

SMART HORIZONS 2026

**International Conference on Human-Centered AI,
Business Agility, and Educational Innovation**

**Navigating the Smart Frontier — Synergizing
Artificial Intelligence, Business Agility, and
Media Ethics**



FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHERE

Gombe State Nigeria

(Accredited by the National University Commission)



Aug 1-2, 2026



Dr. Adamu Abubakar Muhammad

Dr Manisha D Bhagoji



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**Federal University
of Kashere**



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Smart Horizon 2026

Human-Centered AI, Business Agility, and Educational Innovation

August 01-02, 2026

Conference Theme

*"Navigating the Smart Frontier — Synergizing Artificial Intelligence,
Business Agility, and Media Ethics"*

A Book of Conference Proceedings

Editors:

Dr Adamu Abubakar Muhammad

Dr Manisha D Bhagoji

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MESSAGE

From the Desk of the Chief Patron



It gives me great pleasure to welcome readers to the Proceedings of **Smart Horizons 2026: International Conference on Human-Centered AI, Business Agility, and Educational Innovation**, organised around the theme, *“Navigating the Smart Frontier: Synergizing Artificial Intelligence, Business Agility, and Media Ethics.”*

The conference addresses a defining challenge of our time: how to harness the transformative potential of artificial intelligence and digital innovation while preserving human dignity, ethical responsibility, institutional accountability and sustainable development. Its multidisciplinary orientation provides an important platform for scholars, researchers, educators, professionals and policymakers to examine the opportunities and complexities emerging at the intersection of technology, society, education, business and communication.

These Proceedings provide a valuable record of the intellectual contributions generated through the conference. I trust that the research and perspectives presented in this volume will stimulate further scholarship, interdisciplinary collaboration and evidence-informed approaches to the responsible application of emerging technologies.

I commend the organisers, contributing authors, keynote speakers, reviewers, session chairs, partners and participants for their commitment to academic excellence and knowledge exchange. May this volume contribute meaningfully to the continuing global dialogue on human-centred innovation and the responsible navigation of the smart frontier.

Prof. Muhammad Inuwa Ja'afaru

Vice-Chancellor,

Federal University of Kashere

Gombe State, Nigeria



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MESSAGE

From the Desk of the Patron



I am pleased to present the Proceedings of Smart Horizons 2026, an international scholarly forum devoted to examining the rapidly evolving relationship between artificial intelligence, business agility, educational innovation and media ethics.

The theme, “Navigating the Smart Frontier: Synergizing Artificial Intelligence, Business Agility, and Media Ethics,” captures the need to approach technological transformation not merely as a question of innovation, but also as one of governance, responsibility, adaptability and human welfare. The conference has provided an important multidisciplinary space for engaging these questions from diverse academic and professional perspectives.

The contributions compiled in this volume reflect the intellectual diversity of the conference and demonstrate the growing importance of interdisciplinary research in responding to complex contemporary challenges. I am confident that these Proceedings will serve as a useful scholarly resource for researchers, educators, practitioners and policymakers seeking to understand and respond to the opportunities and responsibilities associated with the smart future.

I sincerely appreciate the contributions of the authors, keynote speakers, reviewers, session chairs, organising committee, institutional partners and all participants. Their collective commitment has strengthened the academic value and international character of this conference.

May the ideas contained in this volume inspire continued research, responsible innovation and meaningful academic collaboration.

Prof. Umaru Gurama

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration

Federal University of Kashere

Gombe State, Nigeria



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MESSAGE

From the Desk of the Co-Patron



It is a privilege to contribute this message to the Proceedings of Smart Horizons 2026, a conference that brings together diverse disciplinary perspectives on one of the most consequential transformations of contemporary society.

The theme, *“Navigating the Smart Frontier: Synergizing Artificial Intelligence, Business Agility, and Media Ethics,”* appropriately recognises that technological advancement cannot be considered independently of human values, ethical judgement, communication, education and social responsibility. The humanities and social sciences are therefore indispensable to understanding how intelligent technologies should be developed, interpreted and applied within increasingly complex societies.

The scholarly contributions contained in these Proceedings demonstrate the importance of interdisciplinary engagement in addressing emerging questions surrounding artificial intelligence, sustainability, digital communication, organisational transformation and educational innovation. They also reinforce the principle that technological progress should remain firmly connected to human-centred values and societal needs.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all authors, keynote speakers, reviewers, moderators, session chairs, members of the organising committee, institutional partners and participants whose scholarly commitment has contributed to the success of the conference.

I trust that this volume will stimulate further inquiry, strengthen interdisciplinary partnerships and contribute to the development of ethical, inclusive and sustainable approaches to technological transformation.

Prof. Muhammad Shariff Ramadan

Dean, Faculty of Humanities

Federal University of Kashere

Gombe State, Nigeria



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MESSAGE

From the Desk of the Convenor



It is with great honor and appreciation that I present the Proceedings of Smart Horizons 2026: International Conference on Human-Centered AI, Business Agility, and Educational Innovation.

Convened under the theme, *“Navigating the Smart Frontier: Synergizing Artificial Intelligence, Business Agility, and Media Ethics,”* the conference was conceived as a multidisciplinary platform for examining how technological transformation can be aligned with ethical responsibility, institutional adaptability, educational innovation and sustainable human development.

The papers and scholarly contributions compiled in this volume represent diverse perspectives on emerging issues in artificial intelligence, business and finance, media and communication, information technology, education, sustainability, and the humanities and social sciences. Collectively, they demonstrate the importance of interdisciplinary scholarship in understanding the opportunities, risks and responsibilities associated with the rapidly evolving digital environment.

I sincerely acknowledge the invaluable support of the Chief Patron, Patron, Co-Patron, institutional leadership, ICERT leadership and Secretariat members, international partners, keynote and plenary speakers, reviewers, session chairs, technical teams, members of the organising committee, contributing authors and all participants.

My particular hope is that these Proceedings will extend the intellectual conversations initiated during the conference beyond the discussion, but stimulating new research, collaborative projects, institutional partnerships and evidence-informed responses to contemporary challenges.

May Smart Horizons 2026 serve not simply as a record of scholarly exchange, but as a foundation for continued innovation, responsible technological development and meaningful global academic collaboration.

Dr. Adamu Abubakar Muhammad

Chairman, Committee for Collaboration and Linkages

Faculty of Humanities, Federal University of Kashere.

Convenor, Smart Horizons 2026



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MESSAGE

From the Desk of the Secretary, ICERT



It is my great pleasure to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of Smart Horizons 2026 – International Conference on Human-Centered AI, Business Agility, and Educational Innovation, held on August 1–2, 2026.

Organized jointly by the Federal University of Kashere, Nigeria, and the International Council for Education, Research and Training (ICERT), Pennsylvania, USA & India, the conference brought together a vibrant global community under the theme:

“Navigating the Smart Frontier: Synergizing Artificial Intelligence, Business Agility, and Media Ethics.”

The conference provided a meaningful platform for scholars, educators, researchers, professionals, and innovators to exchange knowledge and explore the opportunities and challenges emerging from Artificial Intelligence and digital transformation.

I am particularly grateful to our distinguished speakers, panelists, moderators, session chairs, presenters, organizing team, and participants whose valuable contributions made this international gathering a memorable academic experience.

As we move forward, let us continue to promote ethical innovation, human-centered technology, inclusive education, and global research collaboration.

Thank you for being an integral part of Smart Horizons 2026. We look forward to welcoming you to future ICERT initiatives and international academic forums.

Dr. Manisha D. Bhagoji

Secretary,

International Council for Education Research and Training (ICERT),
Pennsylvania, USA & New Delhi, India



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MESSAGE

From the Desk of the Director of Research & Publications



It is my pleasure to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the researchers, scholars, educators, and presenters who participated in Smart Horizons 2026 – International Conference on Human-Centered AI, Business Agility, and Educational Innovation, held on August 1–2, 2026.

Jointly organized by the Federal University of Kashere, Nigeria, and the International Council for Education, Research and Training (ICERT), Pennsylvania, USA & India, the conference provided a vibrant platform for sharing innovative

research and exploring the theme:

“Navigating the Smart Frontier: Synergizing Artificial Intelligence, Business Agility, and Media Ethics.”

As the Director of the Research & Publication Department, I am especially delighted to see the diversity and quality of research presented during the technical sessions. The valuable contributions of researchers from different disciplines and countries demonstrated the importance of collaborative and interdisciplinary scholarship in addressing emerging global challenges.

I sincerely congratulate all presenters and researchers for their valuable contributions and encourage you to continue pursuing impactful research, responsible innovation, and knowledge sharing.

Thank you for being part of this global academic journey. We look forward to continuing our research and publication collaborations through future ICERT initiatives. With warm regards,

Prof. (Dr) Aruna Anchal

Director,

ICERT-Sapientia: Research, Innovation & Publications Division,

International Council for Education Research and Training (ICERT),

Pennsylvania, USA & New Delhi, India



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MESSAGE

From the Desk of the Director of Finance



It is our great pleasure to present the Conference Proceedings of Smart Horizons 2026 – International Conference on Human-Centered AI, Business Agility, and Educational Innovation, held on August 1–2, 2026, under the theme:

“Navigating the Smart Frontier: Synergizing Artificial Intelligence, Business Agility, and Media Ethics.”

Jointly organized by the Federal University of Kashere, Nigeria, and the International Council for Education, Research and Training (ICERT), Pennsylvania, USA & India, the conference provided a global platform for researchers, educators, scholars, professionals, and innovators to exchange knowledge and present emerging research.

These proceedings bring together selected scholarly contributions addressing contemporary issues in Artificial Intelligence, educational innovation, business agility, digital transformation, media ethics, sustainability, and responsible technology.

We sincerely acknowledge the valuable contributions of all authors, reviewers, speakers, session chairs, and members of the organizing committee. Their commitment to research excellence and knowledge sharing has enriched this collection.

We hope these proceedings will serve as a valuable academic reference and encourage further research, interdisciplinary collaboration, innovation, and responsible approaches to the smart future.

With best wishes for continued research excellence and global academic collaboration.

With warm regards,

Dr. Simran Mehta

Director of Finance,

International Council for Education Research and Training (ICERT),

Pennsylvania, USA & New Delhi, India



About the Conference

Introduction & Objectives

The world is experiencing an era dominated by rapid technological transitions, where human-centric innovation must balance digital transformation with robust ethical standards. The conference provides a premier global platform to bring together researchers, academicians, industry professionals, and policymakers. This international conference explores how diverse academic fields intersect with AI, organizational agility, sustainability, and human ethics. The conference explicitly invites original research contributions in both English only.

Multidisciplinary Sub-Themes

To foster holistic academic exchange, the sub-themes are organized across multidisciplinary tracks:

Track 1: Commerce, Management & Finance

- FinTech Innovations for Green Financing and Venture Capital.
- Circular Economy: Sustainable Business Models and Corporate Accountability.
- Supply Chain Decarbonization, Logistics, and Global Trade Adaptations.
- The Future of Work: Talent Management and Remote Work Economics in 2026.
- Entrepreneurship and Incubation Frameworks in the Renewable Energy Sector.
- E-Commerce Ethics, Consumer Protections, and Sustainable Consumption Patterns.
- Behavioral Economics of Corporate and Public Environmental Action.
- Digital Marketing Systems and the Green Brand Paradigm.
- Global Trade Policies, Carbon Border Taxes, and Tariffs.
- Leadership 5.0: Managing Organizational Change in High-Tech Landscapes.
- Predictive Analytics in Stock Market Forecasting and Risk Management.
- Decentralized Finance (DeFi) and Agile Financial Frameworks.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Ecosystems and ESG Compliance.
- Strategic Human Resource Management in the Age of Generative AI.
- Cross-Border Mergers and Acquisitions in Turbulent Economic Eras.
- Consumer Behavior Dynamics in Omnichannel Digital Retail.
- Sustainable Microfinance and Rural Entrepreneurship Schemes.
- Workplace Inclusivity, Diversity Metrics, and Corporate Governance.



Track 2: Media & Communication

- Media Ethics, Content Regulation, and Information Warfare Systems.
- Algorithmic Bias in News Delivery and AI-Generated Journalism Ethics.
- Epistemology, Content Verification, and Fact-Checking in the Age of "Deepfakes".
- OTT Platforms, Digital-First Broadcasts, and Changing Audience Metrics.
- Eco-Linguistics: The Role of Language and PR in Environmental Consciousness.
- Digital Storytelling, Immersion Media, and Interactive News Formats.⁷
- Public Relations and Crisis Management in Hyper-Connected Digital Ecosystems.
- Political Communication, Social Media Algorithms, and Public Opinion.
- Data Journalism: Visualizing Complex Socio-Economic and Technical Data.
- Influencer Marketing Dynamics and Consumer Trust Metrics.
- Cultural Imperialism and Soft Power Diplomacy in Digital Media.
- Development Communication Frameworks for Grassroots Literacy.
- Gender Representation and Stereotyping in New-Age Media Landscapes.
- Community Radio, Hyper-Local Media, and Inclusive Public Spaces.
- Brand Communication Strategies for Gen-Z and Alpha Audiences.

- Privacy, Surveillance Capitalism, and Digital Media Consumer Rights.
- The Evolution of Mobile Journalism (MoJo) in Active Conflict Zones.

Track 3: Information Technology & Engineering

- AI and Machine Learning Implementations in Climate and Weather Modeling.
- Green IoT: Energy-Efficient Smart Systems and Edge Computing Solutions.
- Cybersecurity Architectures for Sustainable National Infrastructure.
- Blockchain Applications for Transparent Carbon Credit Trading and Auditing.
- Robotics, Automation, and Computer Vision in Smart Waste Management.
- Civil Engineering Protocols for Climate-Resilient Cities and Smart Grids.
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Engineering and Next-Generation Battery Technology.
- 3D Printing Protocols in Sustainable Additive Manufacturing.
- Quantum Computing Applications for Complex Environmental Optimization.
- Industry 5.0: Designing the Human-Machine Ecological Interface.
- Natural Language Processing (NLP) Frameworks and Multilingual Machine Translation.
- Cloud Computing Optimization and Zero-Carbon Data Center Management.



- Augmented, Virtual, and Mixed Reality (AR/VR/MR) Systems Architecture.
- Big Data Architectures for Real-Time Predictive Crisis Modeling.
- Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) and Accessibility-Driven UX Design.
- Deep Learning Frameworks for Biometric and Network Security Paradigms.
- Autonomous Systems Engineering and Fleet Logistics Automation.

Track 4: Social Sciences & Humanities

- Sociology of the Digital Transition and Virtual Social Frameworks.
- Mental Health, Digital Detox Paradigms, and Eco-Anxiety in the Tech-Age.
- Cultural Heritage Preservation Models via Digital Humanities Frameworks.
- Socio-Economic Impacts of Climate Migration and Resettlement Programs.
- Psychology and Cognitive Impacts of Extended Human-AI Interaction.
- Gender Equality (SDG 5) within Digitally Automated Global Economies.
- Indigenous Wisdom, Tribal Knowledge Systems, and Modern Ecological Action.
- Urban Sociology, Demography Trends, and Sustainable Mega-City Living.
- History of Science and Technological Shifts: From Industrial to Digital Eras.

- Philosophical Education Foundations for the AI-First Generation.
- Ethics of Transhumanism, Human Augmentation, and Biotech Evolution.
- Existential Risks, Alignment Theories, and Advanced Artificial Intelligence.
- Values-Based Education, Civics, and Global Sustainable Citizenship.
- The Philosophy of Work: Identifying Meaning in Automated Eras.
- Global Citizenship, Interconnectedness, and the Ethics of Shared Borders.
- Aesthetics of Sustainable Architectural Design and Spatial Philosophy.
- Moral Responsibility Frameworks Addressing Systematic Climate Inaction.
- The Philosophical Definition of "Happiness" in Hyper-Technological Worlds.
- Religious Studies

Track 5: Legal Studies & Jurisprudence

- International Environmental Law, Treaties, and Climate Action Enforcement.
- Legal Frameworks, Policies, and Global Governance for Artificial Intelligence Ethics.
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Patent Systems for Green Innovations.
- Data Sovereignty, Borderless Networks, and Personal Privacy Protection Rights.



