



ICMCER 2026

8th International Conference on **Multidisciplinary & Current Educational Research**



13th-14th March 2026



Bangkok, Thailand

Organized by



IFERP Academy

Academic Partner



**De La Salle Santiago
Zobel Inc., Philippines**



8th International Conference on Multidisciplinary and Current Educational Research (ICMCER-2026),
Bangkok, Thailand

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Conference Theme:

**Empowering Future
Generations through
Multidisciplinary
Education for Sustainable
Societies**



Preface

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to all participants attending 8th International Conference on Multidisciplinary and Current Educational Research (ICMCER-2026) taking place in Bangkok, Thailand on March 13th-14th, 2026 organized by IFERP Academy. This conference provides a vital platform for researchers, students, academicians, and industry professionals from all over the world to share their latest research results and development activities in the field of educational research & various fields. It offers delegates an opportunity to exchange new ideas and experiences, establish business or research relationships, and explore global collaborations.

The proceedings for ICMCER-2026 contain the most up-to-date, comprehensive, and globally relevant knowledge in the field of educational research & various fields. All submitted papers were subject to rigorous peer-reviewing by 2-4 expert referees, and the papers included in these proceedings have been selected for their quality and relevance to the conference. We are confident that these proceedings will not only provide readers with a broad overview of the latest research results in educational research & various fields but also serve as a valuable summary and reference for further research in this field.

We are grateful for the support of many universities and research institutes, whose contributions were vital to the success of this conference. We extend our sincerest gratitude and highest respect to the many professors who played an important role in the review process, providing valuable feedback and suggestions to authors to improve their work. We also extend our appreciation to the external reviewers for providing additional support in the review process and to the authors for contributing their research results to the ICMCER-2026.

Since December 2025, the Organizing Committees have received more than 80+ manuscript papers, covering all aspects of ICMCER-2026. After review, approximately 20+ papers were selected for inclusion in the proceedings of ICMCER-2026. We would like to thank all participants at the conference for their significant contribution to its success.

We express our gratitude to the keynote and individual speakers and all participating authors for their dedication and hard work. We also sincerely appreciate the efforts of the technical program committee and all reviewers, whose contributions made this conference possible. Finally, we extend our thanks to all the referees for their constructive comments on all papers, and we express our deepest gratitude to the organizing committee for their tireless work in making this conference a reality.

About ICMCER 2026

8th International Conference on Multidisciplinary and Current Educational Research (ICMCER-2026) stands as a prominent gathering scheduled for March 13th-14th, 2026, in Bangkok, Thailand. This conference serves as a nexus for academics, researchers, and educators worldwide, fostering the exchange of pioneering research and innovative methodologies across diverse educational spheres.

ICMCER-2026 aims to facilitate collaborative discussions, address contemporary educational challenges, and explore emerging trends to drive transformative changes in education. With an emphasis on practical applications and impactful insights, this event endeavors to shape the future of teaching practices and educational policies on a global scale.

Objective of the Conference

The primary objective of the 8th International Conference on Multidisciplinary and Current Educational Research (ICMCER-2026) on March 13th-14th, 2026, in Bangkok, Thailand, is to create a vibrant platform for global scholars, researchers, and educators. The conference aims to facilitate the exchange of cutting-edge research across various educational disciplines. ICMCER-2026 seeks to encourage collaboration, foster interdisciplinary discussions, and showcase innovative methodologies, ultimately aiming to advance educational practices worldwide.

In addition to fostering research exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration, ICMCER-2026 aims to address contemporary challenges in education. The conference endeavors to explore emerging trends and innovative approaches that can effectively tackle these challenges. By providing a space for insightful discussions and presentations, ICMCER-2026 seeks to empower attendees with practical insights and solutions, encouraging the implementation of impactful strategies in educational settings globally. Through this, the conference aspires to contribute to the continuous improvement and evolution of educational research and practices.

About IFERP Academy

The IFERP Academy is a committed professional organization that advances engineering, science, and technology. IFERP anticipates a global scientific community brought together by digital innovation. This organization puts a great emphasis on promoting research activities, communicating the newest insights, and driving industrial trends.

IFERP has built strong networks throughout Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and countries such as Iraq, Malaysia, Australia, and more. They have incorporated networking, research support, publications, and worked in other scientific areas.

