



**INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA**  
**Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026**

**THEME:**

**Social Development in sub-Saharan Africa:  
Appraising the Commitment, Gains, and  
Challenges of Achieving Social  
Development through Target Development Goals**



**CONFERENCE PROGRAMME  
AND  
BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

3rd - 5th March, 2026

**VENUE:** Institute of African Studies,  
Seminar Hall  
Green House Gate  
University of Nigeria, Nsukka



**INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA**  
Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026

**The Maiden Hybrid International Conference of the  
Institute of Social Policy, University of Nigeria Nsukka**

**Book of Abstracts**

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**Social Development in sub-Saharan Africa: Appraising the Commitment, Gains, and Challenges of Achieving Social Development through Target Development Goals**

**3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2026**



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**Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026**

**Plenum Officials**

**Professor Raymond Adibe – Chairman of Session**

**Key note Addresses**

1. Goodwill Message from UNICEF, (Ms. Juliet Chiluwe, Chief of Field Office, Enugu Nigeria)
2. Prof Leila Patel, President of International Consortium of Social Development;
3. Prof. Lauren Graham, Chair International Consortium of Social Development, Africa Branch; and,
4. Ambassador Jake Epelle, Founder\CEO of The All-Rights Foundation AFRICA;

**Members of Local Organising Committee**

Dr Kingsely Uwaegbute  
Kingsley Onyeachu  
Chukwuma Madu  
Clement Okoro

**Host:** Professor Okey Marcellus Ikeanyibe, Director, Institute of Social Policy

**Chief Host:** Professor Simon Uchenna Ortuanya, Vice Chancellor, University of Nigeria Nsukka



# INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA

## Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026

### Programme of Events

3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2026 – Arrival

4<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 - Opening Ceremony and Plenum

5<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 - Group Presentations

### Opening Ceremony and Plenum 4<sup>th</sup> March

10.00 am - Courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor

10.30 - Introduction of Guests and keynote speakers

11.00 - Opening – kola-nut presentation, Chairman's opening remarks, Directors Address and the Vice Chancellor's Address

11.30- Goodwill Message from UNICEF by Ms. Juliet Chiluwe, Chief of Field Office Enugu

12.00 - Tea break

12.30 - Presentation by Prof. Leila Patel, President, International Consortium for Social Development.

13.00 - Questions, comments and reactions

13.10 - Presentation by Prof Lauren Graham, Chair, International Consortium of Social Development, Africa Branch

13.40 - Questions, Comments and Reactions

14.50 -Presentation by Jake Epelle, CEO\Founder TAF Africa

14.20 - Questions, comments, reactions

14.30 - Closing and lunch



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**Sub themes for Group Presentations**

Theme 1: Poverty, Food Security and Migration

Theme 2: General Developmental Issues

Theme 3: Education, Peace and Conflicts

Theme 4: The Media, Youth Culture and Religion

Theme: 5 Health and Public Policy



# INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA

## Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026

### Theme 1: Poverty, Food Security and Migration

#### 1. Governance, Institutional Capacity, and the Posit of Poverty Eradication (SDG 1) in Nigeria: An Assessment of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development

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University of Nigeria Nsukka.

#### Abstract

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations in 2015 marked a global commitment to advancing inclusive and sustainable social development by 2030 which poverty (SDG 1) is among. While significant policy pledges have been made, the translation of global targets into measurable social outcomes remains uneven. This paper assesses how governance and institutional capacity within the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHADMSD) influence the implementation and achievement of (SDG 1) in Nigeria. Drawing institutional theory, the study examines the extent to which administrative capacity and budgeting processes affects the progress in key social development indicators. Interrogates whether existing frameworks genuinely reach the poorest segments of the society. The paper evaluates notable gains in government mechanism and institutional capacity, yet the findings indicate gaps in persistent challenges including weak implementation capacity, fragmented funding constraints, limited stakeholder participation and limitation in accurately targeting the most vulnerable. The paper concludes that achieving the SDG 1 requires strengthening public sector governance and institutionalizing active budgetary systems and community-driven approaches. The study contributes to the discourse on sustainable development by situating SDG 1 implementation within the practical realities of administrative systems.



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### 2. Exploring the Effectiveness of Nigerian Social Policies on House Ownership for Senior Citizens amid prevailing Economic downturn.

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#### Abstract

The increasing cost of house ownership in both the urban and rural areas of Nigeria has posed a challenge to retirees or senior citizens of both private and public sectors especially in the wake of global economic collapse. Many people at certain stage of their lives may desire to own a house of their own as it is one of the major determinants of health, education, socio-economic and psychological wellness of the individual. This paper explores the effectiveness of Nigerian government's social policies on housing for senior citizens in the midst of prevailing economic downturn. Data were generated using In-depth Interview and secondary sources including review of policies and research documents, internet materials, conference proceedings, text books and Journal articles. Although some socio-demographic factors such as age, gender, marital status and family size are capable of affecting the housing wellbeing of the individual, findings from the study revealed that inadequate income that accrues from pension or poverty, bad governance, macro-economic instability and absence of regulatory frameworks were the catalyst for policy failures and housing problems experienced by Nigerian senior citizens. Since this situation may vary from one zone to the other, the study concludes that there is the need for the government to adopt global best practice in the housing policies for senior citizens' wellbeing. Further recommendations such as establishing a special housing loan scheme in all council areas in Nigeria as well as sustaining a strong legal framework for social and development policies amongst others were advanced.

**Key Words:** Economic downturn; Effectiveness; Housing; Social Policy, Senior Citizen



### 3. Poverty and hunger in cross river and Akwa Ibom states: A clarion call for food security and sustainable development

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#### Abstract

No poverty, Zero hunger: UN – adopted 2030 Agenda designed to achieve global peace, prosperity, and sustainability. To the extent to which this agenda is realizable underscores a review of previous efforts at reducing poverty and hunger either by government or development partners. Since 2000, there have been such efforts geared towards reducing poverty and hunger but no substantial success recorded. Poverty and hunger are seemingly structural pandemic engulfing Cross River and Akwa Ibom States over time. Given the multidimensional poverty rate in Nigeria 2024 and 2025, Cross River is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> with a poverty rate of 75.4% while Akwa Ibom State is ranked 17<sup>th</sup> with a poverty rate of 71.3%. The question therefore is, these two states are states in the Niger Delta Region, a region that purportedly custodies the oil wealth of Nigeria, why is their poverty rate this high? And wherever there is poverty, there's bound to be hunger because, according to Robert Macnamara, the most critical manifestation of poverty is hunger. In this study, we examined efforts that have been put in place to stamp out this menace of poverty and hunger especially in the two states but to no avail. This study also proffers alternative approach which Target-Development Goals (TDGs) can adopt to achieve their 2030 objective of sustainable development. The major objective of this study examined to what extent the efforts to increase the income of farmers in the two states and also examined the efforts hitherto put in place to enhance food security to improve on the living standards of widows in the two states in line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participatory Development Theory is used as theoretical framework for the study. The major objective of this theory is to empower the poor to be self-reliant, get involved in the development process and be free from poverty and hunger. Previous efforts directed at reducing poverty and hunger in Cross River and Akwa Ibom States, like in other parts of the Country, have often been hijacked by the middle class citizens who possess the capacity to pay counterpart fund of the donor agencies. Such efforts have failed to achieve their desired objective e.g. Fadama I, II, III and Fadama Additional Funding. Hence we recommended among other things a sustainable approach to poverty and hunger reduction should be adopted like internationally undertaking a census of the poorest of the poor in Cross River and Akwa Ibom States and give them the required assistance directly to avoid hijack that hitherto bedeviled poverty reduction programmes.

**Keywords:** No poverty, Zero Hunger, Sustainable Development, Development Partners, Self-reliant, Prosperity



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### Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026

#### 4. From Policy to People: Why Africa's Social Development Targets often fail at the Implementation Stage; A focus on Nigeria's poverty alleviation Programme

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##### Abstract

This paper examined the persistent gap between social development policy commitments such as poverty alleviation programmes and real outcomes in Nigeria, using the country as a lens for understanding why Africa's social development targets often fail at the implementation stage. Although Nigeria has adopted multiple national development plans and aligned its social sector strategies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), progress remains uneven and frequently unstable. The study adopts a qualitative research design based on secondary data and document analysis, drawing evidence from Nigeria's Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), SDG monitoring reports, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), and relevant scholarly literature. A descriptive synthesis of the 2025 VNR indicates that only 34.6% of tracked SDG indicators improved, while 30.8% stagnated and 34.6% regressed, highlighting the fragility of implementation outcomes. In addition, national SDG monitoring systems remain weak, with reliable data sources available for only about 29% of indicators, limiting evidence-based planning and accountability. The findings show that Nigeria's implementation failures are driven by a combination of institutional fragmentation, limited sub-national delivery capacity, fiscal constraints, political discontinuity, and weak monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, institutional resource constraints weaknesses, inadequate data systems, poor stakeholder alignment, and socio-economic instability that explain why articulated development goals frequently fail to translate into measurable gains for Nigerians. The paper posits that Nigeria's experience reflects a broader governance challenge in Africa where policy formulation is not matched by effective delivery systems; and recommends stronger inter-governmental coordination, improved SDG data infrastructure, legal and budgetary protection for key social programmes, and institutionalized independent evaluation to ensure that policy translates into measurable improvements in citizens' welfare

**Keywords:** Social development; SDGs; Policy implementation; Governance; Public policy Administration



## INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026

### 5. Beyond Rhetoric: A Critical Evaluation of Nigeria's Progress on SDG 8 and the Quest for Decent Work (2015-2024)

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#### Abstract

Achieving SDG 8 is critical for poverty reduction and social stability, particularly for a country like Nigeria with a rapidly growing youth population. SDG 8 directly addresses the challenges of underemployment, the dominance of a large informal sector characterized by poor working conditions, and patterns of economic growth that have consistently failed to translate into sufficient job creation or improved livelihoods for the Nigerian populace. A critical assessment of Nigeria's progress between 2015 and 2024 reveals stark contrasts between reported macroeconomic recoveries and deteriorating labour market outcomes. Nigeria's performance on decent work highlights a significant gap between policy rhetoric and substantive, systemic progress. In response, Nigeria has introduced several initiatives aimed at advancing SDG 8, including the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017–2020, the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2019–2023, and the National Development Plan (NDP) 2021–2025, among others. However, a critical evaluation of the 2015–2024 period indicates persistent inconsistencies in these initiatives' capacity to generate employment, alongside the absence of concrete, measurable, and adequately funded job-creation targets. Consequently, high levels of unemployment and underemployment have persisted throughout the period. Overcoming these challenges to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 8 will require a fundamental restructuring of Nigeria's oil-dependent economy, as well as targeted interventions to address skills mismatches and weaknesses in vocational and technical training systems, particularly where curricula remain misaligned with labour market needs.