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- Corporate Governance, Anti-Trust Policies, and Comprehensive ESG Compliance.
- Labor Laws, Worker Rights, and Safety in the Era of Automation and Remote Work.
- Cyber-crime Prevention Protocols, Extradition, and International Cyber Law.
- Bio-Ethics Foundations and the Jurisprudence of Modern Biotechnology.
- Consumer Protection Frameworks in Gig Economies and Automated Marketplaces.
- Legal Challenges, Accreditation, and Frameworks of Virtual Universities.
- Maritime Law, International Waters Protection, and Resource Exploitation Rights.
- Space Governance, Orbital Management, and the Geopolitics of Space Exploration.
- Human Rights Law in Digital Surveillance and Facial Recognition Landscapes.
- Forensic Science Jurisprudence and Digital Evidence Admissibility Standards.
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanization via Smart Legal Tech.
- Constitutions in Digital Spaces: Redefining Freedom of Speech on Global Platforms.
- Experiential Learning Delivery Models via AR/VR and Gamification Systems.
- Advanced Teacher Training Paradigms for the Education 5.0 Classroom.
- Inclusive Education Systems: Strategies for Breaking the Global Digital Divide.
- Pedagogy of Climate Action, Stewardship, and Environmental Literacy.
- National Education Policy (NEP 2020): Global Integration and Standards.
- Virtual Universities: Operating Infrastructures, Challenges, and Future Outlooks.
- Student-Centric Learning Models and Critical Soft Skills Development.
- Lifelong Learning Frameworks and Reskilling in the Era of Generative AI.
- Blended Learning Design: Balancing Advanced Tech with Human Interaction.
- AI-Driven Personalized Learning Paths and Intelligent Tutoring Systems.
- Assessment Models and Academic Integrity Protocols in the Age of ChatGPT.
- Early Childhood Education Methodologies in Tech-Saturated Households.
- Vocational Education Integration with Automation-Driven Industry Skills.
- Special Education Needs (SEN) Pedagogies Powered by Assistive Technologies.

Track 6: Education & Pedagogical Innovations

- Outcome-Based Education (OBE) Implementation Models for Sustainability.



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- Institutional Quality Assurance Parameters (IQAC Metrics) for Modern e-Learning.

Track 7: Pharmaceutical, Physical & Life Sciences

- Green Chemistry Principles and Sustainable Molecular Drug Discovery.
- Bioinformatics Software Models for Global Biodiversity Conservation.
- Clinical Trial Architectures and AI-Driven Early Diagnostics
- Pharmacovigilance Systems and Drug Safety Reporting in Digital Healthcare.
- Biotechnology Applications for Waste-to-Energy Resource Transformation.
- Genetic Engineering, CRISPR Frameworks, and Sustainable Food Security (SDG 2).
- Nano-Medicine Engineering: Target Delivery Applications and Ethical Concerns.
- Herbal Medicine Standardization and Traditional Knowledge Validation Trials.
- Marine Biology Research, Ecosystem Mapping, and Ocean Conservation (SDG 14).
- Microbiology Applications, Viral Vectors, and Systematic Pandemic Preparedness.
- Advanced Material Science: Developing Biodegradable Alternatives to Plastics.
- Astrophysics Data Modeling and Solar Radiation Monitoring Techniques.

- Ecosystem Restoration Models for Areas Facing Severe Despotic Desertification.
- Computational Chemistry in Modeling Organic Molecule Interactions.
- Toxicology Assessments of Commercial Chemicals in Water Tables.
- Agritech Biotechnology for Plant Resilience Against Severe Heat Stress.

Track 8: Medical, Paramedical & Allied Health

- Telemedicine Architectures: Reducing the Structural Carbon Footprint of Healthcare.
- Precision Medicine Ecosystems: Tailoring Patient Healthcare via Big Data.
- AI Integrations in Radiology, Diagnostic Screening, and Advanced Imaging.
- Physiotherapy Methodologies and Digital Remote Rehabilitation Tools.
- Nursing Informatics and Clinical Management Systems in Global Health Crises.
- Public Health Policies and Interventions for Climate-Resilient Societies.
- Personalized Nutrition Frameworks and Sustainable Food Supply Infrastructures.
- Medical Ethics Protocols and Compliance Frameworks in Era of Automation.
- Occupational Health Dynamics and Ergonomic Safety in Digital Workspaces.



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- Community Health Protocols, Mobile Clinics, and Preventative Medicine.
- Mental Health Screenings and Psychiatric Interventions via Digital Portals.
- Epidemiology Modeling for Zoonotic and Vectors-Borne Disease Spreads.
- Geriatric Medicine Adaptations for Rapidly Aging Global Demographics.
- Health Economics: Financing Equitable Patient Access to Advanced Therapies.
- Hospital Waste Management Protocols and Biomedical Recycling Systems.
- Pharmacogenomics Implementations in Combating Antimicrobial Drug Resistance.

Track 9: Social Work, Welfare & Community Development

- Deploying Emerging Technologies for Social Welfare and NGO Accountability.
- Strategic Disaster Relief Logistics and Community Rehabilitation Programs.
- Social Work Methodologies with Vulnerable, Displaced, and Marginalized Groups.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Action Plans Mapping Directly to SDGs.
- Child Protection Frameworks and Youth Empowerment Systems in Digital Spaces.
- Geriatric Care Initiatives and Tech-Assisted Independent Living Ecosystems.

- Systematic Poverty Alleviation Strategies in Modern Digital Economies.
- Rural Development Architectures and Sustainable Smart Village Ecosystems.
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Interfacing with Global Governance Structures.
- Conflict Resolution Protocols, Diplomacy, and Structural Peace-Building (SDG 16).
- Institutional Models Addressing Homelessness and Urban Economic Inequity.
- Community-Led Resource Management Plans for Tribal and Forest Dwellers.
- Micro-Equity and Crowdfunding Systems for Minority Grassroots Startups.
- Social Auditing Frameworks for Monitoring Government Development Grants.
- Domestic Violence Intervention Paradigms and Support Network Accessibility.
- Youth Mental Health Safety Networks Against Online Exploitation Networks.

Track 10: Environment, Climate & Disaster Management

- UN World Environment Day Strategic Actions and Global Policy Push.
- Infrastructure Climate Adaptation Strategies for Vulnerable Coastal Cities.
- Renewable Energy System Integrations: Micro-Grids for Solar, Wind, and Hydro.



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- Combating Biodiversity Loss through Practical Ecological Restoration Methods.
- Water Security Infrastructures and Sustainable Watershed Management (SDG 6).
- Soil Health Conservation Methods and Eco-Friendly Sustainable Agriculture.
- Air Quality Monitoring Sensor Networks and Modern Pollution Control Tech.
- Tracking the Impact of Microplastics on Aquatic Ecosystems and Food Chains.
- Disaster Management Frameworks and AI-Driven Early Warning Systems.
- Carbon Neutrality Pathways: Achieving Localized Net Zero Milestones by 2050.
- Humanitarian Logistics Optimization for Resource Delivery in Conflict Zones.
- Post-Disaster Social Rehabilitation and Critical Infrastructure Rebuilding.
- Glacial Melting Assessments, Sea-Level Analytics, and High-Altitude Modeling.
- Forest Fire Early Prevention Networks Using Satellite Imagery and AI.
- Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for Mega Infrastructure Ventures.
- Urban Heat Island Mitigation via Green Architecture and Rooftop Forests.

Track 11: Arts, Languages, Literature & Global Politics

- Digital Humanities: Computational Analysis of Classical and Modern Literature.
- Language Pedagogy in Education 5.0: Tech-Assisted Multilingual Systems.
- Post-Colonial Literature Perspectives: Identity and Sustainability Realities.
- Linguistic Diversity Preservation: Archiving Endangered Languages via Digital Tools.
- Professional Communication Evolution: Business English Shifts in the AI Era.
- Cognitive Linguistics: Assessing How Digital Spaces Affect Thought Patterns.
- Comparative Literature: Cross-Cultural Narratives on Climate and Tech Innovation.
- Translation Studies Jurisprudence: AI vs. Human Interpretation in Diplomacy.
- Digital Arts & Eco-Aesthetics: Visual Media Driving Environmental Activism.
- Geopolitics of Technology: The Global AI Arms Race and International Relations.
- Defense Technology 5.0: Ethical Implications of Autonomous Lethal Weapons.
- Soft Power Dynamics: Arts and Culture Building Global Political Alliances.
- National Security Architectures: Shielding Critical Utilities from Cyber Warfare.



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- Performing Arts & Social Change: Theater and Music Formats for Peacebuilding.
- Nuclear Proliferation Risk Analysis in Multipolar International Systems.
- Eco-Criticism in Contemporary Global Cinema and Mass Culture Adaptations.

Note: Contributions are invited from all disciplines in English & Hindi languages, presentations drawing on conference themes, sub themes and related interdisciplinary concepts are encouraged.

Call for Papers (CFP)

We invite original research papers, case studies, and conceptual articles. All submissions will undergo a rigorous double-blind peer-review process.

- Abstracts should be between 300-500 words and submitted in .doc or .docx format.
- The abstract must include the paper title, name(s) of author(s), University/Institution, and a list of keywords.
- **Formatting:** MS Word, Times New Roman, Title: 16 pt bold, Headings: 14 pt bold, Body: 12 pt, 1.5 line spacing, 1-inch margins. No footnotes/endnotes; maximum 10,000 words.
- **Compliance:** In-text citations must be cross-referenced. A one-page author profile, mandatory ORCID identifier, and an impact statement of up to 150 words are required per article.

Paper Publication & Awards: A proceeding book (Souvenir) of the conference, including all accepted abstracts, will be published with an ISBN. All presenters will receive a soft copy of the proceedings.

Best Paper Presentation Award: A Certificate of Best Paper Presentation will be given to two best presenters from each technical session.

Publication in DOAJ Indexed Journals

Authors who present their papers will be eligible to submit their research (either the presented paper or a different one) for publication in the following Indexed ICERT International Multidisciplinary Journals:

Shodh Sari - An International Multidisciplinary Journal (ISSN: 2959-1376)



Edumania - An International Multidisciplinary Journal (ISSN: 2960-0006)

To learn more about these peer-reviewed, open-access journals with DOI, please visit www.icert.org.

International Felicitation

The conference will honor outstanding global contributions across three distinguished international awards. Candidates must explicitly highlight relevant parameters in their submitted CV/Profile for consideration:

ICERT G-DEEP Laureate 2026

The highest honor of the conference, conferred upon a visionary pioneer who has harmonized advanced technology with human-centric ethical standards.

Criteria: Demonstrated innovation in Education 5.0, ethical leadership in AI/data privacy, workforce alignment for the automated economy, and high-impact intellectual publications.

ICERT Transatlantic Youth Alliance Honor 2026

The ICERT Transatlantic Youth Alliance Honor 2026 is a premier international recognition conferred by the International Council for Education, Research and Training (Pennsylvania, USA), this honor celebrates exceptional young leaders, researchers, and changemakers (under the age of 40) who successfully bridge global boundaries to foster collaboration, technological innovation, and sustainable development. It highlights the power of youth-led alliances in shaping a resilient, ethical, and interconnected future.

Criteria: Evidence of inter-institutional collaboration across borders, scalable regional initiatives, leadership in building global knowledge exchanges, and a minimum of 3 years of consistent service.



ICERT Global SDG Impact Award 2026

Recognizes grassroots or academic excellence directly contributing to the United Nations SDGs, specifically Quality Education (SDG 4) and other SDGs.

Criteria: Direct mapping to UN SDGs, tangible/measurable outcomes, active community/NGO engagement, and innovative green projects.

Contact & Helpline

For any queries, please feel free to reach out to us.

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Abstracts

Computational Screening of Neem Seed Limonoids Targeting Hsp90 for the Development of a Biochar-Based Anti-Virulence Delivery System Against *Candida albicans*

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Abstract

Candida albicans is an opportunistic fungal pathogen with the ability to produce resilient biofilms and a variety of virulence factors that can lead to persistent infections and reduced susceptibility to antifungal agents. Heat shock protein 90 (Hsp90), a conserved molecular chaperone, can be targeted as a therapeutic approach against anti-virulence, as it plays a role in morphogenesis, stress resistance and biofilm formation. In the present study, molecular docking and In-silico Pharmacokinetic Analysis of two major Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) seed limonoids (Nimbin and Nimbolide) with *C. albicans* Hsp90 was carried out. We used the crystal structure of Hsp90 (PDB id: 6CJI) for docking using CB-Dock2 and visualized the interactions between the ligand and the protein using Discovery Studio Visualizer. Swiss ADME was used for a prediction of the drug-likeness and pharmacokinetic properties. Both limonoids showed good binding in the same active pocket (C1) of Hsp90. The binding affinity values of the all the components of the plant were found to be highest for Nimbolide of -7.4 kcal/mol followed by Nimbin of -7.0 kcal/mol. The complexes could be stabilized by hydrogen bonding and hydrophobic interactions of the residues of the Hsp90 binding site, including ASN52, ASP55, LYS59, ASP94, ILE97, MET99, ASN107, LEU108, GLY133, PHE135, VAL137, GLY138, PHE139, and THR186, which demonstrates the stability of occupancy at the Hsp90 binding site. Swiss ADME analysis predicted high gastrointestinal absorption, favorable lipophilicity and no PAINS alerts for both compounds indicating a potential of drug-likeness for both natural products. These limonoids could be used as interesting anti-virulence compounds with targets on the Hsp90 of *C. albicans*. Computational evidence developed from this study serves a scientific proof for further experimental validation to develop a neem biochar based phytochemical delivery system for continuous treatment in future fungal infections. Future studies will concentrate on the biochar synthesis, loading of phytochemicals, release kinetics, and experimental testing of antifungal and anti-biofilm effects.

Keywords: Biofilm, *Candida albicans*, Heat Shock Protein 90, Neem seed, Biochar.

अंग्रेजी मौखिक पठन प्रवाहिता : अवधारणा, महत्त्व एवं विकास की रणनीतियाँ – एक समीक्षात्मक अध्ययन

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सारांश

अंग्रेजी मौखिक पठन प्रवाहिता लिखित पाठ को शुद्धता, सहजता, अर्थानुकूल गति, उचित विराम, लय, स्वराघात और समझ के साथ मुखर रूप में पढ़ने की क्षमता है। इसे केवल एक मिनट में पढ़े गए शब्दों की संख्या तक सीमित करना अवधारणात्मक भूल है। कोई विद्यार्थी तेज गति से पढ़ते हुए शब्द छोड़ सकता है, गलत उच्चारण कर सकता है और पाठ का अर्थ समझने में असफल रह सकता है। दूसरी ओर, अर्थ समझने वाला धीमा पाठक शब्द-पहचान में पर्याप्त स्वचालितता न होने के कारण मुखर पठन में रुकावट अनुभव कर सकता है। समीक्षा से ज्ञात होता है कि शुद्ध शब्द-पहचान, स्वचालितता, वाचन-अभिव्यक्ति, शब्दावली और पाठ-बोध परस्पर जुड़े हुए हैं। भारतीय बहुभाषी परिस्थितियों में अंग्रेजी का सीमित श्रव्य संपर्क, अनियमित ध्वनि-वर्तनी संबंध, स्तर से कठिन पाठ, एकरूप मानदंड, सार्वजनिक रूप से पढ़वाने का भय और व्यक्तिगत प्रतिपुष्टि की कमी प्रवाहिता के विकास को प्रभावित करते हैं। कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आधारित साधन बड़े स्तर पर आकलन और प्रतिपुष्टि में सहायक हो सकते हैं, फिर भी भारतीय उच्चारणों, बाल-वाणी, निजता और यांत्रिक पक्षपात को देखते हुए शिक्षक का निर्णय केंद्रीय रहना चाहिए।

प्रमुख शब्द : अंग्रेजी पठन, मौखिक प्रवाहिता, स्वचालितता, शुद्धता, स्वराघात, पाठ-बोध, पुनर्पठन।

Early Childhood Teachers' Awareness of AI Ethics and Child Data Protection in Oyo Town, Nigeria

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Abstract

The rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered educational applications into early childhood classrooms has raised urgent concerns about ethical practice and the protection of children's personal data. This study assessed the awareness of AI ethics and child data protection principles among early childhood teachers in Oyo town, Oyo State, Nigeria, with reference to the Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA) 2023. Using a descriptive survey design, data were collected from 320 early childhood teachers drawn from public and private preschools through a validated structured questionnaire (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.87$). Findings revealed that the overall level of awareness of AI ethics was low (Mean = 2.18, SD = 0.74), while awareness of NDPA 2023 principles was very low (Mean = 1.96, SD = 0.69). A significant positive relationship existed between AI ethics awareness and teachers' practices in selecting digital learning apps ($r = 0.612$, $p < 0.05$). Years of teaching experience, qualification, exposure to professional development, and school type significantly influenced teachers' awareness levels ($F = 14.27$, $p < 0.05$). The study recommends mandatory professional development on AI ethics, integration of data protection literacy into teacher education curricula, and policy enforcement of the NDPA 2023 in early childhood settings.