IFERP excels in organizing International Conferences that connect researchers worldwide. It holds important international webinars, publishes journals and publications that are indexed by Web of Science and SCOPUS, and provides thorough research assistance and guidance. Engaging in Youth Empowerment projects and encouraging Industry-Institute Interaction are key components of IFERP's goal. The organization is committed to enabling professionals through faculty advancement, skill development, and persistent research and publication initiatives.

What IFERP Does

Academic Resource Accessibility: They make academic resources and support available to aspiring scholars in both rural and urban locations.

Diverse Educational Program: They organize a wide range of educational events such as workshops, conferences, webinars, seminars, guest lectures, short-term training programs, and faculty development programs.

Drive Innovation: They work hard to foster curiosity and creativity, and stay up to date on the newest trends and advancements in the dynamic field of Engineering, Science, and Technology.

Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration: They believe in the strength of the exchange of knowledge and actively collaborate with institutions, organizations, and associations to contribute to our shared objective of a better future.

Publication & Recognition: They also provide opportunities for research articles to be published in reputable journals and actively promote and encourage transdisciplinary research activities.

Mission

Upskilling the knowledge hub through technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

Vision

A digitally equipped robust, dynamic & swift professional community integrating academics & industry for upgraded technical knowledge implementation.

Value

IFERP values the restoration of highlevel technological research, learning, collaboration, resource sharing & community-building traditions.

Goal

To serve as the foundation for all technological progress and advancement activities around the world.

Director's Message, IFERP



Mr. A. Siddth Kumar Chhajer

Founder & Managing Director,
IFERP, Technoarete Group,
India

On behalf of Institute For Educational Research and Publications (IFERP) & the organizing Committee, I express my hearty gratitude to the Participants, Keynote Speakers, Delegates, Reviewers and Researchers.

The goal of the 8th International Conference on Multidisciplinary and Current Educational Research (ICMCER-2026) is to provide knowledge enrichment and innovative technical exchange between international researchers or scholars and practitioners from the academia and industries in the field of Educational Research.

This conference creates solutions in different ways and to share innovative ideas in the field of Educational Research. ICMCER-2026 provides a world class stage to the Researchers, Professionals, Scientists, Academicians and Students to engage in very challenging conversations, assess the current body of research and determine knowledge and capability gaps.

8th International Conference on Multidisciplinary and Current Educational Research (ICMCER-2026) will explore the new horizons of innovations from distinguished Researchers, Scientists and Eminent Authors in academia and industry working for the advancements in Science and Engineering from all over the world. ICMCER-2026 hopes to set the perfect platform for participants to establish careers as successful and globally renowned specialists in the field of Educational Research.

Chief Executive's Message, IFERP



Mr. Rudra Bhanu Satpathy

Founder & Chief Executive Officer,
IFERP, Technoarete Group,
India

IFERP is hosting the 8th International Conference on Multidisciplinary and Current Educational Research (ICMCER-2026) this year in month of March, 2026. The main objective of ICMCER-2026 is to grant the amazing opportunity to learn about groundbreaking developments in modern industry, talk through difficult workplace scenarios with peers who experience the same pain points and experience enormous growth and development as a professional. There will be no shortage of continuous networking opportunities and informational sessions.

The sessions serve as an excellent opportunity to soak up information from widely respected experts. Connecting with fellow professionals and sharing the success stories of your firm is an excellent way to build relations and become known as a thought leader. I express my hearty gratitude to all my Colleagues, Staffs, Professors, Reviewers and Members of Organizing Committee for their hearty and dedicated support to make this conference successful. I am also thankful to all our delegates for their pain staking effort to make this conference successful.

About **Invited Keynote Speaker**



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nor 'Adha Binti Ab Hamid is a distinguished academic at the International Islamic University College Selangor (KUIS), where she is part of the Centre of Postgraduate Studies. She holds a Ph.D. in Law and is deeply involved in teaching, research, and supervising postgraduate students. Her work focuses on areas such as Islamic law, comparative law, and human rights, contributing significantly to both the academic community at KUIS and the broader field of legal studies.

Dr. Nor ' Adha Binti Ab Hamid

Associate Professor,
Universiti Islam Selangor (UIS),
Malaysia

About **Keynote Speaker**



Afizan Bin Azman received a Ph.D. degree from Loughborough University, U.K. He is an Associate Professor at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Taylor's University, Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia, and the Director of the Impact Laboratory, Digital Innovation and Smart Society. His research primarily focuses on image processing, machine learning, and data analytics, with a strong emphasis on advancing academic research and practical applications in digital innovation and developing a smart society.

