDF/3TC/efavirenz (EFV) was the most cost-effective regimen.

Conclusion: AZT/3TC/ATV-r was the most effective regimen, while TDF/FTC/ATV-r was the most expensive. However, TDF/3TC/EFV combination was the most cost-effective regimen used in providing PEP service to clients in Nigerian hospitals.

Keywords: Antiretroviral Regimens, Cost-effectiveness Analysis, Average Cost-effectiveness Ratio, Nigeria, PEPAR, Post-exposure Prophylaxis

ACCESS TO CREDIT AND LOAN REPAYMENT PERFORMANCE AMONG
NON-AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLD ENTERPRISES IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examined loan repayment performance of non-agricultural household enterprises and its influence on access to credit in Nigeria. The study employed binary logistic regression approach and used cross-sectional data obtained from the General Household Survey (GHS) which was conducted in Nigeria in the period 2017/2018. The

findings indicate that loan repayment performance positively and significantly impact the access to credit among non-agricultural household enterprises. This suggests that the high default rates among borrowers significantly affect the access to credit among non-agricultural household enterprises. The study, therefore, concludes that there is need for adequate policies that will promote loan repayment.

Keywords: Access to credit, loan repayment, Enterprise, Binary Logistic Regression, Nigeria

JEL Classifications: E51, G5

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MARKET-BASED ASSETS AS A MODERATOR IN THE STRATEGY-GROWTH EFFECT DURING COVID-19

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Abstract

This study was on the moderating influence of market-based assets on the effect of product innovation strategy on growth in the commercial banking industry in South-East, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study were to establish the main effect of product innovation strategy on product-based growth; the moderating role of customer orientation on the established main effect; the moderating influence of customer orientation and the moderating role of market creativity on that established main effect within the commercial banking industry in South-East, Nigeria. The study was a survey and primarily sourced data was basically used. Using a census sampling technique, 352 respondents who are at the managerial cadre of a commercial bank across the five states of the south-east were assessed. A structured questionnaire served as the instrument for data collection, while requisite data management and preliminary diagnostic efforts were exerted to establish both construct validity and internal reliability using the principal component analyses and Cronbach's Alpha respectively. Using the moderated regression approach to test the four formulated hypotheses for this study, the results showed a statistically significant main effect of product innovation strategy on firm growth ($\beta=0.46$; $p<0.05$) and three statistically significant moderating influences ($\beta_{CO}=0.133$; $p<0.05$; $\beta_{CUO}=0.549$; $p<0.05$; $\beta_{MC}=0.211$; $p<0.05$). The implication of these findings is that while a good product innovation strategy would improve the growth of the firm, a combination of customer orientation, then market creativity, and lastly competitor orientation would even lead to a better outcome of firm growth; in that order. Firm intervention towards these market-based assets would have to focus on customer-centric tools as that improves the growth of the firm to a larger extent compared to other asset class.

**CONTRIBUTIONS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE AND
ENTREPRENEUR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN KATSINA STATE
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Abstract

The small and medium enterprise play an important roles for the process and growth the development of an economy more especially in Nigeria. This is because the SMEs help an entrepreneurs in order to become a self reliances. The study examines the roles of small and medium enterprise to enterpreneur and economic for growing the Nigeria economic, SMEs contribute significant on average between 50% and 60% of value added. Because majority of our companies are generating the revenue and provide employment opportunities to our teaming youths in Katsina State. This paper is conceptual in nature. The finding of the study reveals a positive and significant relationship between small and medium enterprise and output growth indicating that small and medium enterprise in Nigeria contribute immensely to the development of enterpreneur and economic development. The study recommends that the government is to ensure that the company in the country are existing and established by empowered the stockholders and also advising them to invest their shares in small and medium enterprises. Efforts should also be made to ensure that adequate infrastructural facilities are in place for proper operation of SMEs in the country.

**RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND VACCINE HESITANCY IN THE MIDST OF
COVID -19 PANDEMIC IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

This paper posits that religious beliefs are, often than not, taken as sacrosanct. Thus, religion has an overwhelming influence on votaries. It is against this background that religion has continued to play a role in vaccine hesitancy since the advent of Covid-19 pandemic. While non-pharmaceutical protocols in curbing the spread of Covid-19 as

provided by World Health Organization (WHO) have gained currency, especially in the media; however, it is undesirable that the role of religion in helping to control the blow out of the virus has noticeably been neglected. This in itself is worrisome. But more worrisome is the seeming lack of cross-examination of the role of religious beliefs in vaccine hesitancy. This has created a dearth in corpus of knowledge regarding containment of the dreaded Covid-19 virus. Therefore, this paper undertakes the task of exhuming the religious beliefs that underpin vaccine hesitancy in Nigeria. On the other hand, the paper also attempts to provide counter narratives as a deliberate measure to boost vaccine acceptability, which is key to achieving the set objective of WHO in curtailing the spread of the virus and its related variants as we are witnessing in recent times. The analysis made in this paper come from existing literature on the subject matter as well as inferences from videos on social media credited to religious leaders. Interviews, Focal Group Discussions (FGD) and Survey Monkey will be conducted in order to determine how religious beliefs have inspired vaccine hesitancy, especially in Nigeria

Keywords: Covid-19, vaccine, religion, belief, influence.

CAPITAL FLIGHT AND EXTERNAL DEBT NEXUS: FRESH EVIDENCE FROM NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study is set to examine the relationship between capital flight and external debt in Nigeria from 1981 to 2020. The study employed the Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) Model and Granger causality test. Annual time series data which were sourced from the Statistical Bulletin of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and World Bank's World Development Index (WDI) data on Nigeria. The empirical evidence confirms that the variables are cointegrated for the long-run relationship and that capital flight exert a positive and significant impact on external debt, macroeconomic instability, and budget deficit. Conversely, capital flight has a negative and insignificant impact on foreign reserves in the period. The Granger causality analysis divulges the existence of a bi-directional causality running from capital flight to external debt and concluded that a debt-driven capital flight and flight-driven external debt exist in Nigeria. This study, therefore, recommends the need for government to implement growth-friendly macroeconomic policies, notably sound debt management, a robust contractionary monetary policy, as well as fiscal measures that increase government revenue.

Keywords: Capital Flight, External Debt, Revolving Door hypothesis, Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) technique.

**EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE PREVALENCE OF MALARIA
IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Malaria infection constitutes a major public health problem especially in the tropics with the potential to significantly increase its response to changes in weather and climate. Nigeria being one of the most vulnerable countries to climate variability due to the zones and geographical disparity suffers high magnitude of malaria occurrences. In spite of the various intervention programmes aimed at reducing and managing malaria incidence, appreciable progress in the control of malaria has not been optimal. In view of this, this study probed the impact of weather and climatic change on the occurrence and transmission of malaria in Nigeria. Annual data on climatic condition proxied by rainfall and maximum temperature from 1996 to 2020 were obtained from Nigeria Meteorological Agency and the Central Bank of Nigeria. The result of Augmented Dickey Fuller Test indicates that the variables are I(0) and I(1) series. The ARDL co-integration estimates suggest a long run relationship between climate change and prevalence of malaria incidence in Nigeria. The results of findings further revealed that there exists a negative relationship between maximum temperature and malaria incidence in Nigeria. The paper therefore recommend intense advocacy for preventive and curative intervention programmes coupled with increased budgetary allocation of the health sector with a view to minimizing the prevalence of malaria incidence in Nigeria.

Keywords: Climate change, Malaria, Rainfall, Temperature

JEL Classification: Q54, I10, Q50, Q51

**OIL PRICE AND EXCHANGE RATE NEXUS IN NIGERIA: EVIDENCE
FROM WAVELET ANALYSIS**

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Abstract

Crude oil is the source of essential petroleum products for productive economic activities. Primarily, Nigeria exports crude oil and imports petroleum products.

Therefore, this trade relation has a link with exchange rate of the Nigerian currency vis-à-vis the US dollar. This paper examines the oil price-exchange rate nexus in Nigeria. The paper considers monthly data from 1980M1 to 2020M12 within the framework of Wavelet analysis. The results show evidence of mixed relationship between oil price and exchange rate during the period under study. The results also show evidence of lead-lag effect of oil price on exchange rate in the long-run, but not in the short- and medium-run. Thus, oil price has time varying effect on exchange rate only in the long-run. Furthermore, there is evidence of unidirectional causality from oil price to exchange rate in the short- and medium-run, but bidirectional causality in the long-run. Hence, oil price is a key determinant of exchange rate in the short- and medium-run, but not in the long-run. Consequently, this study emphasizes the need for purposeful economic diversification in order to attain and sustain a stable exchange rate in Nigeria.