**Key words:** SDG 8, Nigeria, economy, unemployment, underemployment, decent work, policy, development.



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**6. Impact of Social Protection Policies on Poverty Reduction in Nigeria: An assessment**  
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**Abstract**

Government exists to provide essential services to the citizens. These services include provisions of basic social amenities and infrastructures, social services such as caring and protection for the old age/elderly, people with disability, mentally challenged people, support for unemployed, floods victims among others. However, assessment of provisions of these social services has been poor in Nigeria, thereby increasing the poverty rate of the country. This paper examined the impact of social protection policies in poverty reduction in Nigeria. This study adopted a survey approach in assessing some social protection policies initiated by the federal government. Samples were taken from various categories of social groups within Abuja satellite communities and rural areas. The study's findings revealed that poor preparation and feasibility programme, leakage of intended/targeted beneficiaries due to politicization and corruption of policy programmes by implementing agencies, inadequate accurate data, poor funding, poor inspection and supervision, among others. The study recommended that adequate pre-programme preparations, periodic assessment of progress achievement, introduction of extension services project that would help to identify the target beneficiaries and improved manpower resources.



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### 7. Effects of Insecurity on Sustainable Food Security in Nigeria: An Evaluatory Study

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#### Abstract

Nigeria is a country in western continent of Africa richly blessed with mineral resources, individuals of high reputes and with international recognitions, showcased in all aspect of live globally, like in sports, academic, business ventures, investments etc, but faced with insecurity. Insecurity has swigged into high negative impact on Nigeria society, thereby dwindling the food supply and metamorphosed the citizens into hunger, affecting the United Nations sustainable development goal 2 (zero hunger). A hungry man always appears to be an angry man, unhappy to himself, people around and the society at large; sometimes doing all sorts of indiscipline, some militia and restiveness activities to survive. Hungry nation is also a backward nation, and when a nation is well fed, good health and development are assured. This study looks at the effects of insecurity on food supply, considering the insecurity as a major contributing factor to hunger in Nigeria. Using content analysis method, data was gathered via secondary data gotten from various scholars' textbooks, journal articles, internets, newspapers and magazines. The study's foundation is derived from the Structural violence theory. Among other findings, the study demonstrated that inadequate food supply has a positive and significant relationship with insecurity in Nigeria. To address the menace of hunger, the study suggests that the Nigerian government, at all levels, should prioritize addressing the farmer/herders crisis and political turmoil in various states and communities in Nigeria and also partner with non-governmental organizations to invest in agriculture to address zero hunger of the United Nations SDG 2 meant for Innovative agricultural techniques for climate-resilient food systems.

**Keywords:** *Insecurity, Sustainable Food Supply, SDG2, Agriculture, Good Health*



## INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026

### 8. Hunger and Poverty in the Land: Why Nigerian Public Policy on National Livestock Transformation and Dairy Production Has Remained the More You Look, the Less You See

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#### Abstract

The National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP), was introduced to modernize Nigeria's dairy farming sector, yet its effectiveness towards achieving food for all has remained uncertain. Despite various strategic interventions and engagement by high level stakeholders, low dairy production and poor adoption of modern mechanisation techniques have persisted. Existing literature highlight the importance of capacity-building programs and infrastructure in enhancing dairy productivity, but studies assessing the NLTP's impact are limited, leaving a crucial gap in understanding its effectiveness. This study on NLTP and dairy production in Nigeria, seeks to address two questions why achieving the national policy on food production has remained intractable: (i) Has the capacity-building program under the NLTP contributed to the adoption of modern dairy farming techniques in Nigeria? (ii) Has the development of infrastructure under the NLTP improved the productivity of dairy farms? Methodologically, the study utilized documentary method and data were generated through the secondary sources and analyzed in content. The theoretical debate and framework of analysis for the study was anchored on institutional theory. Findings of the study revealed that, despite efforts in training and infrastructure development; adoption of modern dairy farming techniques has remained low and productivity gains are at minimal level. The findings further revealed that capacity-building programs have not effectively translated into improved practices, and significant investments in dairy infrastructure have yielded negligible increases in milk production. The paper recommended that training programs be more practical and accessible, infrastructure investments should focus on farmers' needs, and policy implementation should be closely monitored for effectiveness.

Keywords: Poverty, Hunger, Dairy farming, Capacity-building, infrastructure.



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### 9.SDGs 1 Implementation and Poverty Outcomes in Nigeria: A Political Economy Analysis

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#### Abstract

Nigeria's adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) reflects a commitment to addressing persistent poverty, yet evidence suggests limited progress in achieving tangible outcomes. This paper examines the implementation of SDG 1 in Nigeria. It evaluates its impact on poverty reduction through a political economy lens, focusing on how institutional arrangements, resource allocation, and governance dynamics shape policy effectiveness. Methodologically, the study employs a qualitative approach, utilizing secondary data sources, including government policy documents, budgetary reports, SDG progress assessments, and peer-reviewed literature. Findings indicate that while SDG 1 has informed social protection and poverty-reduction initiatives, outcomes are influenced by structural factors such as fiscal constraints, institutional capacity limitations, coordination challenges, and uneven resource distribution. The analysis underscores that effective poverty reduction depends not only on policy design but also on broader political and economic contexts. Recommendations include strengthening institutional coordination, enhancing programme targeting and financing, improving transparency in resource allocation, and integrating SDG 1 initiatives within Nigeria's broader development framework.

**Keywords:** Institutional capacity, Political economy, Poverty reduction, SDG 1, Social protection



## INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026

### 10. Internal Migration and Crisis of Citizenship in Nigeria, 2015-2025

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#### Abstract

The study investigated internal migration and crisis of citizenship in Nigeria. Specifically, it examined how urbanization and internal displacement led to the challenges of maintaining citizenship records in Nigeria. The study also interrogated how migrants moving between different regions as a result of regional tensions encountered difficulties in gaining acceptance or recognition in their new communities in Nigeria. The Citizenship Dilemma theory of migration served as the theoretical framework for the study. Data was collected through documentary method and analyzed using content analysis. The study discovered that the displacement induced by Boko Haram insurgency accounted for the escalation of indigene-settler conflicts in Nigeria. More so, the seasonal migration of farmers and herders between Nigeria's North and Middle Belt undermined citizenship security in host communities. Mitigating the challenges portends Nigerian government and humanitarian agencies implementing conflict-sensitive resettlement programs that consider the needs of both displaced persons and host communities. Policies should focus on equitable resource distribution, improved land tenure systems and livelihood support to reduce competition over land and economic opportunities that often fuel indigene-settler conflicts

**Keywords:** Internal migration; crisis of citizenship; indigene-settler; citizenship dilemma; displacement



## **11. Impact of Poverty on the Implementation of Child Welfare Policies in Rural Communities of Igbo-Eze South Local Government Area, Enugu State: Implication for Social Workers**

Gabriel Usiagu Aghedo, Desmond Chidubem Nnamani, & Chukwuma Felix Ugwu

### **Abstract**

Child Welfare Policies are designed to safeguard children's rights, protect them from abuse and neglect, and ensure access to essential services such as education, healthcare, nutrition, and social protection. However, the implementation of these policies is often constrained by contextual socioeconomic realities, particularly poverty. The study aimed to investigate how poverty affects the implementation of child welfare policies in rural communities of Igbo-Eze South Local Government Area of Enugu State. This was a descriptive study using semi-structured In-depth Interview guide to collect data from 20 purposively selected respondents and analyzed thematically with direct quotes. Findings revealed that household poverty correlated strongly with lack of awareness to access welfare programmes, increase school dropout/poor educational attainment, malnutrition, early marriage, exposure to violence, and child labour participation, as families rely on children economic contribution for survival. Additionally, government institutions operating in rural areas or settings struggle with limited infrastructural development, poor road networks, inadequate health facilities, insufficient educational resources, chronic underfunding, staff shortages, weak logistics and inadequate inter-agency coordination affect the implementation of child welfare policies by limiting outreach capacity, monitoring mechanisms and service delivery efficiency. The study recommended for mass sensitization campaign and awareness of child welfare policies in rural communities. Social workers should be employed in all the Local Government Areas to act as community workers and be involved in the enlightenment of the people and advocate for improved infrastructural facilities from the government.

**Keywords:** Impact, Implementation, Poverty, Social welfare policies, Social workers



**Theme 2: General Developmental Issues**

**12. One Youth two Skills Initiative and Human Capital Development in Orumba South LGA 2020-2024**

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**Abstract**

This study examined the impact of the One Youth 2 Skills Initiative on human capital development in Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra State between 2020 and 2024. The research specifically investigated how inadequate infrastructure, limited access to information, and insufficient mentorship and supervision influenced the effective implementation of the initiative and its ability to empower youths with relevant skills for economic productivity. The human capital theory and youth empowerment theory were used to understand how the acquisition of skills and knowledges directly contribute to individual and socio-economic growth. A descriptive survey research design was adopted, and data were collected from selected youths, instructors, and program officials through structured questionnaires and interviews. A total of 400 respondents were sampled using stratified and purposive sampling techniques. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and Chi-square to test the hypotheses. Findings revealed that poor infrastructural facilities and limited awareness significantly hindered the selection and accessibility of beneficiaries, thereby affecting equitable participation in the program. Additionally, inadequate mentorship, lack of post-training support, and insufficient monitoring mechanisms negatively influenced skill acquisition outcomes and reduced youth employability and entrepreneurial capabilities. The study concluded that although the One Youth 2 Skills Initiative has the potential to contribute meaningfully to human capital development in Orumba South, its impact is currently undermined by implementation challenges. It recommended enhanced stakeholder collaboration, improved digital awareness strategies, provision of adequate training facilities, and establishment of a structured mentorship and post-training support system for sustainable human capital development.