Dr. Afizan Bin Azman

Associate Professor,
Taylor's University,
Malaysia

About **Keynote Speaker**



Dr. Danish is an Associate Professor at Taylor's University, Malaysia, and previously served at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, China. He holds a PhD in Business Administration (Energy Economics) from Beijing Institute of Technology. His research focuses on energy transition, environmental economics, and sustainable development, with over 14500 citations and an H-index of 73. Dr. Danish has been recognized as a Global Highly Cited Scientist (Clarivate, 2021–2022) and listed among Stanford University's Top 2% Scientists in Economics (2020–2025). He serves on editorial boards of leading SSCI and Scopus-indexed journals and has received multiple awards for excellence in research and teaching.

Dr. Danish

Associate Professor,
Taylor's University,
Malaysia

About **Keynote Speaker**



Prof. Dr. Mahmood Khalid Jasim received his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics (Mathematical Physics) from the University of Roorkee (now IIT Roorkee), India, in 1999. He completed his M.Sc. in Mathematics from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur) in 1990 and earned his B.Sc. in Mathematics from the University of Baghdad, Iraq, in 1982. His research interests include Mathematical Modeling, Mathematical Physics, Differential Equations and their applications, as well as Numerical Analysis. Over the course of his academic career, he has published more than 100 research papers in highly reputable, high-impact Web of Science-indexed journals.

Dr. Mahmood Khalid Jasim

Professor,
University of Nizwa,
Oman

About **Keynote Speaker**



Dr. Saurabh Katiyar, PhD, is a visionary scientist, deeptech strategist, and 2025 Forbes Asia 100 Visionary Leader with 29+ years of global experience across AI, biotech, quantum computing, and integrative health. A dual PhD in Artificial Intelligence and Biotechnology, Dr. Katiyar is Group CITO at AIPL and Co-Founder of AGATH Healthcare. Author of the Beyond Science series, he mentors emerging researchers worldwide and advises global R&D initiatives at the intersection of technology, consciousness, and future education.

Dr. Saurabh Katiyar

Group Chief Information &
Technology Officer (CITO),
Thailand

About **Keynote Speaker**



Dr. Dhiya Al-Jumeily

Professor,
Liverpool John Moores University,
United Kingdom

Prof Dhiya Al-Jumeily OBE, (DA) is a professor of artificial intelligence (AI) at Liverpool John Moores University with 30+ experience in the field of AI and its applications in fulfilling the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).

DA's research is focused on using AI alongside technological tools for improving the world and making it a better place for everyone everywhere. This has been featured in the advancement he has made in the field of healthcare, environment, safety and security, and education at a global level. Though based in the UK, DA has been collaborating with researchers from 20+ countries with a special focus on improving the situation in developing countries e.g. the MENA region. With roots based in Iraq, DA has embraced the knowledge he had gained in childhood that served as the basis of AI knowledge; where, algorithms were first invented at the House of Wisdom in Baghdad. DA has excelled in the field of AI and machine learning where he has published so far 500+ publications including peer reviewed articles, book/ book chapters, conference proceedings, and technical reports. Yet the benefits to the scientific audience were not limited to publications; but encompassed global scholarly activities through facilitating the exchange of knowledge among scientists, practitioners and regulatory organisations.

Thus, DA is the founder and president of the eSystem Engineering Society (eSES), a non-profit organisation which mission comprises the development and advancement of technology for the benefits of humans. Since 2007, eSES hosts the IEEE International Conference on Developments in eSystems Engineering (DeSE) that is attended by 200+ attendees from 25+ countries. DeSE has led to multiple collaborations and opportunities related to AI and smart applications for the benefits of the people.

About **Keynote Speaker**



Susanne Durst is a Full Professor at the Institute for Knowledge and Innovation Southeast Asia (IKI-SEA) at Bangkok University (Thailand). She is also an Adjunct Professor at the Department of Business Administration, Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia) and a Visiting Professor at the Department of Business and Economics, Reykjavik University (Iceland). Prof. Durst has earned notable rewards, such as the Emerald Literati Award (in 2020 and 2023). Her extensive publication record includes influential papers on knowledge (risk) management, innovation, and business sustainability. She serves in prominent editorial roles for various academic journals (e.g. Editor-in-Chief of The Bottom Line and Editor of Knowledge Management Research & Practice) and is a member of esteemed professional bodies, contributing significantly to the discourses on knowledge management and business management.