Keywords: Crude oil price, Exchange rate, Wavelet analysis, Lead-lag effect, Granger causality, Decomposition, Continuous Wavelet Spectrum, Wavelet

RELIGIOUS BELIEF AND VACCINE HESITANCY

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Abstract

The outbreak of COVID-19 virus at the onset of the year 2020 brought a global catastrophe, with countries that have the strongest health delivery systems being some of the hardest hit. Increased acceptance and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines is very essential in containing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccine hesitancy is a threat to public health containment of infectious diseases. With the cure seemingly not in sight, nations have pinned their hopes on the development of vaccines. Whilst most developed nations have embarked on mass vaccination of citizens, largely due to their ability to manufacture vaccines, the African continent has lagged behind. The main aim of this paper therefore was to examine the Religious belief and Vaccine hesitancy across all populations in Africa. This paper, which is based on literature and documentary survey, explores the implications of African Religious beliefs and related factors on the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccines, as well as articulating on how the governments can avert the consequences of belief guided negative perceptions on successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination and implementing the use of African Herbs medicine as received by the United of America that its international research Publication identifying Ose Ora (Alligator Pepper) as a treatment option for COVID-19.” Though, there are other African Herbal Medicines that are waiting for endorsement and approval. Based on the above findings, the paper reveals that religious and cultural beliefs that do not subscribe to vaccination are the main drivers to vaccine hesitancy. Conspiracy theories surrounding the origins of the COVID-19 virus and social media misinformation have also heightened suspicion and mistrust over the efficacy of the vaccines. The main thrust and the recommendation of this paper is for Government at various level to encourage mass public awareness, community engagement, countering misinformation, approval of African herbal medicine as prescriptive measures for vaccine hesitancy.

Key words: Religious belief, Vaccine, hesitancy.

**MEDIATING ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK IN THE FACE OF COVID 19
VACCINE HESITANCY IN ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Nigerians are faced with the challenge of whether to take COVID-19 vaccine or not. The pandemic as a social problem needs the meditative roles of social workers. Hence, this study looks at the mediating role of social work in the face of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in Enugu State, Nigeria. Explanatory research with qualitative method employed, where secondary data, articles, newspapers, observations and interviews were instruments used for the data collection. The study found that COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy is caused by social, spiritual, psychological, and economical dimensions. Socially, it is discovered that there are many controversial news indicating how deadly and useless the vaccine is. Spiritually, many believe that they are spiritually strong to resist COVID-19. Psychologically, it is believed that COVID-19 is man-made and was created to manipulate the society. Economically, majority of the participants suggested that COVID-19 vaccine is a waste of resources and that if the money channeled in vaccine was used for developing infrastructures and job creation, the society would have been richer since the news of the pandemic. Social work is to analyze and mediate between the government with their COVID-19 rules and the people to ensure that no party is injured at the end. This has implication for social policy in Nigeria and the world at large.

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE DRIVERS OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY
AND GROWTH IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The study will examine the COVID-19 Pandemic and the drivers of economic recovery and growth in Nigeria. This was undertaken given that the pandemic has had severe consequences on the Nigerian economy such that beyond the tragic health hazards and human consequences, the economic uncertainties and disruptions to household livelihoods significantly affected economic growth. Nigeria's GDP declined 6.10% (YOY) in Q2 2020, it was the first contraction since Q1 2017, and the steepest of such quarterly decline since Q1 2014, and went into recession in the third quarter of 2020. Now, the world has taken solace in the fact that the pandemic has slowed down and it is less fatal despite the OMICRON strand, and there are feasible signs of increased and

effective vaccine production, continuous reduction in lockdowns in most countries, and the picking up of global economic activities. It becomes important to proactively analyze the drivers of post-COVID-19 economic recovery and growth in Nigeria. The broad objective of this study will be to project the drivers of post-COVID-19 economic recovery and growth in Nigeria, so the study will ask the following questions (i) What is the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on economic growth in Nigeria? (ii) How did Nigeria manage the immediate effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on economic growth in Nigeria? (iii) How can Nigeria harness the potentials in the economy for post-COVID-19 economic recovery and growth? The study will obtain data from secondary sources from the documents of the World Health Organization, Nigerian Centre for Disease Control, and the Central Bank of Nigeria. The method of Data analysis will employ exploratory data analysis utilizing descriptive tools. The findings of the study will be made in line with theoretical postulations. This will lead to conclusions that will inform the policy recommendations.