### **13. Assessing the Effectiveness of National Social Protection Programs in Supporting Sustainable Community Development in Southeast Nigeria**

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#### **Abstract**

Despite increasing investments in National Social Protection Programs in Nigeria, major gaps persist in their implementation and developmental impact, especially across diverse community contexts. Many interventions are inconsistently delivered, poorly targeted, or disconnected from local realities, limiting their ability to support sustainable and inclusive development. This study investigates how national social protection programs are perceived and experienced in Southeastern Nigeria, with particular attention to the socio-political, infrastructural, and institutional dynamics shaping program effectiveness at the grassroots level. Employing a qualitative case study design, the research was conducted in Abia and Enugu States. One urban and one rural community were purposively selected from each state to capture contextual variation. Data were collected through twenty semi-structured interviews comprising in-depth interviews with beneficiaries and key informant interviews with community leaders, local government officials, and non-governmental organization representatives. Thematic analysis guided the identification of both expected and emergent patterns across diverse stakeholder narratives. Findings reveal notable variability in the accessibility, responsiveness, and perceived impact of National Social Protection Programs across sites. While some participants reported modest benefits, others cited persistent challenges such as exclusion, limited awareness, inadequate infrastructure, and widespread mistrust of implementing institutions. Barriers were particularly acute in rural communities, highlighting systemic inequities in program outreach and delivery. The study underscores the need to integrate professional social work into social protection governance to promote inclusion, trust, and ethical engagement. It also calls for a shift in social policy toward participatory, context-sensitive, and developmentally focused frameworks that strengthen institutional capacity and enhance long-term community resilience.

**Keywords:** Community development, National Social Protection Programs, social work, social policy, sustainable community development,



#### **14. Role of Local Government in Advancing Sustainable Development Goal 3: A Case Study of ORLU LGA, Imo State.**

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#### **Abstract**

This study investigates the pivotal role of local government in promoting Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3): Good Health and Well-Being, within the ORLU Local Government Area (LGA) of Imo State from 2015 to 2025. It evaluates the effectiveness of local government policies, programmes, and institutional frameworks in enhancing healthcare delivery, lowering maternal and child mortality rates, managing communicable diseases, and fortifying primary healthcare services throughout this period. Utilising a qualitative and descriptive methodology, the research analyses policy documents, health records, and stakeholder observations to assess local government interventions, including immunisation campaigns, maternal health programmes, health infrastructure development, and community health awareness initiatives. Findings reveal that ORLU LGA has significantly advanced SDG3 through grassroots health initiatives and partnerships with state and non-state actors, although challenges such as insufficient funding, a shortage of skilled health personnel, and weak monitoring systems persist. The study concludes that while substantial progress has been made, achieving sustainable health outcomes necessitates heightened financial support, capacity-building programmes, improved governance, and strengthened partnerships. Recommendations include the decentralised allocation of health resources, enhanced community participation, and the establishment of accountability mechanisms to facilitate the effective realisation of SDG3 at the local level.

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development Goal 3, Local Government, Healthcare Delivery, Maternal and Child Health, and Community Health Initiatives.



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### 15 Youth Development through Social Intervention Programmes: the n-power programme in Njikoka Local Government Area, Anambra State, Nigeria

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#### Abstract

This study examined the impact of the N-Power Scheme on youth empowerment in Anambra State, with specific focus on Njikoka Local Government Area. Youths are widely regarded as the future leaders and drivers of socio-economic development in any society, and governments across the world strategically invest in youth-oriented programmes to enhance their capacity for leadership and productivity. Despite such initiatives, concerns persist regarding the adequacy of youth training, investment, and socialization in Nigeria, particularly in Anambra State, as many youths remain unable to contribute meaningfully to societal development. Anchored on the Structural Functionalism theory propounded by Talcott Parsons (1937), the study adopted a survey research design. The study population comprised 400 respondents, all of whom were studied due to the manageable size of the population. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including simple percentages, mean, and standard deviation, while hypotheses were tested using the chi-square statistical technique. The findings revealed that the N-Power Scheme has no significant relationship with the income status of youths in Njikoka Local Government Area. Similarly, the scheme was found to have no significant contribution to skills acquisition among the youths in the study area. Based on these findings, the study recommends, among others, that the government should introduce mandatory training and capacity-building workshops in areas such as information and communication technology (ICT) and agriculture to enhance the employability of beneficiaries after the expiration of the scheme. In addition, increased efforts should be made to encourage state governments to absorb qualified N-Power volunteers into permanent positions within the civil service.

**Keywords:** N-Power Scheme, Youth Empowerment, Skills Acquisition, Income Status, Government Intervention, Anambra State.



## INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026

### 16. Strategic Sustainable Development: An Integrated Evaluation of Economic, Environmental, and Social Welfare in Nigeria (1990-2024)

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#### Abstract

The current study focuses on the integrated assessment of the effect of some Nigeria socioeconomic strategies on the development of Nigeria in the economy, environment and social welfare. A mixed method approach was used to gather and analyze the data of this study. An ex-post-facto research design and secondary data econometric analysis from 1990 to 2022, along with a qualitative content analysis of Nigeria's National sustainability policies, was used. The real GDP per capita, GHG, CO<sub>2</sub>, and other hazardous gas emissions due to the deforestation, as well as social welfare included in the model as key metrics of were quantitatively evaluated and analysed. The findings of the study, from the Augmented Dickey-Fuller test, Johansen co-integration, FMOLS, and a thorough check of the DOLS, indicate that GHG emissions and deforestation of per capita income and human development of the country drop significantly, while foreign direct investment of the country has a positive impact, although it may take a long time. The rise of poverty and social welfare strata and the rise of the degrading environment of the country (i.e. confirming the economics-environmental-social welfare correlation). The study concludes that Nigeria needs integrated approaches that highlight the extension of renewable energy sources, the strengthening of institutions, the enhancement of governance in the forests, and greater investment in people. It advocates that Nigeria renewable energy policies should focus on cross-sectoral sustainability and the SDGs.

**Keywords:** Economic, environmental, Nigeria, social welfare, sustainable development



## INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026

### 17.A philosophical exploration of some critical determinants of societal development – Public policy lessons for Nigeria

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#### Abstract

This paper philosophically recalibrates the import of societal development. It is a normative and functionalist outlook to development studies. Against this backdrop, it explores some critical determinants of societal development. In this connection, it recommends some development policy directions as lessons Nigeria could leverage on for enhanced social transformation. The philosophical methods of reflections and analysis are adopted in this study. The capability approach of Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum are privileged as a theoretical framework for the analysis. The conception of development advanced in this paper is deeply and primarily rooted in concerns for human and societal wellbeing. The purpose of the paper is to sketch a workable (functional) and sustainable (normative) conception of societal development. The indication is that most contemporary societies today struggling under the burden of under-development, especially in Africa and the Global South, have no business being in that state. They are there often due to their model (practical philosophy) of development strategy that thoughtlessly disregards or misconceives one or more of the critical determinants of societal development. Thus, the paper advances the position that the determinants of development have enduring fundamental implications for the philosophies, theories, conceptions, as well as policies of societal development. Result: sustainable societal progress is impossible without a deliberate selection of a set of perceived determinants of societal development as guiding norms.

**Keywords:** Capability Approach, Human Wellbeing, Nigeria, Philosophical Reflection and Analysis, Public Policy, Societal Development.



## INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026

### 18. Human Capacity Development Reforms and the Challenges of achieving SDG Targets in the Calabar Metropolis: The People First Agenda

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#### Abstract

This paper critically examines the relationship between recent human capacity development reforms in Cross River State's public sector and the challenge of achieving Sustainable Development Goal targets within the Calabar Metropolis. Since the inception of Governor Bassey Otu's administration in 2023, the state has embarked on an ambitious "People First" agenda, marked by the first mass recruitment of civil servants in thirty-seven years, a process that saw approximately four thousand new employees integrated into the state and local government workforces. While this initiative represents a significant commitment to addressing decades of capacity depletion, its implementation has been severely compromised by the discovery of over eight hundred ghost workers, serious allegations of employment racketeering that led to the resignation of the Chairman of the Local Government Service Commission, persistent and debilitating delays in salary payments, and subsequent civil service protests that have disrupted governance and service delivery. This paper argues that the central challenge confronting Cross River State is not merely the expansion of human capacity but the fundamental transformation from a focus on the quantity of personnel to a steadfast emphasis on performance, accountability, and results. Drawing extensively on Human Capital Theory and the principles of New Public Management, the paper provides a comprehensive analysis of how deep-seated deficits in performance management systems, the precarious nature of fiscal sustainability, and profound weaknesses in ethical integrity mechanisms collectively undermine the potential of these well-intentioned reforms to contribute meaningfully to the attainment of the SDGs in Calabar. The paper engages extensively with recent empirical literature on public sector reform in Nigeria and Africa more broadly, situating the Cross River State experience within larger continental debates about institutional capacity and development effectiveness. The paper concludes with a set of detailed, actionable recommendations for institutionalising performance-based human resource management, leveraging technology for enhanced transparency, ensuring that future recruitment is strategically aligned with specific SDG priorities, and strengthening oversight institutions to guarantee that the substantial investment in people translates into measurable and sustainable progress on poverty reduction as articulated in SDG 1, improved health outcomes as demanded by SDG 3, enhanced educational quality as required by SDG 4, and the building of strong, effective, and accountable institutions as envisioned by SDG 16.

**Keywords:** Human Capacity Development, Sustainable Development Goals, Public Sector Reform, Performance Management, Cross River State, Calabar Metropolis, People First Agenda, Ghost Workers, New Public Management



## **19. Ownership and Maintenance and Improved Access to Infrastructure Services in Anambra State, Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

The study investigated the effect of Ownership and Maintenance of Infrastructures on improved access to infrastructure in a government/development partner's joint programme of the Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) in Anambra State, Nigeria. The study adopted the mixed method research design. A total of, 396 respondents were randomly selected for the study from CSDP localities in Anambra State, Nigeria. The instruments for data collection were the questionnaire, Focus Group Discussion Guide and Key Informant guide. Variables of interest included were Ownership and Maintenance of Infrastructures, CSDP project delivery, and improved access to infrastructure. Data was analysed using frequency, percentages and ordinal logistic regression. Findings showed a positive and significant association between Ownership and Maintenance of Infrastructures in CSDP and service delivery ( $p < 0.001$ ). Based on this it was recommended that Ownership and Maintenance of Infrastructures should be consolidated.

