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Editorial

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to all participants attending the International Conference 2024 on 21st – 22nd November 2024. This conference provides a vital platform for researchers, students, academicians, and industry professionals from all over the world to share their latest research results and development activities in multidisciplinary fields. It offers delegates an opportunity to exchange new ideas and experiences, establish business or research relationships, and explore global collaborations.

The proceedings for International Conference 2024 contain the most up-to-date, comprehensive, and globally relevant knowledge across various disciplines. All submitted papers underwent rigorous peer-reviewing by 2-4 expert referees, and the papers included in these proceedings were selected for their quality and relevance to the conference. We are confident that these proceedings will not only provide readers with a broad overview of the latest research results but also serve as a valuable summary and reference for further studies.

We are grateful for the support of many universities and research institutes, whose contributions were vital to the success of this conference. We extend our sincerest gratitude and highest respect to the professors who played an important role in the review process, providing valuable feedback and suggestions to authors to improve their work. We also appreciate the efforts of the technical program committee, reviewers, and authors for their dedication.

Since September 2024, the Organizing Committee has received more than 55 manuscript papers, covering various aspects of multidisciplinary research. After review, approximately 21 papers were selected for inclusion in the proceedings of International Conference 2024.

We thank all participants for their significant contribution to the success of the conference. Our gratitude extends to the keynote speakers, individual speakers, technical program committee, reviewers, and the organizing committee for their efforts in making this conference a reality.

Acknowledgement

The International Conference 2024, was successfully held in 21st – 22nd November 2024. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our colleagues, staff, professors, reviewers, and members of the organizing committee for their unwavering support in making this conference a success.

We would also like to thank all the participants who traveled far and wide to attend this conference and those who attended the event virtually, making it a truly global event. This conference provided a platform for students, professionals, researchers, and scientists to share their latest research and developments in various disciplines.

The aim of the conference was to promote research and development activities and to encourage scientific information exchange between researchers, developers, professionals, students, and practitioners from all around the world. Once again, we thank everyone who contributed to making this conference a resounding success.

Sukumar Sen
Program Manager
Research Plus

Contents:

Abstract

The Influence of Artificial Intelligence on Teaching Photography in the Classroom: A Comprehensive Literature Review

Michelle Barnard

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Abstract:

This literature review explores the transformative impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on photography education, examining how AI technologies are reshaping teaching practices and learning experiences in academic settings. The review addresses key areas including the integration of AI-powered editing tools, virtual photography labs, and the role of AI in creativity enhancement. Through a comprehensive analysis, this review highlights both the benefits and challenges associated with AI in photography education, such as improved accessibility and inclusivity, as well as potential ethical concerns and biases. It also discusses the evolving role of educators as facilitators of AI-driven learning and emphasises the importance of preparing students for an AI-enhanced future. The review concludes with recommendations for future research, including investigations into the long-term effects of AI on student creativity, the effectiveness of AI-driven teaching methods, and the ethical implications of AI in education. This study provides valuable insights for educators and institutions aiming to navigate and leverage AI technologies to enhance photography education.

Keywords:

Artificial intelligence, Photography.

A Critical Assessment of the Digital Learning Environment in South African Classrooms, with a Focus on E-Textbooks

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Abstract:

The integration of digital technology in educational settings has become increasingly prevalent worldwide, including in South African classrooms. This research review paper critically assesses the digital learning environment in South African classrooms, with a specific focus on the use of e-textbooks. The aim is to evaluate the effectiveness, challenges, and potential benefits of incorporating e-textbooks into the traditional classroom setting while considering the unique context of South Africa's educational landscape. The review begins by examining what is an E-textbook and its implementation it also looks at the future of E-Textbooks: challenges and considerations. Additionally, it explores the potential benefits of E-Textbooks in addressing the issue of limited access to physical textbooks faced by many South African students. However, the review also highlights several challenges associated with the implementation of E-Textbooks, including infrastructural limitations, the digital divide, inadequate teacher training, and concerns regarding digital literacy among students. The research review paper also critically examines the perspectives and experiences of teachers and students regarding the integration of E-Textbooks. It considers their attitudes towards E-Textbooks, their comfort levels with digital tools, and their ability to effectively utilize E-Textbooks for teaching and learning purposes. Furthermore, the review investigates the potential influence of sociocultural factors, such as language diversity and the digital divide, on the implementation and adoption of E-Textbooks in South African classrooms. In conclusion, this research review paper highlights the advantages and challenges associated with the use of E-Textbooks and evaluates their impact on student engagement and learning outcomes. It also gives recommendations for the Successful Integration of E-Textbooks in education. The findings of this review will contribute to a deeper understanding of the potential of E-Textbooks in improving educational practices in South Africa and offer insights for policymakers, educators, and researchers seeking to leverage digital technology effectively in the classroom.