JEL classification code: E20, F41

Keywords: COVID-19, economic growth, pandemic

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING PREGNANT WOMEN'S
ACCESS TO TETANUS TOXOID VACCINATION IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

This paper examined the socioeconomic factors affecting pregnant women's access to tetanus toxoid vaccination in Nigeria. Data for the research was sourced from the 2018 Nigeria Demographic Health Survey and analyzed using the ordinary least square method. Findings from the result showed that maternal education, husband's education, wealth index and number of antenatal care visit has a positive and significant relationship with tetanus toxoid vaccination while residence has a negative but significant relationship with tetanus toxoid vaccination. The study therefore, recommends that health promotion activities that targets high risk group like pregnant women especially those living in the rural areas should be given during antenatal care visit, this helps to create awareness on how this morbidity affect pregnancies.

THE COVID-19, MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

It is utterly evident that the Corona Virus (COVID-19) global pandemic had wrecked a great havoc on the global economy; Nigeria is not an isolation looking at the globally ravaging and divesting effect of the pandemic on the economy of the world. In this paper we explore within the framework of a structural VAR, propagation of perturbations among the Nigeria's macroeconomic indicators notably the GDP and the COVID-19 as a proxy by the number of cases recorded in the country. The results of the impulse response function using the COVID-19 proxy as an exogenous variable reveal evidence of transmission of shocks from the COVID -19 variable to the key macroeconomics indicators of the country. Hence, it is recommended that stiffer measures be taken by the authorities of the country to mitigate the effects of the pandemic in order to sustain and propel growth.

Key words: COVID-19, Macroeconomic Indicators, Economic Growth, structural VAR

THE NEXUS BETWEEN VALUE ADDED TAX AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: DOES COUNTRY GOVERNANCE MATTER?

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Abstract

It has been argued that Value Added Tax (VAT) is a better tool to enhance tax collection efficiency through greater redistribution of government expenditure. In another vain, VAT has been described as regressive as it is often linked to higher inflation and lower consumption, savings and investment. It also leads to greater welfare loss among the poor. Consequently, its perceived positive effect on economic development is dubious. From discussions, there exist a trade-off between tax efficiency and economic development. For countries with poor institutions, the regressive effect of VAT may be serious when corruption is rampant. This research aims to identify a set of country governance factors that policy makers should watch to mitigate the regressive effect of VAT. Using data from selected countries from 1990-2020, this paper investigates the moderating role of country governance on the link between VAT and economic development. The results suggest that the extent to which country governance mitigates the effect of VAT on economic development is largely dependent on the way countries prioritize the development of each institutional factor. These findings confirm the role of country governance in better enforcement of tax policy to create less detrimental effects on economic development

Keywords: Tax policy, value added tax, economic development, governance

JEL Classification Code: C23, E69, H25, O11

**AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE NEXUS BETWEEN
CORRUPTION, POVERTY AND CONFLICTS IN THE WEST AFRICAN
SUB-REGION**

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Abstract

There is consensus among Policy makers and Academicians that corruption might cause poverty or, the other way round, and that the duo lead to conflicts (insecurity). Thus far, African governments are more inclined to spending more hugely on security than on addressing poverty. This paper aims at establishing didactically, the link between corruption and poverty, and, on the other hand, corruption and conflicts in the West African Region. The Panel vector autoregression and panel Granger Causality techniques were used as methodological tools for analyzing the contemporaneous interdependency / relationship among the variables. The results revealed evidence of existence contemporaneous relationship among the variables as indicated by the impulse response functions generated from the panel VAR framework. Moreover, the panel Granger Causality tests revealed that causality exists among the variables. It is therefore recommended that stern measures be taken to curb corruption in the countries as that would help in the Governments' struggle for poverty alleviation and conflicts control efforts which until today proved to be abortive in the Region.