**Key words; Ownership and Maintenance of Infrastructures, Community and Social Development, Improved access to Infrastructure Services**



**INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA**  
**Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026**

**20. State- Local Government Fiscal Relations And The Implementation Of Sustainable Development Goal- 6 In Ebonyi State: A Focus On Izzi Local Government**

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**Abstract**

The SDGs are a universal call action to end poverty, safeguard the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by the year 2030. Several measures including the Supreme Court (July 2024) ruling against the Joint State/Local government account are attempts to reposition local governments to be economically sustainable, socially inclusive and environmentally resilient. This paper deals with the question of **State-** local government fiscal relations and the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in Ebonyi State: a Focus on Izzi Local government. Using a descriptive survey research design, respondents' perceptions, and opinions regarding the research questions suggests that without a constitution that will articulate a clear line of authorities to both the state and local authorities, the capacity of local governments to provide essential services at the grassroots as elsewhere, will be hampered. Anchored on Maslow hierarchy of need theory, the study recommends strengthening and creating a favourable environment for the citizens to elect effective, competent and visionary leaders that could provide good governance, development and prosperity for their local government areas

**Keywords:** Public Service Delivery, State- Local Government Fiscal Relation, Sustainable Development Goal - 6



### Theme 3: Education, Peace and Conflicts

#### 21.AI-Driven Policy Analytics for Inclusive Educational Development in Africa

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#### Abstract

Achieving inclusive and equitable education remains central to Africa's social development agenda, yet structural challenges including unequal access, regional disparities, governance constraints, and inefficiencies in policy implementation continue to limit progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education. This paper examines the potential of artificial intelligence driven policy analytics as a strategic tool for strengthening evidence based education policymaking and advancing inclusive educational development across African contexts. Using a conceptual policy analysis approach and drawing on emerging cross regional insights, the study explores how AI enabled systems such as predictive modelling, integrated education data platforms, and intelligent decision support tools can enhance policymakers' capacity to identify at risk populations, optimize resource allocation, anticipate systemic challenges, and improve monitoring and evaluation of education programmes. In addition to technological opportunities, the paper critically engages with institutional, ethical, and governance issues associated with the integration of artificial intelligence into education policy, including algorithmic bias, data governance concerns, digital inequality, and capacity limitations within public institutions. The study argues that the effectiveness of AI driven policy analytics depends not only on technological advancement but also on the presence of inclusive governance frameworks, context sensitive implementation strategies, and collaborative policy ecosystems that align AI adoption with social equity objectives. By advancing a responsible and inclusive approach to AI integration, the paper contributes to scholarly and policy debates on leveraging digital innovation to support sustainable educational development and broader social transformation in Africa.

**Keywords:** Artificial intelligence, policy analytics, education policy, inclusive education, social development, SDG 4, educational equity, Africa, digital governance



## **22. Assessment of Efforts towards Deepening Social Protection Policy and Services of Gender Differences on Domestic Child Labour in South-Eastern Nigeria**

By

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### **Abstract**

**Introduction:** Economic hardship in many Nigerian families exposes children to hazardous forms of labour. Often, they are deprived of opportunities for healthy development; with girls disproportionately affected. Social work interventions are therefore crucial in safeguarding children's rights and wellbeing. Our study explored efforts towards deepening social protection policy and services of gender differences on domestic child labour in south-eastern Nigeria.

**Method:** Employing the descriptive phenomenological approach, data was collected through in-depth interviews with 24 participants (comprising of eight women entrepreneurs and 16 key informant female participants) in Nsukka local council. Data were thematically analyzed.

**Findings:** While domestic child labour is more prevalent among females, it is driven by necessity rather than choice. Results revealed that children particularly from bereaved or poor families, engage in domestic labour in restaurants, in the household of wealthy relatives, and strangers. Contributing factors were socio-cultural norms, religious beliefs, frequent teachers strike, inadequate support services and communal conflicts. Our findings showed that the gendered nature of child labour negatively affects girls' wellbeing; leading to feelings of shame, humiliation, misery and hopelessness. Participants also indicated limited awareness of social workers' involvement with children.

**Conclusion:** Given children's vulnerability, there is urgent need for child protection policies to reduce domestic child labour and safeguard their welfare. The study recommends stronger stakeholder collaboration and social work initiatives to promote foster care practice and child-focused interventions in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** child labour, gender differences, policy, protection services, social work



### **23. Policy to Practice: Assessing the Implementation of Special Education Policy in Public Schools in Enugu State, Nigeria**

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#### **Abstract**

Education is widely recognised as a central pillar of social development and a key pathway for achieving inclusive development goals in Africa. Within this framework, the education of children with special needs serves as an important indicator of governmental commitment to equity, social inclusion, and sustainable development. This study examined the extent to which Nigeria's Special Education Policy has contributed to social development outcomes through its implementation in public schools in Enugu State between 2015 and 2020. Guided by three objectives, the study assessed the level of policy implementation, identified institutional and structural challenges, and explored strategies for strengthening inclusive education as a social development intervention. A descriptive research design was adopted, with data collected from special education centres across the state using interviews, and policy document analysis. The findings indicate limited translation of policy commitments into practice, evidenced by inadequate funding, shortages of trained special education teachers, weak infrastructure, low enrolment of learners with special needs, and the absence of inclusive facilities such as ramps, adaptive technologies, and suitable classroom designs. While the policy reflects alignment with global and national development targets on inclusive education, its implementation remains constrained by systemic weaknesses. The study concludes that achieving meaningful social development through targeted education goals requires stronger institutional commitment, sustained investment, and coordinated partnerships. Strengthening special education delivery is therefore essential not only for improving learning outcomes but also for advancing inclusive social development in Nigeria and similar African contexts.



## 24. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Enugu State: Challenges to Achieving Quality Education and SDG 4

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### Abstract

Nigeria enacted the Child's Rights Act in 2003 to domesticate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and to safeguard children's rights to survival, development, protection, and participation. Despite this legislative framework, progress toward child-related development targets remains uneven. According to the UNICEF, approximately 75–80% of child- and adolescent-focused indicators, including those relevant to Nigeria, are either inadequately monitored or not on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. In response to persistent educational deficits, Enugu State has introduced the Smart Green School initiative across its 260 political wards. The programme aims to strengthen infrastructure, enhance teacher capacity, modernize curriculum delivery, and integrate digital technologies in alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education). Anchored in the Rights-Based Approach (RBA) and Child Rights-Based Approach (CRBA), this study employs a qualitative survey design, aimed to examine the legal, institutional, and socio-cultural barriers to the realization of children's rights in Nigeria, with specific focus on Enugu State. Findings reveal that, notwithstanding the domestication of the Child's Rights Act and recent educational reforms, enforcement remains only partially effective. Deep-rooted socio-cultural norms that undervalue girls' education, coupled with institutional weaknesses such as inadequate funding, poor inter-agency coordination, and an overstretched judicial system, significantly constrain implementation. The study concludes that comprehensive realization of children's rights requires integrated legal, institutional, socio-cultural, and economic interventions to achieve sustainable and inclusive development outcomes.

**Keyword:** *Child Right, Sustainable Development, Socio-Cultural, implementation and institutional*



## 25 Addressing the Crisis of out-of-school Children: The Education Opportunities

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### Abstract

Nigeria is faced with the crisis of out-of-school children, which have both economic and social impacts on the country. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 2024 report, Nigeria has approximately 18.3 million out-of-school children, comprising 10.2 million of primary school age and 8.1 million of secondary school age. This figure underscores the country's significant educational challenges, positioning Nigeria with one of the highest numbers of out-of-school children globally. The Nigerian government over the years has initiated schemes and policies towards improving the education sector and reducing the number of out-of-school children through increased budget allocation to education. To ensure smooth access to higher education, the Nigerian government signed into law the Student Loan Fund in 2024. Report by the NELFUND, so far over ₦32 billion has been disbursed to students. Despite all the measures, Nigeria still ranks 191 out of 208 countries in education ranking by countries and has 59.57% literacy rate according to Veriv Africa report, 2024. Recent data from the National Bureau of Statistics revealed that Nigeria has the largest number of out-of-school children, with Kebbi and Sokoto States topping the list across Nigerian states with 67.6% and 66.4%, respectively. Addressing the crisis of out-of-school children and to make improvements in the education sector, the paper recommends among others, the need for the Federal government to increase the budget allocation for education sector, make the UBE Act of 2003 and national Policy of Education implementable. These will help solve the problem of out- of –school children.

**Keywords: Out-of School Children, UBE Act, National Policy on Education, Nigeria & Basic Education.**



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### 26. Peace Education and Conflict Resolution Strategies in Nigeria: Exploring the Nexus

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#### Abstract

Nigeria is profiled as one of the most conflict-ridden countries in the world. This is evident in the number of communal conflicts, ethno-religious conflicts, and organized violent crimes, and the general high level of insecurity, massive poverty, underdevelopment, corruption, and bad governance that are ravaging the country. Hence, the place for “Peace Education” is indisputable both at the levels of individual and society, in the quest for conflict minimization and resolution, and seeking solutions to the myriads of problems of insecurity bedeviling Nigeria. This study, therefore, x-rays the nexus and the indisputability of Peace Education in conflict resolution framework. We adopted qualitative research approach; generated secondary data from literature; textbooks, journal articles, media reportage on peace journalism, etc. and descriptively content analyzed them to arrive at the findings. Theoretical framework employed is ‘social learning theory’. Key findings revealed that Peace Education is generally low in Nigeria; has not been adequately developed and practiced by sufficient professionals. We recommend that the field of Peace Education needs to be intensively explored, as part of solution to the myriads of conflicts and its associated problems ravaging Nigeria, Government should pay adequate attention to develop Peace Education by making policies and legislations to encourage the growth and development of the field of Peace Education, because of the inherent potential it has in conflict prevention, management, resolution, and transformation, towards achieving national cohesion and development.

**Key words:** Peace Education, Conflict, Conflict Resolution, Development, Insecurity, Social Learning



## 27. Student Smartphone Use in Classrooms and Faculty Privacy: Ethical and Policy Challenges in Higher Education System in Nigeria

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### Abstract

Technological advancement encourages digital integration in classroom settings but it is not without its peculiar challenges, especially with the debate around ethical and policy issues governing student-faculty engagements. Student smartphone use in classrooms, many have argued, potentially pits student classrooms engagements against faculty protection and privacy rights. Other perspectives argue that smartphone use in classrooms remains divisive, linking it to both benefits like instance access to digital resources and classroom attention fragmentation. While this is true, the question of faculty privacy rights protection such as preventing unauthorized recordings or teacher performance surveillance adds a new angle to the debate, as most research focuses on learning outcomes rather than ethical and policy underpinnings that are mutually protective for both faculty and students. The currency of this discourse points to how technological changes/adaption and digital learning are shaping social development in higher education, while being responsive to internationalization, global learning integration and social inclusion. In African contexts like Nigeria, where smartphone use for internet and electronic resources is high among university students, this development highlights a mix of issues in student-faculty rights abuse, data privacy violation, and potential limit to academic freedom. This study uses a survey approach to explore the ethical and policy gaps required to address the problems associated with the student smartphone use in classrooms and student-faculty rights protection in Nigerian universities, especially in classrooms' faculty engagements with students.

**Keywords:** Smartphone use in classrooms, student-faculty rights protection, higher education, ethical and policy challenges, social development.