Keywords: AI ethics, child data protection, early childhood teachers, NDPA 2023, digital learning apps, Oyo town.

Feminist Bioethics and Reproductive Justice: A Philosophical Reappraisal of Autonomy and Justice in Contemporary Healthcare

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Abstract

Bioethics is a significant field of applied ethics that addresses the moral concerns arising in medicine, healthcare, and life sciences. The traditional Principlist approach of bioethics was founded upon the framework of Autonomy, Beneficence, Non-Maleficence, and Justice as an aid to the moral conflict within the clinical and biomedical fields. These principles have contributed substantially to ethical decision-making through promoting patient rights, professional responsibility, and informed consent. This paper aims to prove that traditional bioethics often overlooks the social, cultural, structural, and power disparities that should be accounted for, specifically related to women’s reproductive health. Significant decisions related to abortion, pregnancy, contraception, maternal healthcare, and related technological developments are not individualistic; they are influenced by social, familial relationships, economic inequalities, power dynamics, and gender norms. The Principlist view is insufficient in addressing the existing conditions within which reproductive choices are exercised. Feminist Bioethics emerged as a philosophical response to these limitations, posing a challenge to the conventional, isolated interpretations of autonomy, justice, and morality. Feminist theorists put forth the concept of Relational Autonomy, which emphasizes that decisions are rooted in relationships and broader social structures. The concept of ‘Ethics of Care’ suggests that moral reasoning is influenced by interpersonal relationships, compassion, empathy, and responsibility. The reproductive justice framework extends beyond legal rights and also advocates for conditions necessary to make meaningful choices. Inclusive of the three core rights: the right to have children, the right to not have children, and the right to raise children in a safe and healthy environment. This paper qualitatively and philosophically analyses Feminist Bioethics through a critical review of contemporary bioethical literature and reproductive philosophy. The paper aims to place focus on the idea that reproductive autonomy should be understood both as a natural human right and a socially supported condition. This paper seeks to demonstrate that liberty, equality, and justice are fundamental rights that should guide reproductive healthcare and decision-making. Protecting the autonomy of all individuals through the principles of female bioethics is therefore essential to upholding human dignity, freedom, and ethical healthcare.

Keywords: Bioethics, Principlist, Autonomy, Nonmaleficence, Justice, Ethical, Healthcare, Biomedical, Beneficence, Relational Autonomy, Ethics of Care.

Assessing Sustainable Microfinance and Rural Entrepreneurship Schemes through the Lens of Maliki *Ijarah* Doctrine

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Abstract

Sustainable microfinance has emerged as an essential strategy for promoting rural entrepreneurship, poverty reduction, and inclusive economic development. However, many conventional microfinance schemes face challenges related to high financing costs, weak ethical foundations, and limited sustainability in rural communities. This paper examines the relevance of the Maliki doctrine of *Ijarah* (leasing contract) as an Islamic legal framework for strengthening sustainable microfinance and enhancing rural entrepreneurship. Using a doctrinal research approach, the study critically reviews classical Maliki juristic sources alongside contemporary literature on Islamic microfinance and rural enterprise development. The analysis demonstrates that *Ijarah* offers practical mechanisms for asset-based financing, equitable risk-sharing, transparency, and contractual justice, all of which contribute to sustainable entrepreneurial growth. The paper further argues that integrating Maliki principles into microfinance schemes can improve financial inclusion, facilitate access to productive assets, reduce exploitative lending practices, and promote ethical business relationships in rural communities. The study recommends the adoption of *Ijarah*-based financing models, supportive regulatory frameworks, and public awareness initiatives to enhance the effectiveness of Islamic microfinance in fostering inclusive rural economic development.

Keywords: Sustainable Microfinance (the main theme), Rural Entrepreneurship Schemes (the development focus), and The Maliki Doctrine of *Ijarah* (the Islamic jurisprudential framework).

Sheikh Muhammad Auwal Adam (Albaniy Zaria) And His Philosophical Thoughts on Timing of *Jumu’at* Prayer

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Abstract

Prayer is a type of worship consisting of specific statements and actions. It is begun by pronouncing the greatness of Allah, and is concluded with salutations of peace. The Messenger of Allah (SAW) set prayers as the second base in the five bases of Islam. Prayer was the first act of worship that was made obligatory by Allah directly to the Prophet (SAW) during his ascension to heaven. Friday prayer is offered weekly in congregation in place of Zuhr prayer. Friday prayer is an obligatory prayer for every sane, adult male Muslim. The Holy Qur’an and the Hadith speak highly of the blessings of Friday prayer. It is extremely important to Muslims and it is a day for Muslim brothers to come and pray together as one community. This article highlights and appraises the views, thoughts and philosophy of Sheikh Muhammad Auwal Adam Albaniy Zaria (d. 2014), one of Nigerian’s prominent Muslim reformer and thinker and very influential scholar on the timing of *Juma’at* prayer. The author relies chiefly on the recorded speeches of Sheikh Albaniy in a video and audio clips in which he articulated his views and arguments before the Emir of Zazzau and in a public addresses/lectures when the meeting was over as his justification for the observance of the Friday congregational prayer in the morning instead of early afternoon. The article observes that in the process of forming his thoughts and postulating his views, Sheikh Albaniy utilizes his knowledge and understanding of Islamic texts to reject the accusation projected on to him by some Zaria clerics of inciting unrest and profaning their youths in the community. The research finally recommends that Muslim scholars should consider the educational level of their society and the strength of a proof and evidence and its outcome even if their argument is supported by authentic sources of Islam. This will sidestep disagreement and discord among scholars, and would also make religious acts easier for people so that they can all attend.

Keywords: Prayer, Albaniy Zaria, Emir, Juma’at prayer, noon, early afternoon, zeniths.

Effects of Crypto Mining on Entrepreneurial Intentions among Youths in Gombe State Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined the effects of crypto mining on entrepreneurial intention among youths in North Eastern Nigeria, focusing on Technological Engagement in Crypto Mining, Economic Incentive from Crypto Mining, and Risk Perception and Regulatory Uncertainty. The study was motivated by the increasing involvement of youths in digital and blockchain-based activities and the need to understand how such engagement influences entrepreneurial intentions in emerging economies. A quantitative research design was adopted, and data were collected from 384 respondents using a structured questionnaire. The sample size was determined to ensure adequate representation of the study population. The data were analyzed using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) through SmartPLS software to test the hypothesized relationships among the variables. The findings revealed that Technological Engagement in Crypto Mining has a significant positive effect on entrepreneurial intention, indicating that increased exposure to crypto-mining technologies enhances youths' inclination toward digital entrepreneurship. Similarly, Economic Incentive from Crypto Mining was found to have a significant positive effect on entrepreneurial intention, suggesting that perceived financial benefits strongly motivate entrepreneurial aspirations. Conversely, Risk Perception and Regulatory Uncertainty were found to have a significant negative effect on entrepreneurial intention, implying that concerns about financial risk and unclear regulatory frameworks discourage entrepreneurial engagement. The study concludes that crypto mining influences entrepreneurial intention among youths through both enabling factors (technological engagement and economic incentives) and constraining factors (risk perception and regulatory uncertainty). The study recommends that policymakers and stakeholders should promote digital literacy, support responsible engagement in emerging digital technologies, and establish clear regulatory frameworks to reduce uncertainty and foster youth participation in digital entrepreneurship.

Keyword: Crypto Mining, blockchain Risk Perception and Regulatory Uncertainty.

Decentralized Finance (DeFi) and Waqf: Opportunities for Green Venture Financing

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Abstract

There are few innovative financing instruments available for the green entrepreneurship particularly in emerging Muslim countries where financial challenges in financing the green startups is considerable due to the existence of high investment risks and poorly developed financial system. Decentralized Finance (DeFi) has emerged with new prospects to democratize the financial system by utilizing blockchain technology; but how to integrate it into Shariah compliant financial instruments and to work along with the Islamic charitable endowments (Waqf) has remained unexplored. We suggest that an innovative Islamic financing instrument can be developed through integration of the DeFi and Digital Waqf in order to mobilize sustainable capital for the eco-friendly ventures in Shariah compliant manner. This study uses qualitative conceptual research design based on a systematic review of literature on the areas such as decentralized finance, blockchain technology, waqf and their relative topics. By using Maqasid al-Shariah framework along with sustainable finance principles, this paper undertakes the thematic content analysis of the selected literatures to present an Integrated framework for DeFi protocol with Waqf based financing model. This model demonstrates how decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs), tokenized Waqf assets, and the blockchain network can rejuvenate the existing Waqf institution, making them effective tools in financing green ventures and making it Shariah compatible. It further argues that Waqf assets can function as catalyzing capital in decentralised financial ecosystem (DeFi) to facilitate rapid mobilization of capital from the masses and the distribution of fund with a transparent management approach. By utilizing tokenization, the paper can fractionize Waqf assets which enables wider participation from the community without undermining its perpetual characteristic; while smart contracts govern automated profit sharing and management processes which leads to reduce operational cost and increasing accountability. This can pave the way for a well-utilized Waqf ecosystem for environmental friendly purpose while facilitating inclusive growth and increasing trust in investor by avoiding riba (usury) and Gharar (speculative and uncertain contract) in this integrated approach to finance Green Venture . This paper goes beyond traditional Islamic FinTech by considering the role of DeFi beyond payments and crowdfunding in developing impact and climate finance instruments. It also considers waqf institution as a vehicle for mobilizing Islamic finance from both the public and private sectors and its role in climate resilient entrepreneurship development, thereby addresses gaps in previous literatures. It proposes an innovative DeFi-Waqf Green Venture Financing Framework for the emerging Muslim economies. This research also provides practical policy recommendations for various stakeholders, including governments and financial institutions in order to design inclusive and effective Islamic finance for green economic transition, mobilization of Waqf resources, and attracting ethically motivated investors towards financing and developing the climate- resilient entrepreneurial ecosystems in emerging Muslim economies.

Keywords: Decentralized Finance (DeFi), Digital Waqf, Green Venture Financing, Sustainable Entrepreneurship, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Reimagining Talent Acquisition Practices in the Digital Era: Evidence from Indian ITeS Companies

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Abstract

The accelerated pace of digital transformation has fundamentally reshaped talent acquisition practices across knowledge-intensive industries, particularly within the Indian Information Technology Enabled Services (ITeS) sector. Conventional recruitment approaches are increasingly being complemented by digitally enabled hiring practices that integrate employer branding, technology-driven candidate sourcing, data-informed selection processes, and structured onboarding to enhance workforce quality and organizational competitiveness. Contemporary Human Resource Management (HRM) literature argues that talent acquisition should be viewed not merely as a hiring function but as a strategic organizational capability that supports sustainable workforce development and long-term business performance (Yu et al., 2022; Collins & Martinez-Moreno, 2022).

This study examines how talent acquisition practices are being reimagined in the digital era from the perspective of employees working in Indian ITeS companies. Drawing upon the Resource-Based View and Human Capital Theory, the study conceptualizes digital-era talent acquisition as an integrated process encompassing recruitment strategy, employer branding, selection process effectiveness, and onboarding practices that collectively contribute to workforce effectiveness and organizational value creation. Existing research has predominantly investigated these practices in isolation, leaving limited empirical understanding of their combined contribution within emerging digital work environments, particularly in the Indian ITeS context (Kuchеров et al., 2022; Theurer et al., 2021).

The study adopts a quantitative research design using a structured questionnaire administered to employees from selected Indian ITeS organizations. The proposed framework evaluates employee perceptions regarding digitally enabled talent acquisition practices and their contribution to workforce outcomes. The findings are expected to enrich the emerging discourse on digital HRM by extending the conceptual understanding of talent acquisition beyond recruitment efficiency toward organizational capability building, workforce sustainability, and employer attractiveness. Furthermore, the study offers practical implications for HR professionals by identifying talent acquisition practices that can strengthen organizational competitiveness in increasingly digital labour markets. The research contributes to the growing body of knowledge on contemporary HRM by providing evidence from one of the world's largest technology-enabled service sectors and by offering a future-oriented perspective on talent acquisition in the digital economy.

Keywords: Digital Talent Acquisition; Employer Branding; Digital Recruitment; Recruitment Strategy; Selection Process Effectiveness; Onboarding Practices; Indian ITeS; Digital Human Resource Management; Workforce Sustainability; Organizational Competitiveness.

The Influence of New Media Platforms on Cartoon Viewing Behaviour in India: A Comparative Study of Television and Digital Media

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Abstract

In the fast-evolving digital-media era, the viewing habits of kids in India have undergone significant transformation, especially in their use of cartoons, making it essential to adapt to this new landscape and ensure that our understanding of how audiences now consume entertainment content remains relevant. The present study is designed with a quantitative, descriptive and comparative research methods in which five dimensions of media engagement, namely convenience, availability of media content, personalization, interactions, audience engagement are examined. A structured questionnaire was used to gather data from 312 parents/guardians of children who view cartoons on TV and/or digital media from all over India through an online survey. The results showed that digital platforms were overwhelmingly preferred over traditional TV channels (77.6% to 22.4%) with YouTube being the most popular platform, especially among younger children, while older children had higher engagement with subscription-based OTT platforms. There was a statistically significant relationship between the age group of the children and the preferred platform. Finally, the multiple regression analysis showed that recommendation influence and ease of use of the platform were the most influential predictors of cartoon viewing, while parental mediation was also a significant predictor, highlighting its protective role in curbing children's digital media consumption. The results indicate that both platform-level affordances and the household parental practices shape the current transition from television to digital media. The study adds to the understanding of the changing landscape of cartoon viewing in India and has practical implications for broadcasters, OTT platform developers, parents and policymakers to encourage safe, balanced and developmentally appropriate viewing by children in a progressively digital entertainment environment.

Keywords: Cartoon viewing behaviour, television, digital media, OTT platforms, audience engagement, children's media, parental mediation, India.

The Ethics of "Digital Resurrection"

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Abstract

In an age where technology blurs the boundary between memory and presence, the prospect of digital resurrection compels us to reconsider the meaning of identity, mortality, and moral responsibility. This paper aims to examine the ethical and philosophical implications of “digital resurrection,” which refers to the upcoming development and practice of using artificial intelligence to create interactive chatbots and holograms of deceased individuals using their digital footprints and other data. This raises ethical questions about the authenticity of recreations, which will be elaborated on using theories based on ethics of consent. This practice has turned AI into a mediator between the alive and dead. Immanuel Kant’s theory, which relies heavily on duty, autonomy, and human dignity, states that without explicit, informed, ante-mortem consent, the digital resurrection of an individual is completely unethical. Using the Information Philosophy, coined by Carl Öhman and Luciano Floridi as the “Digital Remains as Corpse” theory, we can discuss that digital footprints are not commercial assets but modern “digital remains” of the person. The study will investigate whether a deceased individual has the right to retain their privacy and digital autonomy. The paper will also draw upon Martin Heidegger, Karl Jaspers’ and Albert Camus’ existentialist theories like Being-towards-death, Boundary situations and The Absurd, which speak about concepts like the meaning of life, death, struggle, authenticity and individuality. Using the philosophical theory of Existentialism, we will analyse the way in which such AI avatars might change human relationship with life and loss. The paper will raise and analyze two important moral questions: Between data ownership and posthumous consent, who holds the moral authority to animate a person’s digital legacy? And does such “grief technology” aid people in dealing with loss, or entrap them in an absurd loop of never-ending grief, stripping away the meaning of life itself? Ultimately, the paper posits an urgent need of developing solid ethical structures to handle digital remains of those who have passed. While such AI technology could provide immediate comfort to those who mourn their loved ones, they are erasing the boundary between life and death, resulting in the commodification of memory and the loss of true existential healing.