MACHIAVELLIANISM IN NIGERIAN POLITICS

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Abstract

Niccolo Machiavelli believes that there is nothing like life after death or supernatural being; consequently, the end of man is sought on earth not in eternity. Since man has no supernatural end, therefore there is nothing like divine law. Insofar as there is no divine law, man's end therefore is power, greatness and fame. In Machiavelli's quest to save the Florentine State and the whole of Italy from invasion by Spain and France, he tried to establish the autonomy of politics and denied ethical absolutes in the advice he gave to the ruler (The Prince) contained in the book *The Prince*. His principle, 'the end justifies the means' has seriously influenced most Nigerian politicians. Some Nigerian politicians have inculcated this Machiavellian political idea into their operations and this is not good for our democracy. This work addresses the isolation of ethics from politics and its effects in the society. Moral recommendations are made as a way forward for Nigeria.

Key words; Democracy, State, Constitution, Politics, Sovereignty and Power.

TRADE PROTECTION AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

As a contribution to the divergent views about the effect of trade protection on economic growth, this study examined the impact of trade protection on industrial development in Nigeria for the period 1988–2020 using the ARDL bounds test technique. The tariff rate, applied at a weighted mean of all products (%), was used to capture the trade protection in the study. Real industry GDP was used as a proxy for industrial development. The regression results showed that the tariff rate had a significant negative impact on industrial development in both the short-and long-run. It shows that public policy geared towards increasing the tariff rate in Nigeria depletes industrial development. Because Nigerian industries rely heavily on foreign inputs, the study recommends a public policy mix that will reduce tariffs on foreign inputs needed to increase local industry productivity while encouraging them to source their inputs locally and ensuring proper implementation of import substitution and export promotion strategies to boost productivity and economic growth.

Keywords: Trade protection, industrial development, Tariff, ARDL, Nigeria.

THE REPERCUSSION OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON FOOD SECURITY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

With COVID-19, the challenges hampering the attainment of food security in Nigeria could deepen. The impact is already being felt in the form of rising food prices. As at December 2021, food inflation rose to 15% compared to 14.7% in December 2020. Apart from COVID-19, there is a very serious virus that is killing people much higher than coronavirus. That virus is hunger; there is hunger virus and it's very serious. The study sought to find the repercussion of COVID-19 Pandemic on food security in Nigeria. The question however is, what are the effects of Covid-19 pandemic on food security in Nigeria? What are the strategies adopted by both State and Federal

Government of Nigeria to achieve sustainable food security from the novel of COVID-19 pandemic? Data for the study will be drawn from direct observation, questionnaires and secondary sources. In articulating an answer to these questions, the work will be situated within the Thomas Hobbes social contract theory. The theory will demonstrate how the mandate to secure the people from the tension and panic necessitated by COVID-19 pandemic has therefore, become the constitutional obligation of governments. The qualitative data obtained will be analyzed using the frequency and percentages. The study will reveal how Lockdowns during the planting season has threaten food security in the months ahead. The study further will reveal how the prices of staple crops have remained high and with critical food shortages on the increase. This can be attributed to the disruption of the supply chain. We recommended that palliatives and stimulus packages adopted by the state government must be properly coordinated to go directly to the target beneficiaries.

Keywords: COVID-19, Social Contract Theory, Food Security, Hunger, Nigeria

URBANISATION, INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN ECOWAS

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Abstract

This study empirically analysed the impact of urbanisation and international trade on the environment in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for the period 1990 to 2017 in a panel data framework. The study utilised the Augmented Mean Group (AMG) estimation procedure which accounts for cross sectional dependence in the modelling exercise as well as country specific heterogeneity after revealing the presence of cross-sectional dependence. The empirical results reveal that urbanisation significantly increases CO₂ emission in Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Togo but reduces CO₂ emission significantly in Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. Furthermore, international trade increases CO₂ emission in Ghana and Guinea significantly. It is further revealed that urbanisation and international trade Granger cause CO₂ emission in ECOWAS and thus shows the importance of these fundamentals in forecasting CO₂ emissions into the future. The study recommends country specific environmental quality policies.

**ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECT OF FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SUB SAHARAN AFRICAN
COUNTRIES (USING PMG OR MG APPROACH)**

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Abstract

This paper empirically examines the impact of financial development on sustainable development within a time frame of 49 years. Macro panel data analysis are employed to capture the country specific effect which varies across countries. The Pedroni test for cointegration, reveals the existence of long run cointegration. Moreover, the Hausman best model selection favored pooled mean group (PMG) as the best model selection. The result of the study reveals that financial development has no any significant impact on economic sustainable development. Other variables such as inflation and government expenditure are found to exert negative impact on economic sustainable development. The study recommended adequate economic policy in stimulating financial development that is capable of driving and maintaining sustainable economic growth.