Keywords:

E-Textbooks, South African Classroom, implementation, teacher training.

Enhancing Career Guidance: Strategies for Effective Career Information Dissemination in New Juaben Municipality, Ghana

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Abstract:

This study investigates strategies for improving career information dissemination to enhance career choices among senior high and technical school students in New Juaben Municipality, Eastern Region of Ghana. The critical nature of career decision-making during adolescence underscores the importance of accurate and comprehensive career information. A mixed-methods approach was used, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews to assess current gaps in career guidance. Findings reveal that students face significant barriers, including outdated information and a lack of tailored resources. The study emphasises the necessity for innovative approaches to career guidance, proposing interactive workshops, digital platforms, and curriculum integration as strategies to enhance career information accessibility and engagement.

Keywords:

Career Guidance, Career Information, Student Engagement, New Juaben Municipality, Ghana.

Matters of Polyphony: Deep Mapping of the Many Narratives of Ledra/Locmaci Gate

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Abstract:

The paper offers a nuanced understanding of the term "deep mapping" by demonstrating its value as a key methodology through which contested spaces may be re-approached and re-interpreted. Deep mapping is increasingly discussed as a methodology that recognizes the fluid nature of a place aiming at grasping and visualizing the multiple layers, both temporal and spatial, that result from the human experience through the wide variety of narratives that are embodied in such a setting. The present research uses Ledra/Locmaci Gate in Nicosia as a case study. This linear entity is broken into three segments due to the buffer zone between the Greek-Cypriots in the South and the Turkish Cypriots in the North. The selected site is of particular interest not only because it is among the few places where individuals from the two communities come together by crossing on the other side through the buffer zone, but also because its long history, its various administrative and planning processes as well as hidden stories of everyday life, echo the multi-layered history of Nicosia itself. Therefore, the layered nature of the Gate is itself a project which reflects upon the fuzzy relationship between official histories and everyday experiences. Using deep mapping, the paper "re-inhabits" the Gate from alternative points of view, with the purpose of uncovering the polyphonic and polysemic nature of the place.

Keywords:

deep mapping, narrative, representation, Nicosia

Algorithm for the Real-Time Identification of Railway Wagon Numbers (Using Rfid Technology and High-Resolution Cameras)

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Abstract:

This research presents an innovative integrated system for real-time identification of rail cars using radio frequency identification (RFID) technology and high-resolution cameras. The proposed method integrates advanced computer vision and image processing techniques to automatically recognize and record train numbers at strategic checkpoints. By synchronizing RFID tag data with optical character recognition (OCR) from camera images, the system achieves over 99% identification accuracy, works effectively in various environmental conditions, and greatly increases logistics efficiency. The combined approach allows for faster data processing, reduces human error and provides a robust solution for tracking and monitoring railway wagon movements.

Keywords:

RFID technology, Wagon identification Optical Character Recognition (OCR), Railway logistics, Automated tracking, Transportation infrastructure.

Advancements in Dendrimer-Based Therapeutics for Gastrointestinal Disease Treatment

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Abstract:

Helicobacter pylori is a Gram-negative bacteria responsible for the widespread of gastrointestinal diseases and is one of the most common bacterial infections globally. Due to increasing bacterial resistance to available antibiotics, standard treatments face significant limitations [1]. One promising approach is the development of urease inhibitors, with a broad range of natural, synthetic, and semi-synthetic compounds being explored as potential new drugs. In this context, dendrimers, polymers with a well-defined 3D structure and high batch-to-batch reproducibility, have shown promise as antimicrobial agents.