Keywords: Digital Resurrection, Digital Footprints, Ethical, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Autonomy, Being-Towards-Death, Boundary Situations, The Absurd, Existentialism, Grief, Technology, Consent, Authenticity.

Gratitude as a Psychological Antidote to Technostress and Digital Overload in Employee Mental Health: A Review

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Abstract

Today's workplace presents a unique challenge. While digital technology has made work faster, more flexible, and easier to manage, it has also increased stress by creating constant connectivity, information overload, and difficulty disconnecting from work. These issues, often referred to as technostress and digital overload, can negatively affect employees' mental health and well-being. This review explores whether gratitude, a positive emotion that has been widely studied in psychology, can help reduce the harmful effects of technostress. Drawing on theories such as the Broaden-and-Build Theory and the Job Demands-Resources Model, along with previous research on gratitude interventions in the workplace, this review suggests that gratitude is more than just a positive feeling. It can act as a valuable personal resource that helps employees cope with the pressures of an always-connected digital work environment. The review brings together findings from occupational health psychology and positive psychology and highlights that very few studies have examined the relationship between gratitude and technostress together. Based on the existing evidence, it proposes a notion that gratitude can serve as a simple, low-cost, and screen-free coping strategy that supports digital detox and promotes better mental health. Finally, it discusses how these ideas may also help employees deal with eco-anxiety; an emerging form of stress related to environmental concerns in technology-driven workplaces.

Keywords: Gratitude, Employee Mental Health, Technostress, Digital Overload, Digital Detox, Broaden-and-Build Theory, Eco-Anxiety.

Institutionalizing Waqf for Affordable Housing: A Sustainable Islamic Model for Addressing Urban Homelessness and Economic Inequality

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Abstract

The rapid pace of urbanization, increasing housing prices, income gaps, and growing rates of homelessness pose challenges to many Muslim economies in developing nations. Government efforts continue to be made to address these issues; however, shortages of affordable housing contribute to urban poverty and inequalities, especially for the most disadvantaged sections of society. Traditional housing finance systems are typically unable to cater for such groups because of their expensive rates and collaterals required. Waqf (public trust endowment) which is a traditional system of resource allocation in the Islamic context has a significant potential for housing financing that is currently underdeveloped and mostly not integrated within modern financial structures. The paper presents an argument that institutionalization of waqf with innovative forms of governance and partnerships will result in a sustainable Islamic model of financing for affordable housing in cities and eradicate urban homelessness and economic inequality. This study adopts a qualitative conceptual research design based on the systematic review of peer-reviewed academic papers, classical Islamic jurisprudence, policy documents, and international organizations' reports, and contemporary works on Islamic social finance, affordable housing, urban development, and sustainable public policy. The research builds on the theories of Maqasid al-Shariah, institutionalism, social justice, and sustainable urban development. The study uses content analysis of existing literatures and critically synthesizes them to develop an institutional framework for waqf as a perennial financial social investment instrument for affordable housing, inclusive economic development, social cohesion, and resilience in urban development. The framework of institutionalized waqf contains an institutional governance mechanism (comprising Waqf bodies, governments, Islamic financial institutions, and other parties) with diverse types of waqf instruments to Mobilize for adequate financial capital for affordable housing projects and other public developments. It also incorporates innovative Technologies (e.g. Blockchain and artificial intelligence) to promote transparent and efficient Waqf administration. In addition to housing, waqf will cater for the other needs of the homeless such as healthcare, education, and means of sustenance, so that this institutional model of Waqf serves as a self-sustaining funding source which would significantly decrease government financial outlays. And this would consequently improve housing provision, promote economic and social equality in the cities in accordance with the UN sustainable Development goals in poverty and inequality reduction and sustainable well being. The study makes a scholarly contribution in the field of Islamic Social Finance by providing the Institutional Waqf-Based Affordable Housing Framework, which is an integration of Islamic philanthropy, sustainable urban planning and economic development where Waqf is conceptualised as the enduring social financial tool for sustainable urbanisation and affordable housing solutions. This work would offer policy direction for diverse stakeholders looking to find practical, Shar- compliant, and sustainable solutions for the problems of urban homeless people and economic inequality by improving the efficiency and impact of Islamic Social Finance for resilient and inclusive urbanisation that addresses dignified affordable housing as social right.

Keywords: Waqf, Affordable Housing, Urban Homelessness, Sustainable Urban Development, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Psychological and Physical Factors of Sport Performance in Boxing Athletes

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Abstract

Sport performance is influenced by a combination of physical, technical, tactical, psychological, and behavioral factors. While physical preparation remains the cornerstone of athletic success, growing evidence suggests that psychological strengths and healthy lifestyle behaviors are equally important in helping athletes perform consistently and maintain long-term well-being. This review examines the major positive and negative factors that influence sport performance by synthesizing findings from peer-reviewed studies, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and theoretical literature published primarily between 2000 and 2026. The review focuses on positive predictors, including mental toughness, resilience, mindfulness, optimism, motivation, self-confidence, goal setting, adaptive coping strategies, healthy dietary practices, and sleep behavior, as well as negative predictors such as burnout, overtraining, stress, competitive anxiety, poor concentration, injuries, travel fatigue, and alcohol or substance abuse. The available evidence consistently shows that positive psychological resources improve confidence, emotional regulation, concentration, motivation, recovery, and performance consistency, enabling athletes to cope more effectively with competitive demands. In contrast, psychological distress, excessive training, inadequate recovery, injuries, and unhealthy behaviors negatively affect both physical and mental functioning, leading to reduced performance and an increased risk of burnout and withdrawal from sport. Overall, sport performance is influenced by the balance between psychological strengths and performance barriers. Developing mental skills alongside effective recovery, nutrition, sleep, and mental health support can enhance athletic performance and long-term well-being.

Keywords: Sport Performance, Mental Toughness, Resilience, Mindfulness, Sport Psychology, Athlete Well-Being, Psychological Factors.

Quantitative Analysis and Mitigation Strategies for VANET Security

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Abstract

Vehicular Ad Hoc Networks (VANETs) have emerged as a critical component of intelligent transportation systems, enabling real-time communication among vehicles and infrastructure. However, their dynamic topology, high mobility, and decentralized architecture expose them to a wide spectrum of security vulnerabilities. This paper provides a quantitative analysis of VANET security threats, synthesizing existing literature on attack vectors, risk assessment models, and statistical approaches for vulnerability evaluation. By integrating metrics such as probability of attack success, severity indices, and mitigation efficiency scores, the study highlights how quantitative frameworks can enhance the detection, prioritization, and handling of vulnerabilities. Furthermore, the paper discusses mitigation strategies including cryptographic protocols, trust management systems, and intrusion detection mechanisms, emphasizing their effectiveness when assessed through empirical and simulation-based methods. The findings underscore the importance of adopting quantitative methodologies to strengthen VANET resilience, offering a structured foundation for future research and practical deployment in secure vehicular communication environments.

Keywords: VANET Security, Quantitative Vulnerability Analysis, Risk Assessment Models, Mitigation Strategies, Intrusion Detection Systems.

Reimagining Social Justice through Mulk Raj Anand's Fiction: A Postcolonial Perspective on Human Dignity and Sustainable Societies

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Abstract

Mulk Raj Anand occupies a seminal position in Indian English literature for his unwavering commitment to exposing the structural inequalities embedded within colonial and caste-ridden Indian society. His novels transcend mere social documentation by foregrounding the lived experiences of marginalized communities whose dignity is systematically eroded by caste discrimination, economic exploitation, and social exclusion. While Anand's works have been extensively examined through Marxist, humanist, and postcolonial perspectives, comparatively little scholarly attention has been devoted to their relevance in contemporary discourses on sustainable and inclusive societies. This study seeks to bridge that gap by reimagining Anand's fiction as a literary framework for advancing social justice, human dignity, and equitable development within the broader vision of sustainable societies. Drawing upon postcolonial theory, social justice discourse, and humanistic literary criticism, the paper critically analyses *Untouchable*, *Coolie*, and *Two Leaves and a Bud* to examine how Anand interrogates intersecting structures of caste oppression, class exploitation, colonial domination, and institutional injustice. Through qualitative textual analysis, the study investigates the representation of marginalized identities, the denial of fundamental human rights, and the ethical imperative for social transformation embedded within these narratives. It further explores how Anand's literary humanism advocates empathy, equality, and collective responsibility as essential foundations for building socially sustainable communities. The paper argues that Anand's fiction extends beyond historical representation to function as a powerful critique of systemic oppression and a visionary call for inclusive social reconstruction. His narratives challenge hierarchical social structures while foregrounding the intrinsic dignity of every individual, thereby anticipating contemporary conversations surrounding social sustainability, human rights, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). By situating Anand's literary vision within present-day debates on social equity and sustainable development, this research demonstrates the enduring relevance of literature as a transformative instrument for fostering ethical consciousness, democratic values, and inclusive societal progress. Ultimately, the study reaffirms Mulk Raj Anand's fiction as an enduring intellectual resource for understanding the inseparable relationship between social justice, human dignity, and sustainable societies in the twenty-first century.

Keywords: Mulk Raj Anand, Postcolonial Studies, Social Injustice, Human Dignity, SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Digital Waqf Venture Capital for Financing Green Start-ups in Emerging Muslim Economies

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Abstract

The transition of green economy needs innovative ways of financing. More especially in Islamic economies of emerging Muslim world where venture capital facilities are very rare and difficult to get for entrepreneurs. The importance of green start-ups for building climate resilience is undisputed. Yet, financing is problematic due to high risks and short-termism of conventional markets. This paper conceptualize the introduction of Digital Waqf Venture Capital (DWVC), an Islamic finance model, combining Waqf asset and digital technology to mobilizes and channel investment funds into environmentally sound green start-ups. DWVC differs from conventional venture capital, not just because it primarily aims at social and environmental outcomes aligning with the Maqasid al-Shariah and SDGs but it utilizes digital tools for improving transparency and efficiency in the venture capital (VC) ecosystem. The methodological approach used in this study is qualitative conceptual research, following a systematic literature review of multidisciplinary fields ranging from Waqf, Islamic Venture Capital, FinTech, Green Finance, Sustainable Entrepreneurship, Impact Investing and digital governance. Relevant academic literature, institutional reports, international policy documents and selected case studies from emerging Muslim economies are systematically analysed using a content analysis technique with the intention of constructing an integrated conceptual framework for Digital Waqf Venture Capital. The paper argue that DWVC can solve various structural issues faced by green entrepreneurship through reduced financing constraints, de-risking initial investment phase via leveraging the blending of philanthropist and commercial capital, improving access to finance for environmentally innovative entrepreneurs, encouraging long-term investment behavior towards the environmental goals. In addition, the model illustrated how digital technology can ensure efficiency of Waqf governance through automated transaction, automated tracking and Shariah compliance verification, decentralization of contributions, and performance monitoring using relevant data. The merging of Islamic ethical finance with advanced FinTech institutions helps build the institutional trust, which attracts and ensures participation from various stakeholders like individual waqf, corporate Waqf, Islamic financial institutions, development agencies, socially responsible investors, etc. This research is relevant to the discourse on Islamic sustainable finance, providing an original, inter-disciplinary financial framework for Waqf, VC, FinTech and green entrepreneurship. The work expands the role of Waqf from merely an institution providing charitable giving to a strategic tool to achieve economic transformation and innovation. From policy perspective, the findings have implications to governments, Waqf regulators, Islamic financial institutions, FinTech developers and the entrepreneurship support institutions working towards sustainable green investment. In general, the research proposes that DWVC can play a transformative role in financing green start-ups development to support the realization of the SDG targets in emerging Muslim economies.

Keywords: Digital Waqf, Green Start-ups, Sustainable Entrepreneurship, Emerging Muslim Economies, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence for Construction Skills Development: Exploring Educators' and Industry Professionals' Perspectives on Integrating Automation-Driven Competencies into Construction-Related TVET

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Abstract

This study investigates the integration of human-centered artificial intelligence (HCAI) into construction-related Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes in Nigeria, focusing on educators' and industry professionals' perspectives regarding automation-driven competencies. As artificial intelligence transforms the construction sector through technologies such as robotics, digital twins, and predictive analytics, the competencies required of professionals are shifting from traditional technical skills to include AI literacy, digital collaboration, ethical reasoning, and systems thinking. Using a qualitative research approach, the study explores how stakeholders perceive the role of HCAI in enhancing construction education, the essential competencies for future professionals, and the challenges hindering effective integration. Findings reveal strong consensus that HCAI should augment rather than replace human expertise, emphasizing creativity, ethical judgment, and collaboration. Educators and industry experts identified critical automation-driven competencies, such as data interpretation, computational problem-solving, and adaptability, as vital for workforce readiness. However, persistent barriers including outdated curricula, inadequate infrastructure, limited educator preparedness, and weak industry–institution collaboration constrain implementation. The study underscores the need for curriculum reform, educator professional development, and institutional capacity building to align construction education with global digital transformation trends. It recommends embedding AI-supported learning experiences across curricula, strengthening partnerships between TVET institutions and industry, and establishing ethical frameworks to ensure responsible AI adoption. By situating AI integration within a human-centered paradigm, the research contributes to sustainable workforce development and supports Nigeria's transition toward an AI-enabled construction sector that values human creativity, ethical responsibility, and lifelong learning.

When AI Becomes the Salesperson: Ethical Implications of Generative AI in Online Retailing

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Abstract

Purpose: The rapid adoption of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) has transformed online retailing by enabling AI-powered shopping assistants, conversational chatbots, personalized product recommendations, and automated customer engagement. While these technologies enhance shopping convenience and operational efficiency, they also raise critical ethical concerns regarding transparency, algorithmic bias, privacy, manipulation, misinformation, and consumer autonomy. This study explores the ethical implications of generative AI functioning as a virtual salesperson in online retail environments. Specifically, it examines how consumers perceive the ethical use of GenAI and how these perceptions influence consumer trust and purchase intention within AI-enabled retail platforms.

Methodology: The study adopts a quantitative research design grounded in the principles of human-centered AI and ethical online retailing. A structured questionnaire is proposed to collect data from consumers who have interacted with AI-powered retail applications, such as virtual shopping assistants and AI-driven recommendation systems. The conceptual framework positions perceived ethical use of generative AI as the independent variable, consumer trust as the mediating variable, and purchase intention as the dependent variable. Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) will be employed to examine the hypothesized relationships and assess the mediating role of consumer trust.

Findings: The study proposes that consumers are more likely to trust and engage with AI-enabled retailers when generative AI systems operate transparently, protect personal data, provide unbiased recommendations, clearly disclose AI-generated content, and support informed consumer decision-making. Conversely, perceived manipulation, opaque algorithms, or misleading AI interactions are expected to diminish consumer trust and reduce purchase intention. Consumer trust is anticipated to play a significant mediating role between perceived ethical AI practices and purchase intention.

Practical Implications: The findings will offer actionable insights for online retailers, AI developers, and policymakers seeking to implement responsible AI in digital commerce. The study highlights the importance of embedding transparency, fairness, accountability, and privacy safeguards into generative AI systems to strengthen consumer trust, foster ethical retail practices, and enhance long-term customer relationships. The research also supports the development of governance frameworks that promote responsible AI deployment while protecting consumer rights.

Value: This study contributes to the emerging literature on generative AI in e-commerce by shifting the discussion from technological capability to ethical responsibility. Unlike previous research focusing primarily on AI adoption or personalization effectiveness, this paper conceptualizes generative AI as a virtual salesperson whose ethical conduct shapes consumer trust and purchasing behavior. By integrating ethical AI principles with online retailing ethics and consumer behavior, the study provides a timely framework for understanding responsible AI in digital commerce and aligns with the conference theme of Human-Centered AI, Business Agility, and Media Ethics.