Keywords: *Financial Development, Sustainable Economic growth, Poverty, Panel ARDL (PMG), Sub-saharan Continent.*

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract

Global uncertainty has recently spiralled out of control, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The reasons are not implausible, given that the current trend of uncertainty is having unprecedented consequences for already weak global growth recoveries. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of human life, including the environment. The efforts adopted to contain the virus's spread and the resulting slowing of economic activity substantially impact the environment. Therefore, this study examines the environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by reviewing the existing literature. The study found that the pandemic significantly improves environmental quality in various cities worldwide by lowering pollution and degradation. On the other hand, the study revealed that the pandemic has several negative

implications, including increased medical and residential waste, decreased waste recycling, and excessive water use. As economic activity appears to be resuming, the situation may alter. Consequently, this study also discusses potential strategies for achieving environmental sustainability.

Keywords: Environment, pollution, degradation, COVID-19 pandemic, sustainability

COVID-19 OMICRON VARIANT AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE ENTERPRISES (SMES) IN FCT-ABUJA: A FOCUS ON THE POST-COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The emergence of the COVID-19 virus inflicted global challenges to public health systems and economic activities, as the vast majority of nations around the world entered into recessions with low or negative GDP growth rates due to low production and business operations by vibrant sectors of the economy, especially the SMEs. Just at the point of economic recovery and the birth of vaccines used for preventing the spread of the virus, a new COVID-19 variant called Omicron emerged and has triggered concerns and renewed fears over the COVID-19 pandemic among business owners, customers, and the general public. Therefore, considering the inevitable threats and shocks of the COVID-19 Omicron variant to the SMEs, the study examined the impact of the COVID-19 Omicron variant on the economic performance of SMEs in FCT-Abuja, Nigeria. The study used a sample comprising 112 respondents, including both small and medium-scale business owners. Data was collected through a structured questionnaire and was analyzed using SPSS. The findings showed that business owners in FCT-Abuja are aware of the COVID-19 virus and its mode of spread, while few others are not aware and do not perceive the emergence of the COVID-19 Omicron variant. Economically, it is revealed that the income of SMEs reduced, prices of materials inputs are still on the rise, levels of production has reduced, prices of goods and services are on the rise, and the level of purchase by customers has reduced due to the fears and concerns of the high risk associated with COVID-19 Omicron variant. Hence, the study recommends that government should intensify public health response measures to COVID-19 in Nigeria based on the assessment of the high risk of spread of the Omicron variant. Interrupting transmission of the virus can only be achieved through effective vaccination and adherence to the proven safety measures such as wearing facemasks, regular

handwashing, and physical distancing. Business owners and law enforcement agencies in authority should take responsibility by ensuring people in public places and markets adhere to these measures. SMEs should participate on online-based platforms to advertise and sell their products to intensify production activities and output; government should provide effective emergency funding platforms such as grants that will respond to the unfavorable conditions of business owners in Nigeria.

Keywords: COVID-19, Omicron Variant, SMEs, Economic Performance, Nigeria.

JEL Classification: C83, I12, I15, I18, M21, O17.

THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ATTRACTING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN NIGERIA (1981-2019)

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ABSTRACTS

The potential of foreign direct investment in host nation economic progress and technological advancement is not controversial. Meanwhile the level of infrastructure set the pace for FDI flows. We examined the impact of infrastructural development on foreign direct investment in Nigeria. Descriptive research design was adopted and annual time series data over the period of 1981 to 2019 sourced from Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Statistical Bulletin was utilized. The econometric model was estimated using the Fully Modified Ordinary Least Squares techniques. The result indicates that social infrastructure ($\beta = 0.024313$, $t = 2.935285$, $p < 0.05$) ($\beta = 0.673199$, $t = -3.318014$, $p < 0.05$) exert a significant positive effect on foreign direct investment in Nigeria. It was also found that economic infrastructure showed a negative significant effect on foreign direct investment in Nigeria while transport infrastructure does not show any effect on foreign direct investment in Nigeria. It was recommended that economic infrastructure which crowd-out foreign direct investment should be revitalize by allowing private individuals who are willing to invest in the sector through a public-private partnership agreement.

Keywords: Infrastructural development, Foreign direct investment, Social infrastructure Economic infrastructure, Transport infrastructure