Dr. Susanne Durst

Professor, Institute for Knowledge and
Innovation Southeast Asia (IKI-SEA),
Bangkok University, Thailand

About Session Speaker



Ir. Dr. Norrima Mokhtar

Associate Professor,
Universiti Malaya,
Malaysia

Dr. Norrima Mokhtar is an accomplished academic and researcher in Electrical Engineering, specializing in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Sensors, Automation, Image Processing, Human- Computer Interaction (HCI), Brain-Computer Interface (BCI), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and Robotics. She earned her Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.) in Electrical Engineering from the University of Malaya in 2000.

After graduation, she gained hands-on experience in the International Telecommunication Industry, including a role at Echo Broadband GmbH. In 2002, she was awarded the prestigious Panasonic Scholarship after a rigorous national selection process, allowing her to pursue a Master of Engineering in Oita, Japan, which she completed in 2006. Upon returning to academia, Dr. Norrima joined the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Malaya as a lecturer. Committed to continuous growth, she secured the SLAB/SLAI scholarship to pursue her Ph.D., which she successfully completed in 2012.

Throughout her career, she has held key academic and research leadership roles, including Coordinator for Industrial Training, Research Laboratories, and international collaborations with institutions such as Keio University (Japan), Nagaoka University of Technology (Japan), and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK). As a principal investigator, Dr. Norrima has led several high-impact research projects, securing significant funding, including a RM 1 million grant from the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), along with Science Fund and CREST grants.

Her extensive publications in top-tier international journals and conference proceedings highlight her contributions to advancing technology and innovation. Dr. Norrima's expertise in AI-driven systems, automation, and human-machine interaction continues to push the boundaries of research, shaping the future of intelligent technologies and their applications in various industries. She has successfully supervised five Ph.D. students and five Master of Engineering Science students (by research).

Additionally, she is an active reviewer for many reputable journals and international conferences. She also active in handling multiple exchange program with University of Liverpool, Manchester Metropolitan University, Nagaoka University of Technology, Hiroshima University, Keio University and more list of universities expanding for Universiti Malaya students.

About **Session Speaker**



Dr. Chong Kim Mee

Taylor's University,
Malaysia

Dr. Chong Kim Mee is currently the senior lecturer in Taylors University at School of Accounting and Finance, Faculty of Business and Law, Malaysia. In addition, she is the visiting professor at Fuzhou University of International Studies and Trade, Yunnan Engineering Vocational College, China, and entrepreneurship advisor at Anhui Technical College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, China.

She graduated with her Doctor of Philosophy in Business Management (Finance) from University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). She was the programme leader and the postgraduate lecturer at the Graduate School of Business, SEGi University. She was the Chairperson for SEGi International Conference of Business, Environment, Sustainability and Technology, SiBEST 2022 Conference together with her organizing committee in 2022 and won the young researcher award from SEGi University in 2023. She was the organizing committee for Active Ageing Festival 2024 for the impact lab in Taylor's university as the leader in promotion, media and design. She is the Chairperson of Active Ageing Festival 2025, the Hub Leader for Financial Well-Being under the Active Ageing Impact Lab and the Lead Researcher for the Impact Lab.

Being the academic expert, she has been invited to be the management experts and judges in Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and China for the past five years since year 2020. Besides being an academician, she is also a certified trainer registered with the Human Resource Development Corporation (HRDC).

Her areas of specialisation include financial planning, financial management, estate planning, investment planning and retirement planning, as well as research methodology. As a trainer and facilitator, she infuses her training with sincerity and dynamism. To her, training is crucial for individuals and corporations to stay relevant in the competitive arena.

She has produced several research papers, and her work has been published in indexed academic journals. Dr Chong Kim Mee is the Financial Advisor (FA) approved by Securities Commission Malaysia and Bank Negara Malaysia. She is a Licensed Financial Planner (LFP)

with Certified Financial Planner (CFP) from Financial Planning Association of Malaysia (FPAM) and a Registered Financial Planner (RFP) from Malaysian Financial Planning Council (MFPC).

She has a dynamic career background with work experience in oil and gas, banking, shipping, and education industries before joining SEGi University. With her former working experience with Petronas Carigali Sdn Bhd and Public Bank Berhad, she is keen to serve with her expertise. In addition, she has conducted various research under the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia research grant while lecturing in multiple colleges and universities in the region.