**28. REFORMS AND INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA'S PUBLIC COMPLAINTS COMMISSION (PCC): AN INDUSTRIAL SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

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**Abstract**

This study presents a theoretical examination of reforms and institutional issues inside Nigeria's Public Complaints Commission (PCC) from the perspective of industrial sociology, emphasizing the protection of human rights. Using concepts such as bureaucracy, organizational justice, and power relations, the study argues that the PCC plays a crucial role in regulating administrative behaviour, resolving disputes, and safeguarding citizens' rights within public institutions. Despite reform efforts aimed at enhancing transparency and efficiency, persistent structural rigidities, limited enforcement authority, and low public awareness continue to hinder the Commission's effectiveness. The paper positions these challenges within broader industrial sociological disputes on organisational design, authority, and procedural fairness. Theoretical perspective were used as framework for explanations and clarification of the topic under discourse in order to ensure precision and analytical coherence in the presentation of the paper. The study adopted theoretical and conceptual research design, focusing on acritical evaluation of reforms and challenges of PCC in Nigeria. It contends that strengthening institutional capacity, promoting procedural justice, and reducing political interference are essential for realizing the PCC's mandate. By situating human rights enforcement within organisational and bureaucratic structures, the study provides a conceptual framework for understanding state mediated justice in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Public Complaints Commission, industrial sociology, human rights, bureaucracy, organizational justice.



## 29. Assessing the Impact of N-Power Teach on Quality Education in Nigeria

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### Abstract

This study critically examines the impact of Nigeria's N-Power Teach programme on basic education quality. Anchored in Human and Social Capital theories, the research employs qualitative documentary analysis of peer-reviewed articles, government documents, and reports to evaluate the programme's objectives, implementation strategies, and outcomes. Findings reveal a paradoxical impact: while N-Power Teach has increased teacher availability in underserved areas and introduced innovative practices, its effectiveness is severely constrained by several factors. These include participants' variable pedagogical qualifications, chronic resource shortages in schools, significant regional implementation disparities, and profound sustainability concerns arising from the programme's two-year tenure and funding inconsistencies. The programme's design as a temporary intervention, layered upon a system plagued by infrastructural deficits, limits its capacity to deliver sustained improvements in educational quality. This research provides a theoretically grounded policy analysis, moving beyond descriptive accounts to offer evidence-based recommendations. These include professionalising participant training, creating retention pathways, integrating infrastructure development, and fostering community engagement to transform N-Power Teach from a stopgap measure into a sustainable driver of educational development.

**Keywords:** National Social Investment Programme (NSIP); N-Power Teach; Quality Education; Teacher Training; Human Capital Theory.



**Theme 4: The Media, Youth Culture and Religion**

**30. Repositioning the mass media towards sustainable democratic governance and social justice in Nigeria**

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**Abstract**

This paper examined the extent of the degenerative and dysfunctional mass media practice and reportage which is at cross purpose with ideal democratic governance and the practice of social justice. Rather, it is practiced along the lines of unethical, religious, ethnic/geographical affiliations, diverse selfish political interests of the proprietors of the press and editors, and political big wigs who usually buy over the press, and also either under-report, mis-tag and escalate or reduce the intensity of political and religious-related conflicts in Nigeria, especially in the northern part of the country and the consequent subversive effects of the role of the mass media on democratic governance and social justice. Literature reviewed was from the mediatisation and social theories, respectively, news reports, editorials, contents of newspapers, radio broadcasts, and international news agencies, textbooks, and US Congress. The analysis revealed that the mass media degenerative and dysfunctional practice are not pro-ideal democratic governance and social justice. Thus, it was concluded that the media reportage is seemingly euphemistic and does not report to capture the exactitude of the severity of the devilry unleashed on the political and religious minority, rather the reportage is based on ethnic, political, and religious identity and affiliation. Policy recommendations were advanced among others that there should be a paradigm shift in the reportage of the media that will uphold sustainable democratic governance and social justice in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Mass media, repositioning, democratic, sustainable, governance, social justice



### **31. What has Religion got to do with Sustainability? Christianity and Sustainability in Nsukka, Nigeria**

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#### **Abstract**

Sustainability—the ability to meet the needs of the present without endangering the ability of future generations to meet the needs of their own-- is an important topic in the world today. It is within this framework that the UN 2030 SGD goals were set fort. While sustainability remains a burning issue in Nigeria, debates on the role of religion, and in particular Christianity, in achieving these goals remains not only problematic but under discussed in the academic discourse in Nigeria. This study is therefore poised to make an intellectual contribution to the religion-sustainability debate using the Nsukka area as a case study. It hopes to argue that while Christianity remains a strong religious movement in Nsukka, its contribution towards achieving sustainability in the area is both obscure and minimal. Relying on qualitative data gathering methods like interview and observation, the study argues that in a time where sustainability in the Nsukka area is much needed , the Christian religion still takes a back seat regarding engendering sustainability behaviours among those in its fold as it relates to the three pillars of sustainability: environment, equity (broadly referring to the society) and economy. It therefore tasks both the Christian leaders and the laity in the area to key into the drive to realise the SDG goals of 2030 in Nsukka, Nigeria.

**Key words:** Nsukka, Sustainability, Christianity, Environment, Society, Equity



### 32. Social Media Exposure, Youth Culture, and Get-Rich-Quick Syndrome among Nigerian Undergraduates

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#### Abstract

Social media profoundly influences youth aspirations, promoting get-rich-quick syndrome through flashy wealth displays amid Nigeria's economic challenges like unemployment and rising costs. This study aims to examine social media exposure and youth culture's role in fostering get-rich-quick syndrome among UNN undergraduates, identifying factors, consequences, and interventions. A descriptive survey gathered data from 203 undergraduates via multi-stage sampling and structured questionnaire (SMGRQSQ), analysed with SPSS descriptive statistics and chi-square tests. Findings show 65.5% high daily exposure, 83.3% encountering quick-wealth content (Instagram/TikTok dominant), significant link to get-rich-quick syndromes ( $\chi^2 = 42.216$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $p < .001$ ), and multidimensional consequences ( $\chi^2 = 48.903$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p < .001$ ). At the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), this intersects with youth culture—materialism, peer pressure, and Fear of Missing Out (FOMO)—leaving undergraduates vulnerable to scams, financial losses, and academic decline. The problem lies in limited integration of digital exposure, youth culture, and vulnerabilities in prior research, creating a gap in institution-specific insights. Interventions prove protective. The study recommends the integration of digital financial literacy in curricula, expand social work workshops/counselling, enforce content regulation, and foster religious-cultural reorientation for ethical values.

**Keywords:** social media exposure, youth culture, get-rich-quick syndrome, undergraduates, social learning theory, Nigeria



**33. Son Preference and the Challenge of Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: A Religio-Social Survey of Gender Bias in Nawgu Town, Anambra State, Nigeria.**

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**Abstract**

The persistence of son preference in many African societies remains a critical yet under-examined obstacle to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to gender equality, poverty reduction, social inclusion, and sustainable development. This study investigates the religio-social foundations and developmental implications of male-child preference in Nawgu Town, Dunukofia Local Government Area of Anambra State, Nigeria. Anchored in qualitative and survey-based research methods, the paper explores how cultural norms, patrilineal inheritance systems, religious interpretations, and socio-economic expectations reinforce the perceived superiority of male offspring over female children. Findings reveal that son preference in Nawgu is sustained by intertwined religious beliefs and socio-cultural structures that associate male children with lineage continuity, ancestral veneration, economic security, and social prestige. Such preferences contribute to subtle and overt forms of gender discrimination, including differential access to education, inheritance rights, and decision-making power. These practices undermine the realization of SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), while also affecting demographic patterns and long-term social cohesion. The study argues that without critically addressing the religious narratives and socio-cultural assumptions that legitimize male-child preference, efforts toward sustainable development will remain incomplete. It recommends culturally sensitive reorientation programs, faith-based advocacy, inclusive policy enforcement, and community-level engagement aimed at redefining gender value systems in line with SDG principles. By situating son preference within the broader framework of sustainable development, this paper contributes to ongoing discourse on the intersection of religion, culture, and social transformation in contemporary Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Son Preference; Gender Inequality; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Religio-Social Dynamics; Social Inclusion; Igbo Society; Cultural Practices; Gender Bias; Sustainable Development; Anambra State.



## INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026

### 34. Interrogating Social Welfare in Nigeria: Problems and Prospects

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#### Abstract

Social welfare is regarded as a given in many parts of the developed world. It reflects how governments and societies care about their citizens - the epitome of the humane society. In the developing world, and perhaps, because of the myriads of problems they face, such as infrastructure development, the economy, budget deficits, political instability, social welfare takes a back seat to more pressing or immediate concerns. Nigeria, with its abundant resources and human capital has barely scratched the surface on social welfare. The social welfare it provides excludes more people than it covers, and this seems to compound the problems of underdevelopment. This paper highlights the root causes of this state of affair. It argues for a shift in paradigm. The international community and donor agencies can make social welfare part of their call for good governance in these troubled regions. In this way, most people can benefit from what is ordinarily taken for granted in the western world.

**Key words:** Social welfare, Social Policy, Social Change, Great Depression, New Deal, Welfare State.



**Theme: 5 Health and Public Policy**

**35. Universal Health Coverage and Social Development in Africa: Lessons from Nigeria's National Health Insurance Scheme**

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**Abstract**

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a central pillar of social development in Africa and a core target of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all. National health insurance schemes have been widely adopted across the continent as key policy instruments for advancing UHC. In Nigeria, the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was established in 2005 to improve quality healthcare services that are accessible, affordable, and equitable to Nigerians, especially those in the formal sector. However, the extent to which the scheme has contributed to broader social development outcomes remains contested. This study examines Nigeria's NHIS as a case study to draw lessons for achieving UHC and social development in Africa.

The study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data from structured questionnaires with qualitative insights from key informant interviews conducted among federal workers in selected federal establishments in Edo State, Nigeria. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques alongside thematic analysis. The analysis was guided by Andersen's Behavioural Model of Health Services Use and the Systems Theory of Management to explain patterns of utilisation and institutional effectiveness.

Findings indicate that while the NHIS has improved enrolment and physical access to healthcare services, persistent challenges undermine its contribution to UHC and social development. These include administrative inefficiencies, long waiting times, additional out-of-pocket payments, and inequitable financial burdens resulting from uniform premium contributions across diverse income groups. Such limitations weaken financial risk protection and exacerbate social inequalities. The study underscores the importance of aligning health insurance design with income-sensitive financing, effective governance, and service quality improvements. Lessons from Nigeria highlight critical considerations for African countries seeking to leverage national health insurance schemes as sustainable pathways to universal health coverage and inclusive social development.