Our research group has successfully developed polyurea (PURE) dendrimers with nanomolar antimicrobial activity [2,3] specifically designed to target urease in H. pylori. These dendrimers are particularly promising due to the unique mobility of the Flap region at the entrance of urease's active site, which allows macromolecules like dendrimers to deeply penetrate the enzyme's cavity [4,5]. The synthesis of these amino acid-based dendrimers was performed using solvent-free melting methods, offering a sustainable, cost-effective, scalable, and straightforward process. Additionally, the fluorescent properties of the dendrimers provide an alternative method for quantifying urease activity [6-8]. Further spectroscopic studies are being conducted to explore urease conformational changes due to dendrimer interactions.

Preliminary results suggest that dendrimers surface conjugated with amino acid groups, particularly sulphonamide and thiourea, show enhanced activity against H. pylori. PURE dendrimers demonstrated better urease inhibition, using the Berthelot reaction method, than control thiourea and non-modified dendrimers. Therefore, this study provides valuable insights for the development of new urease inhibitors.

Systematic Review of Hepatobiliary Manifestations in COVID-19 Patients and Long-Term Liver Complications

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Abstract:

This systematic review investigates the hepatobiliary manifestations and potential long-term liver complications in patients affected by COVID-19. SARS-CoV-2 infection has been associated with various liver abnormalities, notably elevated liver enzymes, with acute liver injury observed in up to 50% of hospitalized cases. Key mechanisms include direct viral infection of hepatocytes, immune-mediated damage, and hypoxic injury due to systemic inflammation. A significant proportion of COVID-19 patients also experience cholestasis, suggesting possible bile duct involvement, likely through ACE2 receptors expressed on cholangiocytes. Furthermore, long-term liver complications, including persistent enzyme elevation and increased liver stiffness, have been documented in post-acute COVID-19 survivors, raising concerns about the risk of hepatic fibrosis and chronic liver disease development. This review consolidates current data on liver involvement in COVID-19, highlighting the need for vigilant monitoring of liver function in both acute and long-term care settings. Targeted research is essential to assess the progression from acute hepatic manifestations to chronic liver conditions, especially in high-risk groups. This review underscores the importance of liver monitoring and tailored interventions to address hepatobiliary sequelae in COVID-19 patients, particularly those with preexisting liver disorders.

Keywords:

COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, hepatobiliary manifestations, liver complications, liver injury, liver fibrosis, cholestasis, long COVID, chronic liver disease, ACE2 receptors, hepatic inflammation, immune-mediated liver damage

Investigating the Factors Influencing Adoption Intentions of Chatgpt for Sport Events

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Abstract:

In today's world, one of the most emphasized technologies in both academic and various sectoral fields is artificial intelligence, particularly ChatGPT. While there are studies on the adoption of ChatGPT in sectors such as education, healthcare, and tourism, research on its use for sporting events is notably scarce. This indicates a significant gap in the literature. The current study aims to address these gaps by exploring the adoption of ChatGPT for sport events through an integrated model combining the extended technology acceptance model (e-TAM), the theory of planned behavior (TPB), and word of mouth (WOM). To test the proposed integrated model, confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was first conducted, followed by structural equation modeling (SEM) to examine the hypotheses. Data were collected from 344 university students using a convenience sampling method. The scales related to the constructs in the proposed model were adapted from previous studies in the literature. The internal reliabilities of all scales exceeded the recommended threshold of 0.70. The fit indices, such as RMSEA and SRMR, were either equal to or below the recommended value of 0.08. Additionally, the values for IFI, CFI, NFI, and NNFI in both CFA and SEM were above the recommended level (> 0.90). The results demonstrated that factors from both TAM and TPB positively influence individuals' intentions to use ChatGPT for seeking information on sports events ($p < 0.05$). These findings provide valuable insights for managers, enabling them to develop effective strategies for promoting ChatGPT as a tool for engaging with sports events.