Over the past decade, she has taught hundreds of learners in their undergraduate and postgraduate studies and supervised students in their final thesis, Master thesis, DBA and PhD studies. She is also the reviewer for several impactful journals in Malaysia and chief investigators for several ongoing projects and grants.

About **Session Speaker**



Dr. Ferdinand Mwaka Chipindi

Associate Professor,
University of Zambia,
Zambia

Prof. Ferdinand Mwaka Chipindi is a respected academic leader, postcolonial critic, and defiant scholar with over 18 years of service in higher education.

Currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Administration and Policy Studies at the University of Zambia, he is known for challenging inherited academic orthodoxies and advocating for epistemic disobedience in both research and teaching. As Head of Department (2019–2023), Prof. Chipindi led a departmental renaissance - increasing doctoral enrolment by 60%, facilitating 12 academic promotions, and founding Zambia's first peer-reviewed journal in educational management (ZJEMAL).

His leadership as Acting Dean during the post-COVID period brought strategic clarity and resilience to academic recovery. Prof. Chipindi earned his PhD from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities (USA), specialising in Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development, with minors in Development Studies and Social Change. His scholarship consistently interrogates the legacies of colonial knowledge systems, and his teaching centres African intellectual traditions, radical pedagogy, and institutional critique. He has published widely, consulted on national education policy, and mentored scores of early-career academics.

His Teaching Methodology course has become a site of intellectual insurgency, empowering lecturers to decolonise their practice. Recognised for his integrity, critical voice, and visionary leadership, Prof. Chipindi enters this election offering principled, full-time, and fearless unionism. His campaign is not just about reform – it is about academic liberation.

About **Session Speaker**



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Norasykin Binti Mohd Zaid is a faculty member at the Faculty of Education, Science, and Technology, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). She holds a Ph.D. in Informatics from the University of Wollongong, Australia, and specializes in educational technology, digital pedagogy, and innovation in teaching and learning. She has authored over 160 publications and supervised more than 60 postgraduate students. Actively involved in the SMART Digital Community and CITE research groups, she also serves as the Program Coordinator for the Educational Technology Postgraduate Program, driving innovation and transformation in digital learning within higher education.

Dr. Norasykin Binti Mohd Zaid

Associate Professor,
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM),
Malaysia

About **Session Speaker**



Dr. Khashayar Yazdani

Associate Professor,
Malaysian University of Science and
Technology, Malaysia

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Khashayar Yazdani is an accomplished academic leader, digital transformation expert, and Microsoft Certified Trainer with extensive experience spanning academia, industry, and international consultancy.

He currently serves as the Head of Postgraduate Studies at the Malaysian University of Science and Technology, where he leads postgraduate research management, quality assurance, and the integration of AI-driven and data-centric systems in higher education.

Dr. Yazdani holds a PhD in Technology Transfer and Commercialization Management, along with postgraduate qualifications in Industrial Management and Electrical Power Engineering. With over 15 years of teaching, training, and advisory experience across Malaysia, Iran, Vietnam, Europe, and global virtual platforms, his expertise lies in business analytics, artificial intelligence, cloud technologies, and Industry 4.0. A certified professional in Microsoft Power BI, Azure, and Power Platform, he has delivered numerous keynote lectures, executive workshops, and ITU-endorsed international training programs. Passionate about innovation and data-driven decision-making, Dr. Yazdani is dedicated to empowering professionals, researchers, and institutions to thrive in the digital era through analytics-led transformation and technological excellence.

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The Impact of Buddhist Philosophical Principles on Environment to Attain Sustainable Development Goals in the Current Era

Dr. Shreya Mitra

Associate Professor, Philosophy, Behala College (Autonomous), Bangkok, Thailand

Abstract:

Recently the word 'environment' is actively being used because it needs attention more than anything else. The rush to protect the environment is the minimum move one can do for oneself. Many ways of protecting the environment are discussed but until and unless people don't realize themselves to be an integral part of the environment nothing will work. Buddhism is a religion that has long recognized the interconnectedness of all things including human and the natural world. The paper aims to build a framework for understanding the possibilities of Buddhism in order to protect the environment. As such, Buddhism has a lot to offer in terms of promoting environmental awareness and sustainability.