**Keywords:** Universal Health Coverage; National Health Insurance Scheme; Social Development; Health Equity.



**36. From global goals to local action: an evidence-based social work analysis of the SDGs and community health in Enugu state, Nigeria**

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**Abstract**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a global frame work for achieving sustainable development, yet their implementation remains context-specific. This paper examines the translation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into community health outcomes in Enugu State, Nigeria, from an evidence-based social work perspective. Using secondary empirical data, policy documents, and social work practice literature, the study appraises commitment, gains, and challenges in achieving SDGs and related goals. Findings reveal modest gains in maternal and child health, immunization, and community health awareness, but persistent structural, socio-cultural, and systemic barriers limit sustainability. The study highlights the critical role of social work in facilitating community engagement in health development, capacity building, and policy advocacy to bridge the gap between global goals and local realities. Recommendations are made for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to leverage context-specific strategies and collaborative partnerships to accelerate SDG implementation and improve community health outcomes in Enugu State and beyond.

**Keywords:** Social Work, SDGs, Community Health, Global goals, Enugu State, Evidence-Based Practice, Policymakers, Maternal, Child health.



### **37. Revisiting Public Policy, Administration, and Governance in Nigeria**

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#### **Abstract**

Public policy, administration, and governance are very important systems and structures that form societal development and institutional effectiveness. However, the rate at which globalization, technological advancements, and evolving socio-political scenery have been on the move in the last decade to begin with necessitates reassessing existing frameworks to ensure they remain responsive, inclusive, and efficient. This study aims to critically examine recent evident challenges and emerging trends in public policy formulation, administrative processes, and governance structures. It will explore contemporary issues such as policy implementation gaps, widespread corruption, ethnic divisions, poor capacity building, inadequate data for policy formulation, political impediment, bureaucratic inefficiencies, citizen engagement, and the impact of digital governance. Additionally, this research will employ secondary data in analyzing different case studies of successful policy reforms and administrative innovations from different nations to identify their practices and also make comparison to see how best they can be adapted. As a result of readdressing these crucial areas, the study will provide recommendations for strengthening governance mechanisms, improving policy outcomes, and encourage sustainable development. The outcomes of this study will be of utmost value to policymakers, administrators, academics, and stakeholders seeking to enhance the effectiveness and adaptability of public governance systems and structures in the 21st century.

**Key words:** Public Policy, Administration, Governance.



**INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA**  
**Maiden Hybrid International Conference, 2026**

**38. Role of bank verification number (BVN) on the performance of deposit money bank in Nigeria**

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**Abstract**

The banking industry in Nigeria has been hit by continued problems caused by identity theft, financial frauds, poor customer authentication systems and this has had a negative impact on the performance of the Deposit Money Banks (DMBs). To address these issues, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has also proposed the implementation of the Bank Verification Number (BVN) as a biometric identification system, which is expected to enhance the security levels, and the Know-Your-Customer (KYC) compliance, as well as the efficiency of the banking processes. This paper will address how the Bank Verification Number impacts the performance of the Deposit Money Banks in Nigeria. Based on the literature, regulatory reports, and empirical data, the paper discusses the impact of BVN implementation as to the reduction of fraud, customer confidence, efficiency, and regulatory supervision in the banking sector. The paper also addresses the applicability of BVN to financial inclusion and how it enhances risk management and institutional performance, which is usually underpinned by such indicators as Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE). Amidst significant successes, the paper has found out some of the long-standing challenges such as the laxity in enforcement, a lack of awareness by the population, and emerging cybercrime threats. The research comes to a conclusion that although the BVN has greatly contributed to the performance and stability of Deposit Money Banks in Nigeria, the process has to be sustained by the continuous technological advancement and more coherent coordination of regulations.

**Key Words:** Bank, Verification, Bank Verification, Performance, Deposit Money



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### 39. Health Promotion Policy and Regulatory Capacity In Nigeria: A Critical Analysis of Healthcare Delivery In Edo State (2020 – 2025)

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#### Abstract

This study examines health promotion policy implementation and regulatory capacity in Nigeria, focusing on health care delivery in Edo State between 2020 and 2025. The policy (NHPP) emphasizes behavioural change communication, community participation, supportive environments, equity, and intersectoral collaboration. With the analysis drawn from evidence from the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS 2018–2024), the goal is to assess how policy intentions translate into measurable health outcomes in Edo state. Empirical data reveal persistent structural gaps. Nationally, antenatal care coverage by skilled providers stands at approximately 63%, while postnatal care within two days is about 42%. Full immunisation among children aged 12–23 months remains critically low at 20%, with nearly 31% classified as zero-dose. Under-five mortality remains high at approximately 110 per 1,000 live births. Within the South–South region, including Edo State, maternal and reproductive health indicators are moderate but fall behind higher-performing South-West states. Contraceptive uptake and skilled birth attendance in Edo remain below optimal thresholds, reflecting persistent unmet need and uneven service utilisation. These indicators highlight shortcomings in health promotion outreach, community mobilisation, and preventive service delivery, despite policy frameworks that are robust in design. While Edo State has recorded incremental progress through primary health care revitalisation and health insurance expansion initiatives, regulatory enforcement, sustained behavioural change programming, and intersectoral coordination remain constrained by funding volatility and institutional capacity limitations. Low immunisation coverage and weak non-communicable disease screening further underscore gaps in preventive health promotion. This study concludes that the principal challenge lies in operationalising existing policy frameworks. It is therefore recommended that regulatory accountability, financing stability, and community-centred implementation mechanisms be strengthened to better align Edo State's health system performance with NHPP objectives and advancing equitable, prevention-oriented health care delivery.

Keywords: Health Promotion Policy, Policy Implementation, Regulatory Capacity, Preventive Health Care, Behaviour Change Communication



#### **40. Public Healthcare Policy and Social Development in Nigeria: A Study of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA)**

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#### **Abstract**

Public healthcare policy plays a fundamental role in promoting social development, particularly in developing countries where access to basic health services directly affects human wellbeing, productivity, and overall quality of life. This study examines public healthcare policy and social development in Nigeria, focusing on the contributions of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) in strengthening primary healthcare delivery. The research investigates how healthcare policies and programmes implemented through the agency have improved access to essential medical services and supported sustainable social development outcomes. Adopting a qualitative research approach, the study draws on policy documents, government reports, and relevant empirical literature to evaluate major initiatives coordinated by the agency, including routine immunization programmes, maternal and child healthcare services, disease prevention strategies, and community-based health interventions. The analysis assesses the impact of these programmes on key social development indicators such as reduced infant and maternal mortality, improved health awareness, and expanded healthcare access at the grassroots level. Findings indicate that although significant progress has been made in expanding primary healthcare coverage and promoting preventive healthcare practices, persistent challenges remain. These include inadequate funding, insufficient healthcare infrastructure, shortages of skilled personnel, and disparities in service delivery between urban and rural communities. Such constraints continue to affect the effectiveness and sustainability of healthcare policies. The study concludes that strengthened public healthcare policy implementation is essential for advancing inclusive social development in Nigeria. It recommends improved resource management, enhanced intergovernmental collaboration, and increased community participation to ensure equitable and sustainable primary healthcare delivery nationwide.

**Keywords:** Public Healthcare Policy, Social Development Primary Healthcare Delivery Health Policy Implementation, National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA)



## **41. Institutional Governance, Service Delivery Capacity, and Safe Motherhood Outcomes in Tertiary Hospitals in Rivers State, Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

Maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) remains a pressing public health challenge in Nigeria, with maternal mortality among the highest globally. Despite the Safe Motherhood Programme, Rivers State continues to experience persistently high maternal and newborn deaths. This study examines how institutional governance and service delivery capacity influence MNCH outcomes in two tertiary hospitals: the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) and Rivers State University Teaching Hospital (RSUTH). A mixed-methods design was adopted, targeting a population of 1,293 health workers, antenatal clients, and postpartum women, from which 259 respondents were purposively selected using a multi-stage sampling technique. Data were collected via structured questionnaires, in-depth interviews, and documentary review. Multiple linear regression was employed to examine the joint effects of governance, service delivery capacity, funding, supervision, and stakeholder engagement on MNCH outcomes, while qualitative data were thematically analysed to complement quantitative findings. Results indicate that weak governance, limited-service delivery capacity, inadequate supervision, and low stakeholder participation significantly constrain programme effectiveness, contributing to high maternal and newborn mortality. The study concludes that strengthening governance structures, enhancing service delivery, expanding health coverage, and promoting participatory programme planning are critical for improving Safe Motherhood outcomes and accelerating progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 3 in Rivers State.

Keywords: Safe Motherhood Programme; Institutional Governance; Service Delivery Capacity; MNCH Outcomes; Multiple Linear Regression; UPTH; RSUTH; Rivers State, Nigeria.



## **42. Challenges and Prospects of E-Governance Implementation in Enhancing Public Service Delivery in Nigeria, 2020–2025**

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### **Abstract**

This study critically examines e-governance implementation in Nigeria from 2020 to 2025, focusing on its impact on public service delivery, key challenges, and future prospects. A descriptive qualitative design was employed, utilizing systematic content analysis of secondary data from policy documents, government reports, and empirical studies. Key indicators the E-Government Development Index (EGDI), Online Service Index (OSI), and Telecommunication Infrastructure Index (TII) were analyzed via descriptive trend statistics. Findings reveal a moderate upward trajectory in Nigeria's e-governance performance, with EGDI rising from 0.45 to 0.58 and OSI from 0.38 to 0.55. Persistent barriers, including poor ICT infrastructure (35%), inadequate funding (28%), and low digital literacy (21%), continue to hinder effective rollout across Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). To boost public service efficiency and citizen satisfaction, Nigeria should prioritize broadband expansion, capacity building, and inter-agency coordination via public-private partnerships. As the first longitudinal qualitative assessment (2020–2025) integrating quantitative EGDI trends with the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and Good Governance Theory, this study offers actionable insights for digital transformation in developing economies.

**Keywords:** E-governance, public service delivery, Nigeria, EGDI, ICT infrastructure, Technology Acceptance Model, good governance.