Keywords: Generative Artificial Intelligence; Online Retailing; AI Salesperson; Ethical AI; Consumer Trust; Purchase Intention; Human-Centered AI; Consumer Ethics.

Evaluation of the Level of Maternal Education and Perception of Antenatal Care Among Pregnant Women in Lagos State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Objective: To examine the relationship between the level of maternal education and the perception of antenatal care (ANC) among pregnant women at General Hospital, Ijeda, Lagos State, Nigeria.

Methods: This descriptive cross-sectional study analyzed data from 188 pregnant women receiving care at General Hospital, Ijeda, over a four-week period. Socio-demographic profiles and perceptions regarding the necessity, comfort, and institutional utility of ANC services were gathered using a validated semi-structured questionnaire (Cronbach's alpha = 0.82). Statistical analyses, including frequency distributions and Fisher's exact tests, were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics Version 26.0. The statistical significance threshold was set at $p < 0.05$.

Results: Out of 188 respondents, 83 (44.1%) held tertiary degrees and 36 (19.1%) held postgraduate qualifications. Positive perceptions of ANC were found in 98 (52.1%) patients, while 90 (47.9%) displayed negative perceptions. Utility of health talks was supported by 133 (70.7%) who strongly agreed they were useful, and 133 (70.7%) strongly agreed ANC should be compulsory. Hypothesis testing via Fisher's exact test revealed no statistically significant association between a woman's highest level of educational attainment and her positive perception of antenatal care ($\chi^2 = 2.243$, $p = 0.742$).

Conclusion: A positive perception of ANC services is widespread within this suburban Nigerian cohort. Formal maternal education acts as a universal predisposing foundation that fosters a supportive attitude toward obstetric services; however, increases in educational level beyond secondary schooling do not create statistically distinct variations in maternal perception.

Keywords: Maternal education, Antenatal care, Perception, Nigeria, Public health.

The Waqf-Based Empowerment Institutional Model (WBEIM): Redefining Islamic Social Finance for Urban Economic Inclusion

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Abstract

The rapid urbanization of Muslim-majority countries’ “emerging cities” is increasing socioeconomic problems, including homelessness, poverty, and inequality, driven by the rural to urban migration, and housing shortages. Current social welfare programs lack adequate funding and coordination, proving insufficient to overcome this challenge. Waqf, an ancient Islamic philanthropic institution, for funding socially beneficial purposes, remains an untapped potential in addressing persistent homelessness and achieving sustained socioeconomic empowerment. This paper aims to redesign Waqf to be a dynamic institution supporting development-oriented economic inclusion and combating homelessness in rapidly urbanizing Muslim societies by transmuting it from a solely philanthropic endeavor to a comprehensive development model. This qualitative conceptual research was undertaken using systematic literature review of peer-reviewed articles, classical Islamic jurisprudence sources, policy documents, urban development reports and various publications on Islamic social finance, sustainable cities, poverty alleviation and inclusive economic development. This research is grounded in Islamic Maqasid al-Shariah, institutional theory, Amartya Sen’s capability approach, social investment theory and sustainable urban development theory. The thematic content analysis employed herein has synthesized existing knowledge to develop an integrated Waqf-Based Empowerment Institutional Model (WBEIM) shifting Waqf’s focus from property conservation to proactive socioeconomic empowerment and community resilience in the context of urbanizing Muslim communities. The empirical results propose a comprehensive institution model that visualizes Waqf as a multi-dimensional urban development ecosystem which integrates diverse forms of Waqf, such as productive assets, cash Waqf and digital Waqf platforms, in funding development initiatives which tackle the root causes of homelessness, emphasizing the support of affordable housing, education, entrepreneurship and other social services to foster self-sufficiency among vulnerable groups and encouraging the integration of nascent digital financial solutions to improve the efficiency and accountability of Waqf management. It promotes a multi-stakeholder engagement approach and envisages Waqf as a key driver of socioeconomic progress in line with Islamic principles, alongside many of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, enabling dignity, self-sufficiency and resilience within urban settlements. This paper makes a contribution to the nascent field of Islamic social finance literature by presenting a new Waqf-Based Empowerment Institutional Model (WBEIM) which bridges the gap between Islamic endowment-based institutions and sustainable urban development and inclusive economic policies. Unlike prior studies that focus on the conventional welfare orientation of Waqf, this research presents a fully integrated institutional framework for economic empowerment, entrepreneurial development, homelessness prevention and social inclusion. It proposes pragmatic policy recommendations for governments, Waqf authorities, Islamic financial institutions, urban planners, development partners and non-governmental organizations which are seeking to promote innovative, Sharia-compliant, financially viable and sustainable solutions to address poverty and homelessness. The results indicate that institutionalizing a productive dimension of Waqf into a modern urban policy architecture can empower Islamic social finance to become a critical facilitator of inclusive economic progress, resilience and sustainable socioeconomic transformation within the emerging Muslim world.

Keywords: Homelessness Prevention, Emerging Muslim Cities, Productive Waqf, Affordable Housing, Urban Development, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Institutional Quality Assurance Metrics for Enhancing Modern E-Learning in Higher Education

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Abstract

The increasing adoption of digital technologies in higher education calls for the need for robust institutional quality assurance metrics to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of modern e-learning. This study investigated the institutional quality assurance metrics required for enhancing modern e-learning in higher education institutions. Specifically, the study examined institutional readiness metrics and quality enhancement metrics, and determined whether significant differences existed between the perceptions of academic staff and quality assurance personnel. The study was carried out in a tertiary institution in Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra State. A descriptive survey research design was adopted. The population and sample comprised 97 respondents, consisting of 74 academic staff and 23 quality assurance personnel from the selected higher education institution. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire containing 36 items on a four-point Likert scale. The instrument was validated by three experts, and a reliability coefficient of 0.86 was evident using Cronbach's alpha. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions, while an independent-samples *t*-test was employed to test the hypothesis at the 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents agreed that institutional readiness metrics are essential for enhancing modern e-learning (Grand Mean = 3.20). Similarly, quality enhancement metrics were perceived as necessary for sustaining quality e-learning (Grand Mean = 3.16). The hypothesis test further revealed no statistically significant difference between the mean ratings of academic staff and quality assurance personnel regarding the institutional quality assurance metrics required for enhancing modern e-learning ($t = -0.46$, $df = 36$, $p = 0.65$). The study concludes that strengthening institutional leadership, digital infrastructure, faculty digital competence, learner support, and continuous quality assurance practices is critical to improving the quality and sustainability of modern e-learning in higher education institutions. The study recommends increased investment in digital infrastructure, continuous staff capacity building, and institutionalization of quality assurance frameworks to support effective e-learning.

Keywords: Institutional Quality Assurance, E-Learning, Digital Transformation, Higher Education, Quality Enhancement, Institutional Readiness.

Assistive Technology Use Among Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria: A Scoping Review of Access, Utilization, Barriers, And Outcomes

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Abstract

Background: Assistive technology (AT) is fundamental to promoting independence, participation, and quality of life among persons with disabilities. Despite global recognition of AT's importance, access remains highly unequal, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Nigeria, with an estimated 25–27 million persons with disabilities, faces significant challenges in AT provision and utilization. However, evidence on AT access, utilization patterns, barriers, and outcomes in Nigeria remains fragmented and unsynthesized.

Objective: This scoping review aims to systematically map and synthesize existing evidence on access to, utilization of, barriers to, and outcomes of assistive technology among persons with disabilities in Nigeria.

Methods: This review follows the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) methodology and is reported according to the PRISMA extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR). A comprehensive search was conducted across PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, African Journals Online (AJOL), and institutional repositories from March 2026 to July 2026. Studies published between 2015 and 2025 were included if they focused on AT use among persons with disabilities in Nigeria, employed primary quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods research designs, and were published in English. In line with JBI guidance for scoping reviews, quality appraisal was not undertaken as an inclusion criterion.

Results: Twenty-one primary studies met the inclusion criteria. The evidence reveals that AT devices are inadequately available across educational, health, community, and transport settings. Utilization rates vary by disability type, with 43.2% of children with seeing difficulties, 37.2% with hearing difficulties, and 28.9% with walking difficulties using assistive devices. Among stroke survivors, 41.07% utilize AT, predominantly wheelchairs (73%). Teacher awareness of AT is approximately 59%, but competence remains severely limited (69% lack proficiency). Key barriers include high costs, lack of trained personnel, insufficient infrastructure (particularly electricity), limited awareness, and weak policy implementation. AT use is associated with lower odds of depression and anxiety among children with disabilities.

Conclusion: This review provides a comprehensive synthesis of primary evidence on assistive technology use among persons with disabilities in Nigeria, covering multiple disability types (sensory, physical, and learning disabilities), various AT types, and settings. The findings confirm substantial gaps in AT access and utilization across Nigeria, with significant socioeconomic and geographic disparities. The findings underscore the urgent need for comprehensive AT policies, sustainable financing mechanisms, infrastructure development, and targeted interventions.

Keywords: Assistive technology, persons with disabilities, Nigeria, accessibility, rehabilitation.

From Acquisition to Realization: Reconstructing the Philosophical Concept of Happiness in the Pali Canon for a Hyper-Technological World

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Abstract

The rapid advancement of digital technologies has significantly influenced the way individuals pursue happiness in the contemporary world. Digital technologies often reinforce the belief that happiness lies in acquiring more achievements, material possessions, social recognition, and relationships. However, with remarkable technological achievements, the contemporary world continues to experience growing anxiety, dissatisfaction, and loneliness, leading to an important philosophical question: What is true happiness, and can it be achieved through external conditions?

This paper addresses this question through a philosophical and textual analysis of the Pali Canon (a comprehensive collection of sacred texts in Buddhism, a foundational text for the Theravada Tradition). It argues that early Buddhist philosophy presents a conception of happiness that fundamentally contrasts with contemporary conceptions. Despite vast research on subjective well-being and digital well-being, comparatively little attention has been given to reconstructing a coherent philosophical conception of happiness from the earliest Buddhist texts. This study develops that conception through philosophical and textual analysis of the Pali Canon.

Furthermore, the study argues that technology introduces new objects of desire and new ways of pursuing them; it does not, however, create the underlying mechanism of the craving cycle. Building on the Pali Canon's analyses of dependent origination (*paṭicca-samuppāda*), this paper reconstructs a philosophical model in which the pursuit of desired objects generates mental vexation. From this perspective, a mind conditioned by ignorance (*avijjā*) experiences temporary relief from vexation and misattributes that relief to the external object rather than to the underlying mental process, thereby giving rise to the belief that happiness has been found. This misperception encourages the belief that happiness exists in external objects and can be attained through further acquisition, thereby sustaining the cycle of craving (*taṇhā*). As stated in the *Mahādukkhakkhandha Sutta* (MN 13), sensual pleasures always offer little gratification, much suffering, and much despair, revealing that the problem lies not in external objects themselves but in the craving directed toward them – *Appassādā kāmā, bahudukkhā bahupāyāsā, ādīnavo ettha bhiyyo* (MN 13) – “The gratification in sensual pleasures is slight, but the suffering and despair are great; the danger in them is even greater.”

Accordingly, this paper reconstructs the philosophical conception of happiness presented in the Pali Canon to argue that happiness is not something to be acquired from external conditions, but an inherent state of completeness uncovered through wisdom (*paññā*). By reconstructing this philosophical conception from the Pali Canon, the paper offers a philosophical framework for happiness in a hyper-technological world.

Keywords: Happiness, Pali Canon, Early Buddhist Philosophy, Hyper-technological World, Dependent Origination, Craving, Wisdom.

The Moralisation of Eating Choices: A Gender-Based Comparative Study

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Abstract

Food choices are increasingly perceived to be reflected in personal values, leading to the moralisation of one’s diet rather than an explicit focus on the physical nutrition received. Contemporary food culture often presents dietary options not only as they are, but as indicators of responsibility, self-control, compassion, acceptance, and virtue, and intrinsic values which one may use to indicate personality and belief reflecting behaviour. Consequently, food has become a symbolic medium through which individuals communicate aspects of their identity, beliefs, and moral character. However, these moral evaluations are not applied uniformly. Social expectations around food consumption are deeply influenced by gender, and this paper seeks to investigate the reasons behind women often being subjected to greater scrutiny in their choices, and being in many ways prodded, on what, how, when, and why they eat. The interrogation of choice is done by society on a certain section of society. Dietary restraint, eating “clean” and health-conscious choices are frequently associated with femininity, moral worth and identity. Indulgence, in this case, may be interpreted as a lack of self-control and failure of personal responsibility. In contrast, men’s eating behaviour is more commonly evaluated through ideals of performance, strength, autonomy and agency, which seems to be heavily influenced by society, through the conditioning received from gender-based social norms. These norms take effect for both genders in several aspects of studying media, social norms, the practice of these social norms and behavioural capacity to control their choices. This comparative study attempts to examine how identical eating behaviour is perceived differently depending on the gender of the individual. Drawing upon theories from moral psychology, Philosophical theories around gender, consumption, the sociology of food and personality studies. By investigating the intersection of food, morality, gender and identity, the study aims to contribute to a broader understanding of how everyday eating practices reinforce social norms, influence identity construction, and perpetuate gendered standards. This paper aims to contribute to gender studies and food consumption philosophy and psychology by attempting to determine the conditioning and reasoning behind one’s behaviour surrounding food, their relationship with food, their eating habits and the socio-cultural context these reasons arise from.

Keywords: Food Consumption, Moralisation, Identity Construction, Gendered Standards, Agency, Choice, Dietary Restraint, Indulgence, Societal Expectations, Personality Determination, Symbolic Medium

Beyond Hospitals: Institutionalizing Waqf for Community-Centered Preventive Healthcare and Mobile Medical Outreach

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Abstract

The increasing double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the growing health inequities compromise public health in Muslim majority economies in transition. A large proportion of the population, often geographically and financially isolated, remains largely underserved. Current healthcare models tend to be curative which also contributes to spiralling healthcare costs and budget pressures. This paper proposes that the waqf, beyond hospital financing, be leveraged and reframed as a community-centred preventive healthcare institution to address health disparities and inequities in Muslim majority countries to ensure resilience of community members. This study employed a qualitative conceptual research design based on a systematic literature review of published academic literature, classical Islamic law books, reports from international organizations, national healthcare policies, and contemporary literature on Islamic social finance, public health, preventive medicine, primary health care and sustainable development. The study is grounded in the Maqasid al-Shariah with specific reference to the protection of life (hifz al-nafs) as a lens alongside Institutional Theory, the World Health Organization (WHO) Primary Health Care (PHC) framework and Social Determinants of Health Theory. Through a thematic content analysis, the study conceptualized and presented the integrated Community-Centered Waqf Health Institutional Model (CWHIM) that defines the role of waqf as a sustainable funding mechanism for community-centered preventive healthcare and decentralized medical service delivery. Findings indicate that the proposed CWHIM institutionalizes waqf through robust governance structure involving diverse stakeholders including waqf regulatory authorities, national health ministries, and philanthropic organizations; it draws upon different waqf instruments including land waqf and digital waqf platforms for the financing of community-based preventive healthcare such as mobile clinics and mental health services; it advocates the decentralized delivery of care to underserved communities through the establishment of mobile units and digitally assisted health care provision; and it makes use of emergent technologies including AI and blockchain to improve operational efficiency and transparency. CWHIM offers an innovative shift in health promotion from disease prevention and early intervention to treatment, reducing hospitalization and healthcare expenditures for all members of the society, especially the vulnerable and marginalized groups through re-orienting the role of waqf as a central actor in public health. CWHIM reinforces the broader Islamic objectives of the Shariah of preserving life, wealth, intellect, progeny and public good and is consistent with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). CWHIM proposes a strategic reframing of the institution of waqf, moving beyond its conventional application to hospital financing to serving as a vital and enduring instrument for building more inclusive and sustainable healthcare systems in Muslim Societies.