Keywords:

AI, ChatGPT, Sport events, TAM, TPB

The Impact of Spectator's Perceived Experience on Satisfaction and Event Consumption Intention in Online Esports Events

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Abstract:

The developments in esports since the end of the 90s have increased the number of esports events and spectators. As a result of these, esports has evolved from a player-oriented approach to a leisure entertainment for the spectators. Online events and spectators are essential for the esports industry because they generate revenue streams. Yet, to sustain the revenue stream, events must be attractive enough to be followed by the spectators. According to previous studies, spectator experience can impact demand for the events. However, the literature suffers from a lack of studies examining the impact of a spectator's perceived experience on post-consumption behaviors. Therefore, this study examines the effect of perceived event experience on satisfaction and consumption intention among online esports spectators. The data were collected from online event spectators selected by a convenience sampling method. A total of 270 valid responses were analyzed using Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) and Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to validate the proposed model. The results found a positive relationship between event experience and satisfaction, while the direct impact of event experience on consumption intention was insignificant. Additionally, event satisfaction significantly influences consumption intention. Consequently, the findings highlight the importance of creating experiences for esports spectators to enhance their satisfaction, which in turn influences their future consumption intentions. This insight suggests that event managers should prioritize improving spectators' experiences to sustain the industry's revenue stream.

Keywords:

Esports, esports event, event experience, consumption intention.

Comet Assay Applications in Aquatic Ecosystems

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Abstract:

Nowaday, daily industrial development is a source of large quantity of industrial discharges into Earth without any treatment. This treath marine fishes, crabs, shrimp, and oysters. Absolutely, heavy metals in water and sediment cause possible in environmental problems and damage aquatic ecosystems. Fish could be used as a molecular biomarker to monitor contaminations in the ecosystem.

Genomic damages may cause some mutations monitoring and detecting. Fish have an imperative role in the food chains of both aquatic and terresterial ecosystems, Various contaminants and genotoxicants can bioaccumulate in them at even low concentrations. It is needed to develop molecular biomarkers to detect the effects of genotoxicants through comet bioassays. Measurement of this kind of cytogenetic damages in waters by a microgel electrophoresis technique called as comet assay. In this study, it is going to give some information on definition, characteristics, and explanation of some previous studies about comet assay applications using in aquatic ecosystems.

Keywords:

Fish, Comet assay, Genotoxicants, Aquatic ecosystem.

The impact of Heavy Metal Accumulations in Fish and Associated Human Health Risk

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Abstract:

Anthropogenic activities are causing environment and aquaculture systems for becoming heavily contaminated with heavy metals that could cause health problems to human. In this study, fish (n = 10-15) water samples (n = 3) have been collected from Topçam Barrage to assess the heavy metal concentrations in the water and some important organs (muscle, liver, kidney, spleen, gonads, and gills) of fish (Pseudoraspora parva) using the ICP-OES (Inductive Coupled Plasma Optic Emission Spectrometer) by standard solutions (As, Cd, Cr, Cu, Zn, Ni, Pb). Bioaccumulation factor and human health risk assessment were calculated to evaluate the health status of both fish and humans.

Results showed that gills, muscle liver, spleen, kidney and ovary in fish, Significant degree of heavy metals was Zn > Cu > Pb > Ni> Cr >Cd. On the other hand, Heavy metal amounts were mostly higher as Cu and Pb. It can be reported that Cu and Pb amounts were found in limits recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO).

Keywords:

Heavy metal, Bioaccumulation, Water Pollution, Fish, Pseudoraspora parva.

Tall Cell Subtype Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma Does Not Increase Risk of Recurrence

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Abstract:

Background: Tall cell papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) is considered to be more aggressive than the classical variant of PTC, with greater incidence of unfavourable histological characteristics and nodal metastasis. Papillary microcarcinoma (mPTC), defined as PTC <=1cm in diameter, is considered to be indolent in a majority of cases. The objective of this study was to determine if tall cell mPTC displays more aggressive features than classical mPTC.