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### 43. Social Marketing in Eye Care Promotion and Delivery in Nigeria: Policy Imperative for the Attainment of Health Sustainable Development Goals

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#### Abstract

Eye care promotion and delivery in Nigeria continue to face persistent structural and behavioural challenges, including low service utilization, inequitable access, inadequate infrastructure, shortage of skilled personnel, and high out-of-pocket expenditure. Preventable conditions such as cataract, uncorrected refractive error, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy remain leading causes of avoidable blindness, undermining productivity and social inclusion. Despite commitments to Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) of the United Nations, progress toward universal access to essential eye health services remains slow and uneven. These realities highlight an urgent need for stronger policy direction and systemic reform. Social marketing defined as the strategic application of commercial marketing principles to influence positive health behaviour offers a transformative framework for improving eye care uptake. Grounded in behavioural theories such as the Health Belief Model, the Theory of Planned Behaviour, and Diffusion of Innovation, social marketing moves beyond awareness creation to address affordability, accessibility, acceptability, and community trust. Evidence from Nigeria and comparable low- and middle-income settings demonstrates that subsidized cataract programs, community-based spectacle distribution, culturally tailored communication campaigns, and strategic public–private partnerships significantly improve service utilization when supported by structured policy environments. However, fragmented implementation, weak financing mechanisms, poor integration of eye care into primary healthcare, and limited monitoring systems continue to constrain impact. This underscores the policy imperative of institutionalizing social marketing within national and state eye health strategies, embedding eye services into primary healthcare frameworks, expanding insurance coverage for essential eye care, and strengthening accountability mechanisms. Without deliberate policy integration, social marketing initiatives risk remaining donor-driven and unsustainable. Social marketing in eye care is therefore not merely a communication strategy but a governance and systems reform tool. When embedded within coherent public policy, it can bridge the persistent gap between availability and utilization of services, advance equity, and accelerate Nigeria's progress toward sustainable eye health and broader health development goals.

**Keywords:** Social marketing, Eye care, Health policy, Sustainable Development Goals, Service utilization.



#### **44. Work tools and workers' performance in the university of Calabar teaching hospital, Calabar, Nigeria**

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#### **Abstract**

Recent trends in Nigerian health sector indicate a concerning shortage of healthcare workforce and high patient referral rates from one hospital to another due to insufficient work tools. This situation underscores the pressing need for hospital management to view core healthcare workers as essential assets, necessitating measures to satisfy their needs by supplying required work tools to attract and retain skills. This study investigates the impact of essential work tools on workers' performance at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) Calabar, Nigeria, focusing on CT scanners/MRI machines, disposables (gloves, aprons, syringes/needles, drape sheets, face goggles, bandages), and surgical masks/respirators. Guided by Maslow's Theory of Motivation, the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), and Herzberg's Two-Factor Theory, the study contextualized the physical and motivational impacts of these tools on healthcare professionals. Using a cross-sectional survey research design, data were collected from randomly selected 324 participants in UCTH. The data collection was with a validated the questionnaire and analysed using the SPSS. The results were presented in tables. The hypotheses were tested on Pearson Correlation coefficient to determine the influence of the independent variable (working tools) on dependent variable (workers' performance). This study revealed a significant positive effects of CT scanners and MRI machines on diagnostic efficiency, consistent with literature highlighting advanced imaging technologies' role in improving diagnostic accuracy and patient outcomes. Disposables were found to play a crucial role in ensuring patient care safety and efficiency, aligning with previous research on their importance in infection control. Surgical masks and respirators significantly impacted safety and performance, supporting existing studies on personal protective equipment's role in preventing disease transmission and ensuring occupational safety. Recommendation was for UCTH management to continually investment in advanced imaging technologies, ensuring consistent availability and quality of disposables.

**Keywords:** Work tools, Computerised Tomography (CT) scanner, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Disposable, workers' performance, Personal Protective Equipment.



## 45 GENDER EQUALITY AS A CATALYST FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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### **Abstract**

The social relationships between individuals and communities can either promote or constrain sustainable development. Sustainable development is development that meets the basic needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Gender equity serves as an essential building block for this kind of development. Despite changes in the approach used in addressing social, economic and environmental issues in Nigeria, the achievement of developmental goals still remain a mirage. Women by the social settings carry out more responsibility that are not paid which constraint their capacity to fight for their rights. This study therefore examines gender equality and sustainable development in Nigeria. The study specifically examines the magnitude of the relationship between gender equality and sustainable development. Women's empowerment through gender equality is a cross-cutting development issue, and unless addressed in multidimensional way, gender equality will not become a reality. Women's contribution to sustainable development must be recognized. Women have a strong role in education and socializing their children, including teaching them care and responsibility. In order to build women as catalyst for sustainable development, their role in family, community and society at large has to free from socio-cultural and religious traditions that prevent women participation. Secondary data will be used for this paper. The objective of this paper is to highlight the role of women contribution in sustainable development as partners and beneficiaries. In the Beijing Platform for Action, governments agreed that equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace.

**Keywords:** Environment, Gender Equality, Human rights, Socio economic, Sustainable Development.



#### 46 Gender Equality as A Catalyst for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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#### **Abstract**

The social relationships between individuals and communities can either promote or constrain sustainable development. Sustainable development is development that meets the basic needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Gender equity serves as an essential building block for this kind of development. Despite changes in the approach used in addressing social, economic and environmental issues in Nigeria, the achievement of developmental goals still remain a mirage. Women by the social settings carry out more responsibility that are not paid which constraint their capacity to fight for their rights. This study therefore examines gender equality and sustainable development in Nigeria. The study specifically examines the magnitude of the relationship between gender equality and sustainable development. Women's empowerment through gender equality is a cross-cutting development issue, and unless addressed in multidimensional way, gender equality will not become a reality. Women's contribution to sustainable development must be recognized. Women have a strong role in education and socializing their children, including teaching them care and responsibility. In order to build women as catalyst for sustainable development, their role in family, community and society at large has to free from socio-cultural and religious traditions that prevent women participation. Secondary data will be used for this paper. The objective of this paper is to highlight the role of women contribution in sustainable development as partners and beneficiaries. In the Beijing Platform for Action, governments agreed that equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace.

**Keywords:** Environment, Gender Equality, Human rights, Socio economic, Sustainable Development.



**47 Impact of Bureaucracy on National Health Insurance Scheme in Nigeria**

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**Abstract**

The study examined the impact of bureaucracy on the national health insurance scheme in Nigeria. Despite being created to provide affordable and accessible healthcare services to Nigerians, the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) has been hindered by the complex bureaucracy that plagues the Nigerian healthcare system. Three research questions that transcend to three hypotheses were formulated to act as a guide in realizing the objectives of the study. The study was anchored on Neo-bureaucratic Theory as developed by Charles Perrow and Robert B. Denhardt in the early 1980s. The data for the research were sourced mainly from documented works. The findings of the study revealed that Complex administrative procedures increase costs, reduce quality of care, and lower patient satisfaction. Also, low enrolment, utilization, and provider participation limit the NHIS's ability to provide comprehensive healthcare services. The study further found that the underfunding of the NHIS reduces the availability and quality of healthcare services, resulting in longer waiting times, shortages of essential medications and equipment, and lower patient satisfaction. The study also revealed that corruption and mismanagement within the NHIS result in suboptimal allocation of resources, leading to reduced availability and quality of healthcare services. The misuse of funds hinders the NHIS's ability to provide efficient and effective healthcare services, increasing costs, reducing patient satisfaction, and undermining the scheme's sustainability. The recommended among other things that the Nigerian government should increase its financial commitment to the NHIS to improve healthcare access and quality. This could include allocating a larger share of the national budget to healthcare, exploring innovative financing mechanisms such as earmarking taxes for healthcare, and encouraging private sector investment.

**Key words: Bureaucracy; NHIS; Corruption; Government; Healthcare; Programme**



#### **48 Re-Engineering and Performance of Manufacturing Firms in Nigeria: A Theoretical Review**

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#### **Abstract**

The purpose of the study was to examine re-engineering on the performance of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to: determine the effect of business process analysis, business process redesign, technology integration on the performance of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Based on the review of the study, the following findings were made: Business process analysis, Business process redesign Technology integration have effect on the performance of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. The study recommended that the management should prioritizing business process analysis by systematically examining and understanding existing processes. Finally, the management should invest in business process redesign by rethinking and restructuring workflows to achieve higher levels of operational efficiency and positions the firms to better respond to market demands and competitive pressures.

**KEYWORDS:** Re-engineering, Business process analysis, Business process redesign, technology integration, performance



## 49 African Generic Behavioral Patterns and the Challenges of Social Development In the 21st Century.

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### **Abstract**

Every human activity has a background to it. Every human behavior has a background to it. Every policy and plan that fails or does turn out to be successful, does so based on some specifics. Nothing just happens. History is an important aspect of human life and every society. History can be a torch in the dark and can help make accurate predictions. In making social policies and developmental plans, and when examining and confronting challenges just as in other human activity, it is important to examine the history, the success and challenges that went before to minimize errors and recurrence of the undesirable and to maximize only the best out of desired goals. Most times however, when social policies are made with desired goals identified with execution dates mapped out, an important aspect that significantly makes the difference between failures and success of plans and goals could be overlooked, and that is the human dynamics that is interwoven with the planners and execution process. The present paper explores the argument that there are generic behavioral patterns that are interwoven with social orders, social plans and development which throws up challenges in all process, and which can be subtle and overlooked but yet central to the end product of social policies and goals in most African nations, the success and the failures. The paper proposes that for faster implementation of policies and goals, identified factors must be worked out intentionally.



## 50 **Human Resource Management Activities And Organizational Performance**

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### **Abstract:**

The purpose of the study was to examine human resource management activities and organizational performance of small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) in Cross River State Nigeria. The objectives were to examine the effect of recruitment and selection practices, training and development, performance appraisal on organizational performance. The study employed descriptive survey design method. The study adopted multiple Linear Regression Analysis in testing the hypotheses. The study revealed that recruitment and selection, training and development, performance appraisal had a significant effect on organizational performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Cross River State. The study recommended that owners of SMEs should implement more comprehensive and meticulous recruitment and selection processes that will encompass, among other aspects, the improvement of job descriptions, the conduct of rigorous and structured interviews, and the establishment of transparent and equitable selection criteria.

**Keywords:** Human resource management activities, organizational performance, small and medium scale enterprises, recruitment and selection, training and development, performance appraisal



## 51 Sustainable Development Goal and Achievement of Quality Education in Nigeria

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### Abstract

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a universal call adopted by United Nations in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 all people will enjoy peace and prosperity. These 17 interconnected goals aim to address global challenges of poverty, inequality, climate change and environmental degradation. Sustainable Development Goal 4 will enhance individual well-being anchored on life-long learning opportunities for all by 2030 focusing on quality primary and secondary education, early childhood development, technical and vocational training. The challenges faced by Nigerians in achieving SDG 4 are high rate of out of school children, regional disparities to access education and the need to improve quality learning. The paper adopted a descriptive historical research design for the study, data were gathered from the official websites of government, inter-governmental organizations and national newspapers that were purposively selected and compared to clarify how to integrate this in school curriculum in Nigeria either to create new one or infuse new contents in the existing ones. This is preferable because the curricula of our schools are saturated with work load to accommodate more subjects. There is need to re-orientate teachers to implement new curricula through pre-service and in-service training. The practice for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 4 includes appropriate teachers preparation, improved methods, resources, and facilitates. Also there is need to accommodate all categories of children both able and disable, boys and girls in providing furniture, playing and toilet facilities. This will ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all by 2030 in Nigeria where there is inadequate resources for education.