Keywords: Waqf, Mobile Medical Outreach, Public Health, Digital Health, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The Impact of Edtech Platforms on Student Learning Outcomes: Evidence from Higher Education in Kerala

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Abstract

The rapid expansion of Educational Technology (EdTech) platforms has significantly transformed higher education by reshaping teaching–learning processes and student engagement patterns. This study examines the impact of EdTech platforms on student learning outcomes in higher education institutions in Kerala, focusing on academic performance, engagement, and skill development. Using a mixed-method research design, the study analyses quantitative indicators such as academic scores, attendance, and assignment completion along with qualitative dimensions including student satisfaction and digital engagement. The findings indicate that EdTech platforms improve accessibility, flexibility, and personalized learning outcomes, but their effectiveness is strongly influenced by digital literacy, infrastructure availability, and pedagogical integration. The study highlights the need for inclusive digital policies, faculty training, and improved institutional support systems to ensure equitable learning outcomes in the Education 5.0 era.

Keywords: EdTech, Learning Outcomes, Higher Education, Kerala, Digital Transformation, Education 5.0, Student Engagement.

Psychological Capital as a protective factor against loneliness among Students

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Abstract

Loneliness is defined as “a negative feeling that occurs when a person’s social needs do not correspond, either in quantity or in quality, to their actual social relationships”. It is a good subjective feeling; there are individual differences in how this negative emotion is experienced. One might feel lonely even when surrounded by other people, and yet still feel alone without feeling lonely. Loneliness is a common psychological problem among students; there are various psychological factors that reduce the feeling of loneliness. The purpose of this study is to find psychological capital as a predictor of loneliness among students. The present study includes 215 young adults within the age range of 18-24 years. Psychological tools used in the study are the Psychological Capital Assessment Scale and the Scale of Loneliness. To find a relationship between the variables, Pearson Product-Moment Correlation and simple Linear Regression are conducted with the help of SPSS version 23. Findings revealed a significant negative correlation ($r = -.172$, $p < .05$) between psychological capital and loneliness. Further regression analysis found psychological capital as a significant predictor of loneliness among students. It suggests that a person with more psychological resources, such as being hopeful and optimistic, high self-efficacy, and resilience, has a lower sense of loneliness.

Keywords: psychological capital, loneliness, students.

***In Silico* Evaluation of Phytochemicals from *Zingiber officinale* Against the VirF Regulatory Protein of *Shigella*: Molecular Docking and Drug-Likeness Assessment**

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Abstract

Shigellosis, caused by Gram-negative *Shigella*, is a major cause of bacillary dysentery and diarrheal disease worldwide, with an estimated 270 million cases and over 200,000 deaths annually. Transmitted primarily through fecal-oral route, the disease remains a significant public health concern, particularly in poor sanitation areas with close interpersonal contact. Recent outbreaks in Kerala, India (June, 2026) and the emergence of antimicrobial-resistant *Shigella* strains in Europe underscore the urgent need for alternative strategies especially in the absence of valid vaccine. Targeting VirF regulatory protein represent a promising anti-virulence method that may attenuate the disease. *Zingiber Officinale* has been employed in traditional medicine for management of gastrointestinal infections and is a rich source of bioactive compounds. This study aims to investigate the anti-virulence potential of major phytochemicals from *Zingiber Officinale* against VirF of *Shigella* using molecular docking and drug likeness analysis. The phytochemicals were subjected to protein-ligand docking followed by standard preparation procedures and binding interactions were studied. Drug-likeness and pharmacokinetic properties were studied using Lipinski’s Rule and ADMET predictions. The selected bioactive compounds Gingerol and α -Curcumene exhibited favorable binding affinity toward the VirF regulatory protein with acceptable drug-likeness. The findings may provide a computational foundation for the development of plant-derived anti-virulence agents against *Shigella* and serve as basis for future experimental validation.

Keywords: *Zingiber officinale*, *Shigella*, VirF, Molecular Docking, Anti-virulence, Drug-likeness.

Parent-Child Relationship of High School Students During Lockdown

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Abstract

Students play a vital role in the development of society and the nation. Because the productivity of our nation relies on children and young people. Therefore, producing quality students for our healthy nation is essential. But during lockdown, students were unable to continue their education in a healthy way. Everyone was required to remain **at home** due to government restrictions. So, their education is interrelated with their parents' relationship with them. To find out the parent-child relation of high school students, the study was conducted. The study aimed to examine the parent-child relationship among high school students during the COVID-19 lockdown. 304 students from the selected four high schools in the Thoothukudi district were chosen using the proportional random sampling technique. A five-point Likert scale was used to collect the data. The findings revealed that there were more positive outcomes that have been experienced, while the negative aspects included conflicts, communication problems, and boredom." The current findings indicate that during lockdown both positive aspects and negative aspects have occurred in parent-child relationship.

Keywords: Parent-Child Relationship, High School Students, Lockdown, Teachers.

Wine Quality Prediction Using Machine Learning: An Enhanced Comparative Study

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Abstract

Wine quality prediction is an important task in the wine industry, as it directly influences product consistency, market value, and customer satisfaction. Traditionally, wine quality is evaluated through sensory analysis conducted by experts, which can be subjective, time-consuming, and inconsistent. To overcome these limitations, this study explores the application of machine learning techniques for predicting wine quality using physicochemical properties of wine samples. In this work, three powerful regression models—Random Forest (RF), Support Vector Machine (SVM), and Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost)—are implemented and compared. The dataset used is obtained from the UCI Machine Learning Repository and includes attributes such as acidity, alcohol content, sulphates, and pH. To ensure reliability and accuracy, the study incorporates hyperparameter tuning using GridSearchCV and employs a 5-fold cross-validation strategy to reduce overfitting and improve generalization. The performance of each model is evaluated using R^2 score and Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE). The results indicate that XGBoost consistently outperforms the other models in terms of accuracy and stability. This study highlights the effectiveness of advanced ensemble learning techniques in predictive analytics and demonstrates how machine learning can provide a more objective and scalable solution for wine quality assessment.

Keywords: Machine Learning, Wine Quality, Random Forest, Support Vector Machine, XGBoost, Regression.

Emotional Intelligence and Its Impact on Academic Performance Of the Students

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Abstract

In the last two decades it has been seen that the college life is becoming more stressful and the current generation is going through with the phase of stress because of academic or non-academic related reasons. The academic related reasons are undoubtedly material problem which is affecting the college students to a great extent. Various research has finger out various reasons for the current situation such as the increasing content of their studies, pressurise exams the forces relating to the career and the financial difficulties which they encounter. Because of this changing economical scenario, the peer pressure as well as the parental pressure along with the other social stresses makes the life of students more challenging. In this background the emotional intelligence undoubtedly plays a very vital and key role in making the development of the overall academic performance for the students. It is a very generally accepted fact that the emotional intelligence is a key involver in making the enhancement of capabilities and competencies of flexibility level of students. The stimulus basis adds the empathically intellectual level of students so that the stress arising from anxiety and the conflict can be managed properly and it can enable the level of understanding as between the students at a very significant level. The today’s students keeps a higher level of expectations and not only did themselves keep expectations but their family and the society also expects them to perform at a very higher level emotional intelligence undoubtedly gives a support and a base to students to manage themselves in a better way. The parent’s guardians and the teachers also need to play a moderator rule in making their intelligence managed in emotional manner. The students have to understand their teachers or expectation of their parents and their emotions and a student with the upper level of emotional intelligence is expected to be more successful. The above research work has been undertaken to reveal identify various components of emotional intelligence of the respondents chosen for the study had to find out that how demographic factors could impact emotional intelligence and what is the relationship between the emotional intelligence and academic performance.

Keywords: Performance, Employees, Organisation, Respondents, Competencies, Intelligence, Expectation.

Skill-Based Education and Vocational Training in Haryana Schools: Pathways to Digital Empowerment

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Abstract

This study explores the impact of skill-based education in relation to vocational and digital training at the secondary school level in Haryana, highlighting its role in bridging the gap between traditional pedagogy and contemporary employability needs. The analysis based on survey underscores how vocational initiatives and digital literacy programs foster practical competencies, enhance student readiness for higher education and labor markets, and contribute to regional socio-economic development. By examining policy frameworks, institutional practices, and student outcomes, the work emphasizes the transformative potential of integrating skill-based approaches into mainstream schooling. The findings suggest that a balanced blend of vocational and digital training not only equips learners with essential 21st-century skills but also strengthens Haryana’s educational ecosystem in alignment with national skill development goals.

Keywords: Skill-Based Education, Vocational Training, Digital Literacy, Secondary Education, Haryana Schools.

Rebooting Humanity: The Connected Paradox of Digital Lives, Mental Health, Digital Detox, and Eco-Conscious Well-being

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Abstract

The quick development of digital technologies has changed how people work, learn, communicate, and engage with their surroundings. Convenience and connectivity have increased because to technological advancements, but an over reliance on digital gadgets has also led to serious psychological problems like stress, anxiety, digital fatigue, sleep disorders, short attention spans, and social isolation. Eco-anxiety, a persistent feeling of fear, uncertainty, and emotional unease about the future of the world, has emerged concurrently with increased awareness of climate change, environmental deterioration, and ecological disasters. These interconnected challenges highlight the need to rethink wellbeing in a technologically driven age. In the context of the modern digital environment, this study examines the connections between eco-anxiety, digital detox paradigms, and mental health. It investigates the consequences of continuous social media use, AI-powered platforms, and information overload on cognitive and emotional health. The idea of ‘digital detox’ is presented as a proactive strategy that motivates users to intentionally reduce screen time, engage in mindful technology use, and re-establish connections with significant offline events. Digital detox encourages balanced digital behaviors that promote psychological resilience, higher attention, healthier interpersonal interactions, and improved emotional control rather than total disengagement from technology. The study also examines eco-anxiety as a new psychological issue that mostly impacts young adults, professionals, educators, and adolescents who are more frequently exposed to knowledge on climate change via digital media. Although it's important to comprehend environmental issues, consuming too much worrying digital content can exacerbate feelings of helplessness and emotional exhaustion. By combining environmental awareness with digital health practices, people can turn their worry into positive engagement through responsible digital citizenship, sustainable lifestyles, and community involvement. Drawing upon insights from positive psychology, environmental psychology, digital well-being, and educational philosophy, this conceptual paper provides a holistic paradigm that balances technology growth with mental and ecological well-being. It highlights the role of educational institutions in encouraging digital literacy, mindfulness, emotional resilience, and environmental stewardship through curriculum, policy efforts, and experiential learning opportunities. The study comes to the conclusion that, in addition to technical innovation, sustainable human progress in the twenty-first century necessitates ethical digital practices and a revitalized relationship with the natural world. People can develop resilience, better minds, and a more sustainable and emotionally balanced future by incorporating eco-conscious education and digital detoxification techniques.

Keywords: Digital Well-being, Psychological Resilience, Mindfulness, Environmental Sustainability, Digital Citizenship, Emotional Well-being.

Decoding the Feed: How Instagram's Recommendation Algorithm Works, and What It Prioritizes

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Abstract

Instagram's recommendation system plays a key role in what billions of users see on the Home Feed, Explore page, and Reels tab, but little has been known about the detailed inner workings. This paper is a technical description of how Instagram's ranking architecture works, with the understanding that it is a multi-stage decision pipeline instead of a single, all-in-one "algorithm. The paper breaks down the system into four analytically distinct phases: generating candidates, in which the list of eligible posts is created from followed and unfollowed accounts using behavioral signals generated by such embeddings; signal scoring, during which a sequence of predicted-action probabilities such as watch-through, save, comment, and direct message share is assigned to each candidate; eligibility filtering, where integrity and originality checks determine which posts should be surfaced beyond a user's follower base; and surface-specific reweighting, in which the same signals are weighted differently for each surface (Feed, Reels, Stories, or Explore). The asymmetry in engagement metrics, such as watch time and private shares, is highlighted as it seems to be an intentional optimization rather than a neutral aggregation, contrasted with public likes. The paper also places these mechanics in the wider picture of Meta's reported deployment of more than a thousand machine-learning models run concurrently, in near real time, and how these impacts rank decisions are made at a session-by-session level. The goal of this paper is to offer the technical groundwork for further exploration of the overall social, cultural and epistemic implications of the platform, rather than to mix up development and the downstream impacts.

Keywords: Instagram Algorithm; Recommendation Systems; Content Ranking; Candidate Generation; Engagement Signals; Machine Learning Models; Platform Architecture; Social Media Curation.

Development of Machine Learning Models for the Detection of Lumpy Skin Disease

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Abstract

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a highly contagious viral infection that continues to threaten cattle health, livestock productivity, and the global livestock economy. Prompt and accurate diagnosis is essential for reducing disease transmission and supporting timely veterinary intervention. This study investigated the effectiveness of optimisation-based support vector machine (SVM) models for automated detection of LSD using a dataset of 3,000 cattle skin images, consisting of 1,500 LSD-infected images and 1,500 healthy skin images obtained from Kaggle village datasets. Image preprocessing involved resizing, digital hair removal using the Black-Hat transformation and inpainting algorithm, and noise reduction. The affected skin regions were subsequently segmented using the Sobel edge detection technique. Texture, shape, and colour characteristics were extracted through Gray Level Spatial Dependence (GLSD), region-based shape descriptors, and Colour Moment descriptors. Two optimisation-based classifiers, namely the Aquila Optimiser-Support Vector Machine (AO-SVM) and the Harris Hawk Optimiser-Support Vector Machine (HHO-SVM), were developed and evaluated using false positive rate, specificity, accuracy, precision, and sensitivity. Both models successfully differentiated infected cattle from healthy animals. However, the HHO-SVM model produced superior performance, achieving an accuracy of 95.95% compared with 95.50% for AO-SVM, representing a 0.45% improvement in classification accuracy. The results demonstrate that optimisation strategies can enhance the predictive capability of SVM classifiers for LSD detection, with HHO-SVM providing the most reliable performance. The proposed approach offers a practical decision-support tool for early disease diagnosis and could strengthen veterinary surveillance, improve livestock health management, and contribute to more effective control of lumpy skin disease.

Keywords: Harris Hawk Optimisation Algorithm, Image Processing, Lumpy Skin Disease, Machine Learning Classification, Optimised Support Vector Machine.

Human-Centred Artificial Intelligence for Outcome-Based Chemical Engineering Education: A Systematic Review and Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract

The rapid evolution of artificial intelligence—specifically generative AI and large language models—presents unprecedented opportunities to modernize engineering education through personalized instruction, adaptive curriculum design, and competency-based assessment. However, successfully embedding these tools into chemical engineering requires a Human-Centred Artificial Intelligence (HCAI) framework that prioritizes human oversight, protects pedagogical integrity, and maintains strict alignment with Outcome-Based Education (OBE) principles. This study presents a comprehensive systematic review and bibliometric analysis designed to synthesize current research trends, practical applications, structural challenges, and future directions at the intersection of HCAI and Outcome-Based Chemical Engineering Education.

Following the PRISMA 2020 guidelines, literature was gathered from major scholarly databases, including ScienceDirect, Scopus, Google Scholar, and AJOL. From an initial pool of approximately 220 peer-reviewed articles and conference papers, 40 studies met the inclusion criteria for final analysis. Bibliometric methods were applied to evaluate publication trajectories and thematic clusters, while thematic synthesis identified primary pedagogical practices and empirical evidence.

The findings reveal a marked surge in scholarly activity following the widespread release of generative AI tools, with large language models such as ChatGPT dominating current investigations. The literature demonstrates that HCAI actively supports student-centered learning, curriculum modernization, continuous feedback mechanisms, and authentic assessment strategies. In engineering, specially Chemical engineering discipline, laboratory learning and process simulation remain comparatively underrepresented, highlighting opportunities for future research despite promising contributions demonstrated in some of the literature. Nevertheless, significant obstacles impede widespread adoption. These include limited faculty readiness, ethical governance concerns, risks to academic integrity, institutional unpreparedness, and a notable lack of empirical research originating from developing countries.

Ultimately, this review advances the literature on AI-enabled engineering education by delivering a rigorous synthesis of existing evidence and outlining strategic priorities for curriculum integration. The insights offer practical, actionable guidance for educators, curriculum designers, and policymakers striving to implement responsible, human-centered AI that prepares future-ready engineering graduates without compromising educational standards.

Keywords: Generative Artificial Intelligence; Engineering Education; Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED); Generative AI in Higher Education, PRIS, A 2020 Guidelines.