Methods: This multicentre, retrospective cohort study utilised data from a prospectively maintained Western Australian surgical database. Patients who underwent thyroidectomy with histologically confirmed mPTC were included. Data collected included histological subtype, patient age and gender, extrathyroidal extension, lymphovascular invasion, nodal metastasis, recurrence and whether the cancer was advanced (defined as stage III or IV). Outcomes were compared with student's t-test, chi squared test or Fisher's Exact test as appropriate.

Results: 144 patients were diagnosed with mPTC during the study period. 93 (64.6%) were classical subtype while 51 (35.4%) were tall cell. 41.8% of patients with classical mPTC had lymph node metastasis compared to 26.3% of tall cell mPTC, although this did not reach statistical significance. There was no recurrence in either group. There were no significant differences between groups in any of the outcomes analysed.

Conclusion: In contrast with larger PTC, tall cell subtype mPTC is not associated with worse histological outcomes or an increased risk of metastasis. Incidentally diagnosed tall cell mPTC does not require a change in management strategy compared to classical variant.

Social Networks and Apps for the Sport: New Models in the Digital Society

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Abstract:

the social processes put to use over the centuries underwent a sudden mutation with the coronavirus epidemic that laid bare the world's institutions. Limits were also placed on rituals and traditions considered comforting to humans, such as the practice of sport. At the same time, new practices and habits, new alternative forms of sports sociability, have emerged as a direct consequence of social distancing (WHO, 2020). Through the results of this study, it is possible to affirm how digital media used in the sporting sphere are not mere tools to facilitate everyday life, but real environments within which to shape, discover and express oneself, giving rise to a real media habitat (Postman, 1983), proposing itself as a social support to human connection and bringing about changes starting from sporting habits. The aim is to demonstrate how the values of sport, universally recognised, are an ideal combination with social networks, at a time of doubts, uncertainties and anxieties related to today's society with a playful rather than competitive disposition.

Keywords:

digital communication, sports management, social networks, sport online.

Wood Plastic Recycle Composite from Mangosteen Peel Powder and Plastic Bottle Wastes

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Abstract:

The purpose of this project was to study and produce wood plastic composite (WPC) from mangosteen peel and plastic bottle wastes in order to add value to waste materials. Mangosteen peel powder was mixed either with waste polyethylene (PE) bottles or with commercial PE pellets at the ratio of 30:70 by weight in the internal mixer at temperature of 150 °C for 0,5, and 10 minutes. All mixed materials were then hot-pressed at stress of 1,500 psi and temperature of 160 °C for 15 minutes. Subsequently, they were pressed at stress of 1,500 psi and temperature of 50 °C for 10 minutes. Hardness and bending testes were conducted according to Thai Industrial Standard (TIS no.2998-2562). The hardness values of WPC from waste PE bottles were higher than that of commercial PE pellets. Additionally, the highest hardness value of 65.3 ± 0.84 was achieved with WPC made from waste PE bottles with an internal mixing time of 10 minutes. Flexural strengths of WPC from waste PE bottles ranged from 14 to 18 MPa, which qualifies them for "External 2" and "Internal" applications according to TIS no. 2998-2562. The WPC made from commercial PE pellets had a flexural strength of less than 10 MPa.

Keywords:

Wood plastic composite, Mangosteen peel powder, Polyethylene (PE).

"Gradual Changes in the Environmental Condition of Regions and Public Health Problems in the Context of Climate Change: Regional Analysis, Forecasting, Mapping Issues"

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Abstract:

Climate change is one of the most pressing global issues and has become a critical challenge for sustainable development in Central Asia. Currently, nearly 40% of the world's population, or approximately 3.5 billion people, live in areas highly vulnerable to climate change. Predictions of internal migration related to climate change and extreme weather events in developing countries suggest that by 2050, between 44 million and 216 million people in countries with varying climates, demographics, and levels of development are likely to relocate.

Focusing on both global and regional climate changes, average temperatures in Uzbekistan are expected to rise by 2-3°C in the north and 1°C in the south, increasing the spread of certain diseases. The challenges related to climate change and their effects on public health in Uzbekistan remain among the least studied areas to date, although the country's economic development is significantly influenced by climatic factors and is directly linked to water resources. Forecasts indicate that by 2050, Uzbekistan's population is expected to reach 42.9 million, with geodemographic pressures increasing in certain provinces and districts. These problems, combined with climate changes, pose a serious threat to the national economy.