**Keywords:** SDG, inequality, Climate Change, Quality Education, Povert



**52 TITLE: ENTREPRENEURIAL READINESS AND BUSINESS MORTALITY IN  
ABUJA MUNICIPAL AREA COUNCIL (AMAC), ABUJA**

**AUTHORS**

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**Abstract**

This study examines the relationship between entrepreneurial readiness and business mortality among SMEs in the service industry within the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Nigeria. Employing a quantitative method, the research integrates both quantitative and qualitative techniques to provide a comprehensive analysis. A five-point Likert scale survey was utilized as the primary data collection method, facilitating the collection of structured quantitative and qualitative data. The study targeted 248 SMEs engaged in cleaning, courier, event management, food and catering, and beauty and cosmetics services, all registered under the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI). A census survey was conducted, with the total population serving as the sample size. The findings reveal significant negative correlations between business mortality (BM) and three key indicators of entrepreneurial readiness. First, Entrepreneurial Education and Training (EET) exhibits a strong negative correlation with BM ( $r = -0.888$ ), indicating that higher levels of training correspond to lower business mortality. Second, Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy (ESE) demonstrates an even stronger negative correlation ( $r = -0.919$ ), suggesting that increased confidence in entrepreneurial abilities reduces business failure rates. Lastly, Entrepreneurial Financial Preparedness (EFP) shows a weaker negative correlation ( $r = -0.562$ ), implying a moderate relationship between financial readiness and business sustainability. The study concludes that reducing business mortality requires strengthening Entrepreneurial Education and Training through collaborative, practical programs that enhance business skills, financial literacy, and industry knowledge, while also fostering Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy via mentorship, networking, and experiential learning to build resilience and confidence. Additionally, improving Entrepreneurial Financial Preparedness through enhanced financial management capacity and greater access to advisory support and capital can further strengthen long-term business sustainability, even where its effect is marginally significant.

**KEYWORDS:** Entrepreneurial Readiness, Business Mortality, Entrepreneurial Self-efficacy, Entrepreneurial Education and Training



**53. BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE EDUCATION  
SECTOR IN DELTA STATE, NIGERIA. 2019-2023**

**Obara, Okezi Oghenethoja<sup>1</sup>; Isah, Abdulrouf<sup>1</sup>; Ugwuanyi, Chigozie Freda<sup>1</sup>; Arukarah, Jonathan<sup>2</sup>**

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**ABSTRACT**

A major component in improving economy has been the need to be transparent in the formulation and implementation of government budget. Thus, it has become a tradition in Nigeria for budget to be celebrated at levels government. In most cases, huge monetary figures are approved for capital and recurrent expenditures. The paper has the objectives to find out the extent the implementation of budgetary allocation has affected the development of the education sector in Delta State and to ascertain if budget repetition of projects affected budget implementation for the development of the education sector in Delta State. The paper is anchored on the elite theory. In the methodology, we made use of secondary source as our method of data collection and the analysis was through qualitative descriptive method of analysis. The finding on the extent allocated budgets is implementation in the education sector, was by a way of budgetary allocation for projects. it was discovered that there were many irregularities in the implementation of budget within the period of study, living the development in the education sector in Delta State as shadow of itself. Again, the budget repetition of project negatively affected the development of the education sector. We recommended that; adequate concern should be placed on implementation; the emphasis has been on allocation without adequate attention to implementation. Finally, previous documents on project allocation should be strictly previewed to avoid allocating funds to same projects.

**Keywords:** Budget, Development, Education, Government, Implementation



54. AFRICAN GENERIC BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS AND THE CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

BY

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ABSTRACT

Every human activity has a background to it. Every human behavior has a background to it. Every policy and plan that fails or does turn out to be successful, does so based on some specifics. Nothing just happens. History is an important aspect of human life and every society. History can be a touch in the dark and can help make accurate predictions. In making social policies and developmental plans, and when examining and confronting challenges just as in other human activity, it is important to examine the history, the success and challenges that went before to minimize errors and recurrence of the undesirable and to maximize only the best out of desired goals. Most times however, when social policies are made with desired goals identified with execution dates mapped out, an important aspect that significantly makes the difference between failures and success of plans and goals could be overlooked, and that is the human dynamics that is interwoven with the planners and execution process. The present paper explores the argument that there are generic behavioral patterns that are interwoven with social orders, social plans and development which throws up challenges in all process, and which can be subtle and overlooked but yet central to the end product of social policies and goals in most African nations, the success and the failures. The paper proposes that for faster implementation of policies and goals, identified factors must be worked out intentionally.



**55. RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE IN  
SELECTED FEDERAL UNIVERSITIES SOUTH-SOUTH, NIGERIA.**

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Stephen Ekpo Nkamare**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The study evaluated recreational management and employee performance in selected federal universities: University of Benin, University of Calabar and University of Port Harcourt in South-South Nigeria. The main objective of the study was to examine the relationship between recreational management and employee performance in selected federal universities south-south Nigeria. The Specific objectives were to: examine the relationship between micro breaks and employee quality of work in the selected federal universities in south-south Nigeria; ascertain the relationship between physical fitness programmes and employee efficiency. A total population of six thousand (6,000) academic staff was drawn and Taro Yamane formula was used to determine the sample size of three hundred and seventy five (375) respondents which represented the total number of academic staff in federal universities of Benin, Calabar and Port Harcourt was used for the study. University of Benin was 124, University of Calabar was 155 and University of Port Harcourt was 96. Survey design was used for the study and data collected were analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation. Findings revealed a significant relationship between micro breaks and employee quality of work in federal universities under investigation; it was revealed that there was a significant relationship between physical fitness programmes and employee efficiency. Based on the findings, the study recommended among other things that management of federal universities under investigation should encourage their staff to take part in micro breaks by putting in place well managed cafeteria where staff can have good nutrition intake at a subsidize price to keep them active and energetic to have quality service delivery; the management of the selected federal universities should ensure that there is adequate budgetary allocation for purchase of physical fitness facilities and carry out adequate maintenance culture which will bring about employees efficiency.*

**Keywords:** Recreational management, micro breaks, physical fitness programmes, employee performance, employee quality of work and employee efficiency.



**56. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE**

<sup>1</sup>Atimba, Oboko I., <sup>2</sup>Okpunor Loveth., <sup>3</sup>Otu Otu Ekpenyong-Effa., <sup>4</sup>Ubi Johnson Johnson., <sup>5</sup>Nwosu, Eleazar Chimezie & <sup>6</sup>Abang, George Ndifon

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**KEYWORDS:** Human resource management activities, organizational performance, small and medium scale enterprises, recruitment and selection, training and development, performance appraisal



## **57. RE-ENGINEERING AND PERFORMANCE OF MANUFACTURING FIRMS IN NIGERIA: A THEORETICAL REVIEW**

<sup>1</sup>Atimba, Oboko I., <sup>2</sup>Okpunor Loveth., <sup>3</sup>Otu Otu Ekpenyong-Effa., <sup>4</sup>Ubi Johnson Johnson.,  
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### **Abstract**

The purpose of the study was to examine re-engineering on the performance of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to: determine the effect of business process analysis, business process redesign, technology integration on the performance of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Based on the review of the study, the following findings were made: Business process analysis, Business process redesign Technology integration have effect on the performance of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. The study recommended that the management should prioritizing business process analysis by systematically examining and understanding existing processes. Finally, the management should invest in business process redesign by rethinking and restructuring workflows to achieve higher levels of operational efficiency and positions the firms to better respond to market demands and competitive pressures.

**KEYWORDS:** Re-engineering, Business process analysis, Business process redesign, technology integration, performance



### **58. Sustainable Development Goal and Achievement of Quality Education in Nigeria**

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#### **Abstract**

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**Keywords:** SDG, inequality, Climate Change, Quality Education, Poverty



## **59. GOVERNANCE POLICY COMMITMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICAN ASSESSMENT OF TARGET BASED DEVELOPMENT**

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### ***Abstract***

*This paper examines the nexus between governance, policy commitment, and social development in Africa, with particular emphasis on the implementation of target-based development frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063. Over the past two decades, African states have demonstrated formal commitment to global and regional development agendas aimed at improving education, healthcare delivery, poverty reduction, gender equality, and social inclusion. However, despite notable progress in some sectors, the continent continues to face structural governance deficits, weak institutional capacity, policy inconsistency, corruption, insecurity, and inadequate financing, all of which undermine the effective realization of social development targets.*

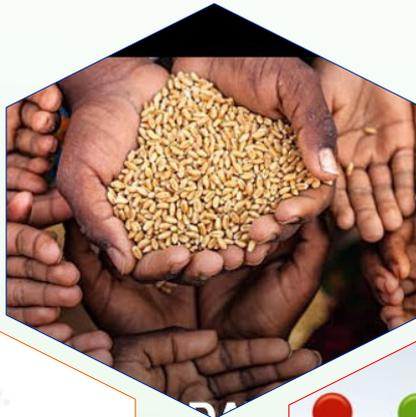
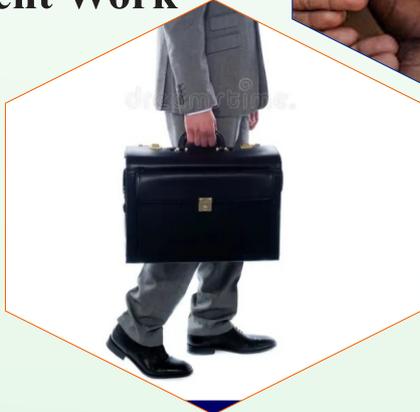
*Using a qualitative and analytical approach based on secondary data from policy documents, development reports, and governance indicators, this study assesses the extent to which governance quality and political commitment influence social development outcomes in Africa. The findings reveal that countries with stronger institutions, accountable leadership, policy continuity, and inclusive governance frameworks record relatively better performance in key social indicators such as access to basic education, maternal and child health, and poverty reduction. Conversely, weak governance structures and limited accountability mechanisms significantly constrain the attainment of target-based development goals.*

*The paper argues that while target-driven development frameworks provide strategic direction and measurable benchmarks, their success is largely dependent on domestic governance reforms, effective policy implementation, and sustained political will. It concludes that achieving meaningful social development in Africa requires strengthening institutional capacity, promoting transparency and accountability, enhancing citizen participation, and aligning national development strategies with continental and global frameworks. The study contributes to ongoing debates on sustainable development by highlighting governance as a critical determinant of social transformation in Africa.*

### ***Keywords***

*Governance; Policy Commitment; Social Development; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Agenda 2063; Africa; Target-Based Development.*

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