Assessment of Practical Skill Needs of Electrical/Electronics Technology Education Students in the Maintenance and Repair of Electric Motors and Generators

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Abstract

This study assessed the practical skill needs of Electrical/Electronics Technology Education students in the maintenance and repair of electric motors and generators in Anambra State, Nigeria. A descriptive survey research design was adopted. The population comprised 71 respondents, including 41 final-year students, 27 lecturers and 3 electrical workshop instructors and technologists from two tertiary institutions offering technical education programmes in the state. Data were collected using a validated 30-item Electrical Machines Practical Skill Needs Questionnaire (EMPSNQ) structured on a four-point response scale. All 71 copies administered were retrieved. Mean and standard deviation were used for data analysis, with 2.50 as the decision point. The findings showed that students required practical skills in routine and preventive maintenance, diagnosis and troubleshooting, and repair, rewinding, reassembly and testing of electric motors and generators. Repair, rewinding, reassembly and testing recorded the highest grand mean of 3.20, followed by diagnosis and troubleshooting at 3.03, while routine and preventive maintenance recorded 2.99. Major areas requiring instructional attention included continuity and resistance testing, interpretation of test results, voltage-regulator diagnosis, commutator servicing and safe removal of damaged windings. The study concluded that students need an integrated range of practical competencies supported by sustained hands-on training. It recommended adequately equipped workshops, competency-based instruction, stronger industry collaboration and individual performance-based assessment.

Keywords: Electrical/ Electronics Technology Education, Electric motors, Generators, Maintenance, Practical skills, Repair.

Navigating the Smart Frontier: A Position Paper on Synergising Artificial Intelligence, Business Agility and Media Ethics

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a defining force of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, transforming business models, communication systems, and societal interactions at an unprecedented pace. Organizations increasingly leverage AI to enhance operational efficiency, accelerate innovation, improve decision-making, and strengthen business agility in an environment characterised by volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity. Simultaneously, AI is reshaping the media ecosystem through automated journalism, algorithmic content curation, personalised communication, and generative technologies that are redefining how information is created, disseminated, and consumed. While these developments present immense opportunities for economic growth and organizational competitiveness, they also raise critical ethical concerns relating to misinformation, algorithmic bias, privacy, transparency, accountability, intellectual property, and the erosion of public trust. These competing realities necessitate a more integrated approach to AI governance that transcends technological and commercial considerations. This position paper argues that Artificial Intelligence, business agility, and media ethics should not be treated as independent or competing domains but as mutually reinforcing pillars of responsible digital transformation. It contends that the long-term success of AI-enabled organizations depends not only on their ability to innovate rapidly but also on their commitment to ethical communication, responsible governance, and stakeholder trust. The paper challenges the prevailing tendency to prioritize technological capability and market competitiveness over ethical accountability, asserting that such an imbalance undermines organizational legitimacy and societal confidence in AI-driven systems. Drawing upon contemporary scholarship in strategic management, information systems, media studies, digital ethics, and technology governance, the paper advances the position that ethical considerations must be embedded throughout the AI lifecycle, from design and deployment to monitoring and evaluation. It proposes a synergistic governance perspective in which business agility is strengthened, rather than constrained, by ethical media practices grounded in transparency, fairness, inclusivity, explainability, and human oversight. Such a perspective encourages organisations to move beyond compliance-based approaches toward values-driven innovation that balances commercial objectives with broader societal responsibilities. The paper concludes by advocating a collaborative governance model involving businesses, media institutions, technology developers, regulators, academia, and civil society to ensure that AI serves both economic progress and the public good. By articulating a normative framework for integrating AI, organizational agility, and media ethics, this position paper contributes to ongoing debates on responsible AI governance and offers strategic insights for leaders, policymakers, and researchers seeking to navigate the smart frontier. It ultimately posits that sustainable digital transformation will be achieved not through technological advancement alone, but through the deliberate synergy of intelligent innovation, agile organisations, and ethical media practices.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence; Business Agility; Media Ethics; AI Governance.

Entrepreneurship Pedagogy, AI Entrepreneurial Competence and Business Start-Up Intentions Among Business Education Students in Public Universities in South-East Nigeria

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Abstract

This study investigated Entrepreneurship Pedagogy, AI Entrepreneurial Competence and Business Start-up Intentions among Business Education Students in Public Universities in South-East Nigeria. The study was guided by four research questions and four hypotheses tested at 0.05 level of significance. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprised 4,820 final year Business Education students in the 8 public universities in South-East Nigeria. A sample of 480 students was selected using multistage sampling technique. Two instruments were used for data collection: Entrepreneurship Pedagogy and AI Entrepreneurial Competence Questionnaire (EPAIECQ) and Business Start-up Intentions Scale (BSIS). The instruments were validated by three experts and had reliability coefficients of 0.86 and 0.84 respectively using Cronbach Alpha. Data were analyzed using mean, standard deviation, and Pearson Product Moment Correlation to answer the research questions and test the hypotheses. The findings of the study revealed that there is a significant positive relationship between entrepreneurship pedagogy and business start-up intentions of Business Education students. There is a significant positive relationship between AI entrepreneurial competence and business start-up intentions of Business Education students. Entrepreneurship pedagogy significantly predicts business start-up intentions; and AI entrepreneurial competence significantly moderates the relationship between entrepreneurship pedagogy and business start-up intentions. It was concluded that effective entrepreneurship pedagogy combined with AI entrepreneurial competence enhances Business Education students' intentions to start a business. It was recommended that curriculum planners should integrate AI tools such as ChatGPT, AI business simulators, and data analytics platforms into entrepreneurship courses. Also, lecturers should be trained on AI-driven pedagogical strategies to improve students' entrepreneurial skills and start-up readiness.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship Pedagogy, AI Entrepreneurial Competence, Business Start-up Intentions, Business Education Students, Public Universities.

Understanding Critical Thinking in Light of Cognitive Offloading in Generative AI world

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Abstract

The role of Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) has been increased in learning and problem solving since last 5 years, making users entrust cognitive tasks to AI systems. While such cognitive offloading may improve efficiency and reduce mental effort, concerns have emerged regarding its potential influence on critical thinking. Current empirical evidence presents mixed findings, with some studies reporting that GenAI can support higher-order thinking when used as a cognitive aid or coach of scaffold, whereas others suggest that excessive reliance on AI may reduce independent reasoning and reflective judgement. Despite the growing body of research, the relationship between GenAI-enabled cognitive offloading and critical thinking has not been very well clear to the researchers due to variety of ways to measure critical thinking.

This narrative review examines recent empirical evidence on cognitive offloading and critical thinking in GenAI-assisted contexts. The review explores how different patterns of AI use influence critical thinking and identifies factors associated with beneficial and potentially detrimental outcomes. Overall, the evidence suggests that the effects of GenAI are shaped by the manner in which it is used. Strategic use of AI as a support for thinking appears compatible with critical thinking, whereas excessive dependence on AI may encourage cognitive offloading at the expense of human capability to think for themselves. The review highlights the need for further empirical research to better understand this relationship.

Keywords: Generative AI, cognitive offloading, critical thinking, higher-order thinking.

HR Analytics as A Pathway to Sustainable Organizational Growth

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Abstract

This paper explores the transformative role of HR analytics in driving sustainable organizational growth by integrating data-driven insights into workforce management and strategic decision-making. HR analytics enables organizations to move beyond traditional human resource practices by leveraging predictive models, performance metrics, and employee engagement data to align workforce strategies with long-term sustainability goals. The study emphasizes how analytics adoption supports cost optimization, enhances talent retention, and fosters inclusive workplace cultures, thereby contributing to both economic and social sustainability. By embedding analytics into HR processes such as recruitment, training, and succession planning, organizations can anticipate workforce challenges, mitigate risks, and strengthen resilience against market volatility. Furthermore, the integration of HR analytics into sustainability frameworks establishes measurable key performance indicators that track progress in areas like employee well-being, diversity, and productivity. The research highlights case-based evidence where HR analytics adoption has led to improved decision-making, reduced attrition, and enhanced organizational agility. Ultimately, HR analytics emerges not merely as a technological tool but as a strategic enabler of sustainable growth, positioning organizations to achieve competitive advantage while fulfilling their broader responsibility toward stakeholders and society.

Keywords: HR analytics, organizational sustainability, technological readiness, etc.

An Evidence-Based Integrative Approach to the Ayurvedic Management of Sandhivata (Osteoarthritis): Bridging Classical Principles with Contemporary Clinical Practice

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Abstract

Background: Osteoarthritis is one of the most prevalent chronic musculoskeletal disorders worldwide and a major cause of pain, disability, and reduced quality of life, particularly among older adults. Although conventional therapies primarily provide symptomatic relief, long-term use of analgesics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs may be associated with adverse effects. Ayurveda describes a comparable clinical condition known as *Sandhivata*, characterized by degeneration of joints resulting from aggravated *Vata Dosha*. Traditional Ayurvedic management emphasizes restoring physiological balance through individualized interventions rather than focusing solely on symptom suppression.

Aim: To critically examine the role of Ayurvedic principles and integrative therapeutic strategies in the prevention and management of Sandhivata and to evaluate their relevance in contemporary osteoarthritis care.

Methodology: This review adopts a narrative and evidence-based approach. Classical Ayurvedic literature, including *Charaka Samhita*, *Sushruta Samhita*, and *Ashtanga Hridaya*, was systematically reviewed alongside contemporary peer-reviewed studies published between 2015 and 2026. Scientific databases such as PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, and AYUSH Research Portal were explored to identify relevant literature on herbal medicines, Panchakarma procedures, physiotherapy, yoga and integrative management strategies.

Results: The available evidence indicates that Ayurvedic interventions, including *Shamana Chikitsa*, *Panchakarma*, external therapies, dietary regulation, and therapeutic yoga, contribute to meaningful improvements in pain intensity, joint stiffness, functional mobility, and overall quality of life. Integrative approaches combining Ayurveda with rehabilitation demonstrate greater potential for long-term disease management than symptom-oriented pharmacological treatment alone.

Conclusion: Ayurveda provides a holistic and patient-centered framework for managing Sandhivata by addressing the underlying pathophysiological mechanisms and promoting musculoskeletal health. Integrating Ayurvedic therapies with evidence-based rehabilitation and modern diagnostics may offer a safe, sustainable, and cost-effective strategy for osteoarthritis management. Further well-designed multicenter randomized controlled trials are required to strengthen the evidence base and facilitate wider clinical acceptance.

Keywords: Sandhivata, Osteoarthritis, Integrative, Randomized, Musculoskeletal, Evidence.

Beyond the Traditional Studio: Artificial Intelligence, Blended Learning, and the Future of Visual Arts Education

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Abstract

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and blended learning has emerged as a transformative force in higher education, offering innovative opportunities to enhance teaching, learning, and assessment across disciplines. However, studio-based visual arts education continues to rely predominantly on traditional pedagogical approaches centred on hands-on practice, face-to-face mentoring, and studio critiques. While these methods remain fundamental to artistic development, the evolving landscape of Education 5.0 necessitates pedagogical models that effectively integrate digital technologies without diminishing the value of human creativity, critical thinking, and experiential learning. This conceptual paper explores the potential of blending AI-assisted technologies with conventional studio-based instruction to develop a more flexible, learner-centred, and technologically enriched model for visual arts education.

Drawing upon contemporary literature on blended learning, studio pedagogy, constructivism, experiential learning, and artificial intelligence in education, the study critically examines the educational applications of AI-powered tools such as ChatGPT, Adobe Firefly, Microsoft Designer, DALL·E, Midjourney, Canva Magic Design, and AI-enabled museum learning platforms. These technologies are analysed as pedagogical supports for research, ideation, concept development, visual experimentation, formative feedback, reflective practice, and portfolio development rather than as replacements for artistic practice or creative expression. Based on this analysis, the paper proposes an original **AI-Integrated Studio Learning Framework for Education 5.0**, comprising four interconnected stages—**Explore, Create, Reflect, and Evaluate**—that integrate AI-assisted learning with traditional studio experiences to promote creativity, digital literacy, collaboration, self-directed learning, and authentic artistic engagement.

The paper further discusses the pedagogical benefits of AI-enhanced blended learning, including personalised learning experiences, improved access to diverse artistic resources, continuous formative feedback, enhanced creative exploration, and strengthened digital competencies. Simultaneously, it addresses critical challenges related to copyright, academic integrity, authenticity of artistic production, algorithmic bias, digital inequality, teacher preparedness, and data privacy. The study concludes that AI should be positioned as a collaborative educational partner that augments rather than replaces studio-based artistic practice. The proposed framework offers practical guidance for educators, curriculum developers, and policymakers seeking to align visual arts education with the principles of Education 5.0 while preserving the essential values of artistic inquiry, material experimentation, and human creativity.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Blended Learning, Education 5.0, Studio-Based Learning, Visual Arts Education, Fine Arts Pedagogy, Digital Creativity, AI-Integrated Learning Framework.

Storytelling as a medium of sustaining Indigenous Wisdom, Oral Knowledge Systems, and Ecological Action

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Abstract

Far from the hustle and bustle of life the voices of indigenous people have still kept their voices and traditions aloud through their traditions, rituals and very interesting stories. These stories act as a powerful medium of expressing the cultural narratives, preserving the value system and contribute to sustainability through intergenerational learning (Cajete, 2000; Berkes, 2018). Storytelling is one of the most powerful and expressive tool that conveys thoughts and ideologies in a simplified yet memorable way. Indigenous storytelling, has emerged as a vital framework that connects people to roots and brings out the human connection in a natural way. (Whyte, 2018)

This paper examines storytelling through the lens of indigenous wisdom and tribal knowledge system. It highlights the essence of indigenous culture that is preserved, transmitted and reimagined across generations through storytelling. Further it explores how oral narratives encode the ecological knowledge, cultures and traditions and further nurture the sustainable practices that contribute to the development of humanity. These stories transport us beyond all boundaries of time, space, language, ethnicity, class and gender because narratives appeal to our emotions and imagination (Wajnryb, 2003) and hence there is simply no way to understand the human world without stories (Storr, 2020). The paper shall focus on various oral traditions with a special reference ‘Gavri’ a ritual and folklore practiced by the Bhil community in the Mewar region, particularly across villages of Udaipur district, offers a compelling model of Indigenous storytelling as knowledge practice. Using the prowess of creativity and imagination in writing, the present article analyses storytelling not only as a means of communication, but also as a language experience, and a powerful element in recording history and transfer of knowledge (Kimmerer, 2013; Simpson, 2014) It aims to look at how such performative storytelling traditions form a part and parcel of the culture and acts as an important epistle in establishing a connect in the modern times as well (Smith, 2021).

Keywords: Storytelling, indigenous people, sustainability, cultural narrative.

Outcome-Based Education in Fine Arts: A Framework for Sustainable Curriculum Design and Creativity Assessment

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Abstract

Outcome-Based Education (OBE) has emerged as a transformative educational philosophy that emphasizes measurable learning achievements rather than content coverage. While the implementation of OBE has significantly influenced professional disciplines such as engineering, medicine, and management, its integration into Fine Arts education remains comparatively underexplored due to the subjective nature of artistic creativity and studio-based pedagogy. This paper proposes a comprehensive conceptual framework for implementing Outcome-Based Education in Fine Arts by integrating sustainable curriculum design, creativity-oriented learning outcomes, and authentic assessment practices. The study examines the theoretical foundations of OBE, constructive alignment, experiential learning, and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to develop an implementation model that aligns programme outcomes, course outcomes, teaching-learning strategies, and studio assessment. It further explores the challenges associated with measuring creativity and argues that artistic competence can be assessed through authentic evidence such as portfolios, reflective journals, exhibitions, collaborative projects, and process documentation rather than solely through subjective evaluation. The paper also demonstrates how sustainability can be embedded within Fine Arts curricula by promoting environmentally responsible studio practices, interdisciplinary learning, digital technologies, community engagement, and cultural preservation. The proposed framework contributes to the discourse on competency-based higher education by reconciling artistic freedom with measurable educational quality. It offers practical recommendations for curriculum developers, educators, accreditation agencies, and higher education institutions seeking to implement Outcome-Based Education without compromising creativity and innovation. The study concludes that Outcome-Based Education should be viewed not as a mechanism for standardizing artistic expression but as an educational approach that enhances transparency, accountability, continuous improvement, and sustainable learning while preserving the creative autonomy that defines Fine Arts education.