Over the past 30 years, a rise in respiratory illnesses, such as allergies, bronchitis, bronchial asthma, heart disease, and cardiovascular diseases, has been observed. Special attention was given to the correlation between climate change, particularly atmospheric warming, and population morbidity rates for specific disease categories. The relationship between the average annual temperature and morbidity rates for circulatory system diseases among the population was also studied.

Keywords:

Climate change, public health, geodemographic pressures, respiratory illnesses, allergies, bronchitis, bronchial asthma, cardiovascular diseases, population morbidity, correlation

School Mechanism for Assessment, Intervention, and Evaluation: A Comprehensive Perspective

Chi Hung Leung

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Abstract:

In educational settings, particularly in early childhood education, it is essential to have robust mechanisms in place for assessment, intervention, and evaluation to ensure that the needs of all students are met. This paper explores various methodologies and instruments that enhance teachers' abilities to effectively assess and support children's development, particularly in multicultural environments like Hong Kong, where diverse cultural contexts significantly influence educational practices.

The School Mechanism for Assessment, Intervention, and Evaluation is a critical framework for enhancing educational practices, especially in early childhood settings. This mechanism assesses children's developmental and social behaviors and informs targeted interventions that support their academic and social success. Within this context, several validated instruments, including the Early Childhood Creative Pedagogy Questionnaire (ECCPQ), the Penn Interactive Peer Play Scale (PIPPS), the Preschool Play Behavior Scale (PPBS), and the Multicultural Teaching Competency Scale (MTCS), and the Screen for Child Anxiety Related Disorders (SCARED) serve as essential tools for understanding and improving the teaching and learning environment.

A Study on the Influence of Sensory Marketing on Consumer Buying Decision Process with Respect to Online Furniture Business

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Abstract:

The digital furniture marketplace has seen a swift expansion, yet the challenge of consumers not being able to physically engage with items continues to be a significant obstacle in shaping their purchasing choices. This investigation delves into how sensory marketing can overcome this hurdle, focusing on its influence on the buying process in the online furniture sector. Sensory marketing uses visual, auditory, and even new tactile technologies to improve the online shopping journey. The research investigates the impact of high-quality images, 360-degree views of products, augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR), and the use of sound effects like background music or product sound replications to make the shopping experience more engaging. It also explores the use of haptic feedback and detailed product descriptions to mimic the feeling of touch, making up for the absence of physical interaction.

The study points out several critical aspects of sensory marketing's impact, including its role in shaping how consumers perceive product quality, its ability to evoke emotions, build trust, and influence buying intentions. Furthermore, it looks at how sensory signals can alleviate doubts, increase satisfaction, and streamline the decision-making process in a digital setting. Through this analysis, the research emphasizes the need for a comprehensive sensory approach that mirrors the in-store shopping experience in the digital realm. The results indicate that sensory marketing not only increases consumer involvement but also improves sales conversion rates, providing actionable insights for online furniture stores aiming to refine their marketing tactics and fully leverage the digital marketplace.

Factors Supporting Quality Management Principles to Improve Performance in South African Public Schools

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Abstract:

Quality Management Principles (QMPs) were initially developed for manufacturing industries; however, according to literature, these QMPs alongside the supporting factors can be used in public schools to improve school performance. This study focused on the factors that support QMPs in a selected provincial district in South Africa to improve performance, as these QMPs are a set of fundamental beliefs, norms, rules and values that are accepted as true, and are used as a basis for quality management. QMPs and their supporting factors were relevant to this study, as they discussed the theoretical framework, the factors that support QMPs adoption by school management, inclusive of the School Governing Body (SGB) and educators. The sample size of 169 respondents was used and the study adopted a quantitative research approach. Data was collected via an online, self-administered questionnaire. The findings of this study indicated that there is a positive relationship between the QMPs and the factors that support the QMPs, as school management was found to be the highly ranked supporting factor, followed by the SGB, and school administration, implying that the adoption of the QMPs advocate for effective and efficient implementation of the factors that support the QMPs. The study focused only on public secondary schools, as these are the schools that record lower performance, compared to the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) schools.