Keywords: Outcome-Based Education, Fine Arts Education, Studio Practice, Creativity Assessment, Sustainable Curriculum, Authentic Assessment, Higher Education, Education for Sustainable Development.

UGLY ON PURPOSE: ANTI-AESTHETIC MOVEMENTS, DIGITAL COUNTER-CONDUCT, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SITUATED AUTHENTICITY

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Abstract

A user posts an unfiltered photo of their unmade bed, tagged as #bedrotting. Another builds an entire aesthetic identity around moss, moths, and deliberate ungroomedness in essence to goblincore, a style organized around the refusal of style. Contemporary digital culture, particularly among Gen Z (the demographic cohort of people born between 1997 and 2012, situated between Millennials and Generation Alpha), has produced a wave of anti-aesthetic movements including but not limited to de-influencing, goblincore, bed rotting and raw vulnerability content that explicitly reject the deliberate polished and curated self-presentation that dominantly steers on social media platforms (such as clean girl aesthetics, it “body” movement). Although existing philosophical literature is extensively navigating the performed and curated self; there exists a gap, and thereby newer opportunities, for research about the question whether genuine, uncurated self-creation remains possible within the varied algorithmically mediated spaces that function heavily on visibility that is in turn governed by forces of attraction and repulsion; and what philosophical status such creation holds when the “raw” itself becomes a stylistic register, remains insufficiently theorized. Drawing on Jean-Paul Sartre’s existentialism, Simone de Beauvoir’s situated freedom, Michel Foucault’s counter-conduct, Judith Butler’s performativity, and Jean Baudrillard’s simulacra, this paper examines anti-aesthetic digital movements as philosophically legible sites of identity formation and resistance; while laying its concrete foundation in identity formation, self-expression through niche aesthetics in the Age of Social Media alongside Youth subculture in those spaces. Together, these frameworks reposition anti-aesthetic movements that are particularly high in vulnerability and/or disgust as philosophically legible sites of identity formation and resistance rather than mere aesthetic trends. The paper attempts to argue that authenticity and performance are not binary opposites but coexisting forces whose relationship is situationally determined, proposing the concept of situated authenticity to describe a genuine but constrained mode of self-creation that emerges through deliberate acts of digital counter-conduct, acts that do not escape performance but redirect it toward self-authored ends. In doing so, this paper contributes to formulate an original philosophical framework for understanding Gen Z identity formation, repositioning anti-aesthetic digital movements not as symptoms of cultural decline or mere nihilism in self-expression in the digital space but as meaningful acts of existential resistance within the attention economy.

Keywords: Anti-aesthetics, Authenticity, Performance, Self-expression, Identity, Social Media, Digital, Raw, Situated Freedom, Resistance, Algorithm, Subculture.

Beyond Service Quality: An AI-Enabled Conceptual Framework for Enhancing Learner Engagement in SWAYAM MOOCs

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Abstract

The rapid expansion of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) has transformed access to higher education by offering flexible, affordable, and technology-enabled learning opportunities. In India, the SWAYAM platform has emerged as a significant initiative for promoting equitable access to quality education. While previous studies have largely examined platform quality, learner satisfaction, and technology acceptance, comparatively limited attention has been given to the potential role of artificial intelligence (AI) in enriching learner engagement within SWAYAM. This conceptual paper proposes an AI-enabled framework that explains how intelligent personalization, adaptive learning pathways, automated feedback, and learning analytics can strengthen learner trust, engagement, learning satisfaction, and continuance intention. Drawing on recent literature in educational technology, AI in education, and online learning, the paper synthesizes key concepts into an integrated conceptual model. Rather than presenting empirical findings, it offers a theoretical perspective that can guide future research and support the design of learner-centered digital education environments. The proposed framework contributes to discussions on educational innovation by highlighting AI as an enabling technology for improving learner experiences while emphasizing the importance of transparency, ethics, and inclusivity in digital learning systems.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, SWAYAM, MOOCs, Learner Engagement, Adaptive Learning, Learning Analytics, Digital Education, Conceptual Framework.

From News Reading to News Experiencing: The Impact of Digital Storytelling and Immersive Media on Contemporary Journalism

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Abstract

The rise of digital technologies has changed the way we produce, present, and consume news; traditional text-based reporting is being replaced with multimedia-rich storytelling, enhanced audience engagement through digital storytelling, interactive news formats, data visualization, immersive storytelling techniques, and multimedia narratives. Through a qualitative comparative content analysis of ten purposefully chosen digital news stories published between 2012 and 2026, this study investigates the use of digital storytelling, multimedia components, immersive technologies, and interactive features in modern journalism. Stories were selected using a verified, criterion-based sampling strategy: each story had to demonstrate at least one independently verifiable marker of impact - high readership or viewership figures, a recognized journalism or design award (e.g., the Pulitzer Prize, the Peabody Award, the Sigma Awards for data journalism, the Walkley Award, the Malofiej International Infographics Awards, or the Cannes Lions), or festival recognition. The sample includes five international news organizations (The New York Times, The Guardian, Al Jazeera AJ Contrast, and Reuters) and five Indian news organizations and initiatives (The Hindu, Hindustan Times, The Wire, and the IndiaSpend-led cross-newsroom collaboration). A coding framework based on seven factors - digital storytelling, multimedia integration, interactive features, data visualization, immersive technologies, user navigation, and audience engagement was used to analyze the chosen case studies. The results show that digital storytelling and multimedia journalism have been widely integrated into the digital news production of both Indian and international news organizations, but the international news organizations have used immersive technologies like 360-degree video, virtual reality, and graphic-novel-style investigative visualization more frequently and more advanced, while Indian news organizations have made significant strides in interactive data dashboards, election mapping, and collaborative investigative data journalism. High production costs, technological inequalities, accessibility issues, multimedia verification, data privacy, and the ethical ramifications of emerging technologies are just a few of the difficulties the study highlights as being related to digital journalism. Despite these obstacles, digital storytelling continues to improve explanatory journalism, increase audience engagement, and make information more accessible by presenting complicated topics in more interactive and visually appealing ways. The results indicate that digital storytelling, multimedia integration, and interactive journalism are revolutionizing modern news practices by converting audiences from mere readers to active participants in the news experience (Digital Journalism, 2016).

Keywords: Digital storytelling, Traditional News, News Formats, Journalism, Digital Media, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, Audience Engagement, Multimedia Storytelling, Digital Communication.

The Role of Cognitive Computing in Next-Generation Human–Machine Interaction Systems

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Abstract

Cognitive computing (CC) has emerged as a transformative paradigm in the development of intelligent systems, enabling machines to emulate key aspects of human cognition, including learning, reasoning, perception, problem-solving, and decision-making. The convergence of cognitive computing and human–machine interaction (HMI) has facilitated the development of intelligent systems capable of interpreting user intent, learning from user behaviour, and delivering adaptive, context-aware, and personalized interactions. Unlike traditional HMI systems that rely on predefined commands, fixed interfaces, and rule-based interactions, cognitive HMI systems utilize advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), natural language processing (NLP), computer vision, and affective computing to facilitate seamless communication between humans and machines. These systems support multimodal interaction through speech, gestures, facial expressions, eye movements, and behavioural patterns, thereby enhancing usability, accessibility, and user engagement. Thus, this paper explores the basic role of CC in shaping next-generation HMI systems by examining key components including emotion recognition, adaptive user interfaces, explainable artificial intelligence (XAI), context-aware computing, and collaborative robotics. It also discusses the application of cognitive HMI across various domains such as healthcare, education, automotive systems, industrial automation, smart homes, and assistive technologies, where intelligent interaction significantly improves efficiency, safety, and user satisfaction. Furthermore, the paper highlights the major challenges associated with cognitive HMI, including data privacy and security, ethical considerations, algorithmic bias, transparency, computational complexity, scalability, and real-time processing requirements. Addressing these issues through trustworthy AI frameworks, robust data governance, and explainable decision-making mechanisms is essential for widespread adoption. Henceforth study concludes that cognitive computing has the potential to redefine human–machine collaboration by creating intelligent, intuitive, adaptive, and human-centered interaction systems capable of meeting the evolving demands of future digital ecosystems. These technological advancements are anticipated to accelerate innovation across multiple sectors while improving efficiency, user-centric experiences, and supporting broader socioeconomic development.

Keywords— Cognitive Computing, Human–Machine Interaction, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Affective Computing, Explainable AI, Adaptive Systems.

Predicting Academic Procrastination Through Dimensions of Social Media Usage among University Students

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Abstract

Academic procrastination is a common phenomenon among students in higher education. Research has suggested that excessive usage of social media can lead to academic procrastination, among other things. The current study looked into the relationship between certain dimensions of social media usage and academic procrastination in emerging adults. The research sample included 200 university students who took standardized tests to assess social media usage and academic procrastination. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation, and stepwise multiple regression analysis. The results revealed that all dimensions of social media usage were positively and significantly associated with academic procrastination ($p < .01$). Stepwise regression analysis identified Virtual Problems as the strongest predictor of academic procrastination, followed by Virtual Communication and Virtual Tolerance. Together, these dimensions explained 36.7% of the variance in academic procrastination ($R^2 = .367, p < .001$), whereas Virtual Information did not contribute significantly to the final model. The findings suggest that specific dimensions of social media usage, particularly problematic use and communication-related engagement, are important predictors of academic procrastination. These results highlight the need for interventions targeting unhealthy social media behaviors to reduce procrastination among emerging adults.

Keywords: Academic procrastination, social media usage, emerging adults, stepwise regression, university students.

The Future of Smart Enterprises: Integrating Artificial Intelligence, Agile Business Strategies, and Media Ethics

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the contemporary business landscape by enabling organizations to automate processes, improve decision-making, enhance customer experiences, and foster innovation. As enterprises increasingly adopt intelligent technologies, the concept of the smart enterprise has emerged, characterized by data-driven operations, adaptive capabilities, and continuous digital transformation. However, technological advancement alone is insufficient for sustainable organizational success. Smart enterprises must integrate AI with agile business strategies and media ethics to ensure responsible innovation, operational resilience, and stakeholder trust. This paper examines the interconnected roles of Artificial Intelligence, business agility, and media ethics in shaping the future of digitally enabled organizations. Using a qualitative and conceptual research approach based on an extensive review of scholarly literature, the study analyzes how AI enhances organizational intelligence, how agile business practices improve responsiveness to dynamic market conditions, and how ethical media governance addresses challenges related to transparency, misinformation, privacy, algorithmic bias, and accountability. The findings indicate that organizations adopting AI within an agile organizational framework are better positioned to respond to technological disruptions, changing customer expectations, and competitive pressures. Furthermore, ethical media practices play a critical role in ensuring responsible communication, protecting user rights, and maintaining public confidence in AI-enabled systems. The study emphasizes that successful digital transformation requires a balanced approach combining technological innovation with ethical governance and human-centered decision-making. It proposes that future smart enterprises should invest in responsible AI governance, workforce upskilling, transparent communication, and adaptive leadership to achieve sustainable growth and long-term competitiveness. By integrating Artificial Intelligence, agile business strategies, and media ethics, organizations can create resilient, innovative, and socially responsible business ecosystems capable of addressing the opportunities and challenges of the evolving digital economy. The paper contributes to the growing body of knowledge on digital transformation by presenting an interdisciplinary perspective that supports future research, policy development, and managerial practice.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Smart Enterprises, Business Agility, Media Ethics, Digital Transformation, Responsible AI, Organizational Innovation, Ethical Governance.

Isolation And Characterization of Digalactosyldiglyceride, In Vivo Acute Toxicity and Antidiabetics Efficacy of The Dichloromethane Extract of *Annona Squamosa* Linn Using *Drosophila Melanogaster*

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Abstract

Diabetes mellitus is a prevalent metabolic disorder characterized by chronic hyperglycemia, often resulting in severe complications. The limitations of conventional treatments, including resistance and side effects, have driven interest in alternative therapies. This study investigated the anti-diabetic and toxicity efficacy of the plant *Annona squamosa* Linn using *Drosophila melanogaster* as a model organism. Phytochemical screening of the plant extracts revealed the presence of bioactive compounds such as alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, and terpenoids, suggesting potential therapeutic benefits. The toxicity (LD 50 = 159.8mg/10g) revealed low lethality. The Antidiabetes result (4.65mmol/L) for the induced in *Drosophila melanogaster* revealed a positive value demonstrating a significant reduction in glucose levels, improved locomotor activity, and enhanced eclosion rates compared to untreated diabetic flies. GC-MS of the extract revealed key bioactive compounds, including esters, glycolipids and fatty acids, which may contribute to the observed anti-diabetic effects. The column chromatographic isolation followed by spectroscopic analysis, including, NMR and IR of the chloroform extract afforded a digalactosyldiglyceride (DGDG). The study revealed that *Annona squamosa* Linn exhibited promising anti-diabetic properties with varying toxicity levels. Further research was recommended to further isolate and characterize more bioactive compounds for potential Pharmaceutical development.

Keywords: Isolation, Characterization, Digalactodiglyceride, Antidiabetics Efficacy, Phytochemical.

Menstrual Suppression During Ramadan: A Maliki Jurisprudential Studies In North-Eastern Nigeria

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Abstract

The use of hormonal medications to suppress or delay menstruation during Ramadan has become increasingly prevalent among Muslim women who desire to observe the entire month of fasting and participate continuously in religious activities. While Islamic law exempts menstruating women from fasting and permits them to compensate for missed fasts after Ramadan, the intentional postponement of menstruation has generated divergent juristic opinions concerning its permissibility, legal conditions, and implications for women's health and religious obligations. Within the Maliki School of jurisprudence, which predominates in North-Eastern Nigeria, scholarly opinions continue to evolve in response to advances in medical science and changing socio-religious realities. Nevertheless, there is limited scholarly literature that comparatively examines contemporary fatwas on menstrual suppression from a Maliki jurisprudential perspective in the region. This study investigates the juristic basis of menstrual suppression during Ramadan and comparatively analyses the fatwas of selected Islamic scholars in North-Eastern Nigeria within the framework of Maliki jurisprudence. It further examines the extent to which classical legal principles, juristic maxims, and the objectives of Islamic Law are applied in addressing this contemporary issue. The study adopts a qualitative research design that combines doctrinal legal analysis with empirical inquiry. Primary data were obtained through semi-structured interviews with selected Islamic scholars, healthcare professionals, and knowledgeable Muslim women from North-Eastern Nigeria, while secondary data were drawn from the Qur'an, Sunnah, classical and contemporary Maliki legal texts, fatwa compilations, and relevant academic literature. The data were analyzed thematically using the principles of Maliki jurisprudence, including unrestricted public interest, blocking the means to evil, customary practice, and relevant juristic maxims, alongside the framework of the objectives of Islamic Law. The findings reveal broad scholarly agreement that menstrual suppression is legally permissible provided that the medication is medically safe, administered under professional medical guidance, and does not result in significant physical or psychological harm. However, differences exist among the selected scholars regarding the weight accorded to public interest, prevention of harm, customary practice, and individual necessity in formulating legal rulings. The study also found that inadequate public awareness of both the medical implications and the juristic conditions governing menstrual suppression contributes to inconsistent practices and varying patterns of religious guidance among Muslim women. The study concludes that Maliki jurisprudence possesses sufficient doctrinal flexibility to address contemporary issues of menstrual suppression while safeguarding the objectives of Islamic law. It argues that legal rulings should integrate sound medical evidence with established juristic principles to ensure balanced and contextually relevant fatwas. The study contributes to contemporary Islamic legal scholarship by providing a comparative analysis of regional fatwas and recommends sustained collaboration between Islamic jurists, healthcare professionals, and policymakers to develop evidence-based guidelines that promote women's health, preserve religious observance, and enhance informed decision-making among Muslim women in North-Eastern Nigeria.

Keywords: Menstrual suppression; Ramadan; Maliki jurisprudence; Fatwa; Islamic law; the objectives of Islamic Law; Women's reproductive health; North-Eastern Nigeria.



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