Keywords:

Quality management, quality management principles, school management, school governance, school district, school policies, school performance.

Causes and Coping Mechanisms of Postpartum Depression: Perspectives of Jordanian Mothers in a Qualitative Study

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Abstract:

Background: Postpartum depression is a global public health problem with different prevalence in various parts of the world. The current study aims to investigate the causes of PPD and coping strategies among Jordanian women concerning culturally specific practices.

Method: A qualitative descriptive phenomenological approach was utilized to describe Jordanian women's experiences regarding PPD. Thirteen women diagnosed with PPD participated in semi-structured interviews conducted between July and August 2024. Data were analyzed using thematic analysis to identify key themes and sub-themes.

Findings: The leading causes for PPD, as perceived by Jordanian mothers, were biological and physical, psychosocial stressors, lack of social support, and fear of the unknown. Coping strategies identified in women included personal coping strategies, seeking social support, professional help and religious and cultural Support.

Conclusion: Adapted interventions in the management of PPD. The integration of professional mental health services with culturally specific practices will provide better support to Jordanian women. Further work is needed to translate these findings into public health initiatives and community-based support services for improving outcomes in women suffering from PPD in Jordan.

Keywords:

Coping mechanisms, Causes, Postpartum depression, Jordan.

Rational Anchoring: The Impact of Borrowing History on Debt Contracting

Yang Wang

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Abstract:

This paper studies the rational anchoring effect in the credit market. I find that a firm's historical cost asymmetrically affects its current loan cost. When the average credit spread has fallen since the firm's last borrowing, banks anchor to the previously high cost and charge more than those justified by the firm fundamentals. However, when the average credit spread has risen since the firm's last borrowing, the firm's loan cost is not affected by its borrowing history. The current cost does not anchor to the firm's previous low cost, and the firm does not pay less than it should pay. The asymmetric anchoring effect on the current loan cost also holds at the firm level. This finding suggests that banks strategically refer to the previous high spreads in loan pricing. Further analyses show that the relationship becomes stronger when banks have more information advantage and when firms are more bank dependent. Overall, the result suggests that the observed anchoring behavior in the financial market can also be rational and strategic.

JEL Classification: G32; G41

Keywords:

Rational Anchoring; Loan Contracting; Bargaining Power; Information Monopoly.

A Behavioral Approach Reducing Vaccine Hesitancy: Community-led and Behaviorally-Informed Action for MMR Vaccination Uptake in the Philippines

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AHA! Behavioral Design Consultancy Corp.

Abstract:

The Philippines is the second country in the East Asia and Pacific region and fourth in the world, with the most children who have zero doses of vaccination against measles, rubella, and polio (WHO, 2023).

Increasing immunization is a global challenge, but solutions must be localized. The project established close ties with communities to develop, test, and refine behavioral solutions for Filipino caregivers vaccinating their children, especially among pandemic-disrupted and born children (9 months to 3 years old). Moreover, it endeavored to complement current service-level initiatives and promotions by looking into primary caregivers' behavioral and decision-making contexts to further understand the drivers of vaccine hesitancy among this population.

The project covered 150 villages nationwide, onboarding 699 caregivers randomized to treatment groups with or without the interventions developed using behavioral design in difference-in-difference research with a 2.5-month observation period. Findings revealed two critical gateway behaviors that showed association and can influence vaccination uptake: caregivers' self-efficacy to plan around vaccination visits and proactively manage potential side effects of the vaccination. Furthermore, despite caregivers expressing high trust in vaccines, vaccination rates remained low in the baseline, indicating a gap between trust and action. This suggests leveraging the aforementioned gateway behaviors to bridge this gap.

Overall, these findings provide valuable insights into the complex interplay of factors influencing vaccination behavior and confidence, offering implications for the design of future interventions aimed at promoting vaccine uptake and confidence among caregivers.