This paper explores the ways in which Buddhist techniques and practices can be applied to environmental issues. For example, the practice of mindfulness can help us develop a deeper awareness of the natural world and our impact on it. Buddhist concepts such as non-attachment and non-harming can help cultivate a more sustainable relationship with the environment. The study concludes by offering a foundation to develop a new way for protecting the environment with inner self involvement. Buddhist path of moral action, mindfulness and meditation, and wisdom, the figure of Bodhisatta who is dedicated to working to lessen the suffering of all sentient beings, serves as a model for sustaining a commitment to working toward what may seem like an impossibly lofty goal. The study demonstrates the potential for Buddhism to play a role in fostering environmental awareness and sustainability by examining the ways in which Buddhist teachings and practices can be applied to environmental challenges.

Index Terms:

Environment, Buddhism, Mindfulness, Sustainability, Possibilities and Challenges, Teaching and Practices, Co existence

Lightweight CNN Models for Real-Time Image Processing on Edge Devices: Performance Awareness

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Abstract:

The hasty and swift growth in the world of Internet of Things (IoT) and edge computing devices has shaped a new sense of robust demand for the real-time image processing and directly dealing on resources inhibited to the edge devices such as smartphones, drones, embedded systems and smart cameras. The conventional deep study on Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) shows highly accurate and precise output and which are computationally very expensive and inappropriate for deployment or positioning on the edge platforms due to limited memory, power of control and processing capabilities. This paper investigates lightweight CNN models designed for real-time image processing on the edge devices. We can analyze architectural optimizations, model compression methods, efficiency and accuracy. The most popular lightweight architectures such as MobileNet, ShuffleNet and EfficientNet are also studied, reviewed and compared. This study highlights things to see i.e. how lightweight is the CNNs enable low dormancy, energy competent as well as resourceful and privacy preserving edge devices intelligence despite the fact that it is maintaining viable and competitive performance.

Index Terms:

Lightweight CNN, Edge Computing, Real-Time Image Processing, Model Compression, Mobile Deep Learning

Language Assessment for Primary Grades (LAPG) Results: Basis for A Proposed Reading Remediation Program for DepEd Tawi-Tawi

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Abstract:

This study analyzed the language performance of Grade 3 pupils in DepEd Schools in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, through the Language Assessment for Primary Grades (LAPG) to design a responsive reading program to address literacy challenges in the K to 12 curriculum. Anchored in Vygotsky's Sociocultural Theory and the Emergent Literacy Framework, this study highlights the role of social context and early literacy exposure in shaping reading development. Employing a mixed-methods design, quantitative data from LAPG results for the school year 2014–2015 and a modified researcher-made questionnaire adapted from Lisa Ann Burton were analyzed using Mean and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to compare performance across four districts. Complementing this, qualitative insights from teacher responses were examined utilizing Braun and Clarke's thematic analysis framework to capture classroom realities and instructional challenges. Findings revealed that pupils across the districts of Bongao I, Bongao II, Bongao III, and Bongao Central demonstrated average performance in Mother Tongue, English, and Filipino. However, the lowest competencies were consistently observed in book and print knowledge and listening and reading comprehension, indicating critical gaps in foundational literacy. Teacher narratives further emphasized resource limitations and contextual barriers that hinder effective instruction. In response, the study proposes the R.E.A.D. (Reach, Engage, And Develop) Program, a unified intervention, prioritizing Bongao I and III, is designed to strengthen comprehension and print awareness through inclusive, context-driven strategies.

Index Terms:

Language, Assessment, Primary Grades, Reading, Literacy

Pineapple Disease Detection Using Image Processing with Text to Speech Feedback

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Abstract:

Mealybug Wilt, Root Rot, and Heart Rot are some of the most common diseases to affect pineapples in the Philippines and cause significant economic hardship and production loss. Pineapples are typically diagnosed through visual inspection, which is very labor-intensive and subjective, frequently resulting in inconsistent diagnosis. There are now several advances in machine learning, particularly deep learning with convolutional neural networks (CNNs), to help automate plant disease detection through image analysis. The objective of this study is to compare the performance of the state-of-the-art CNN architectures, MobileNetV2 and EfficientNetB0, in the classification of pineapple leaf disease based on the use of RGB images taken from healthy and diseased plants. To improve the models' reliability, normalization and augmentation of data were used as preprocessing techniques. The test results showed that MobileNetV2 achieved an accuracy of 80% and EfficientNetB0 achieved 74% accuracy. A hybrid model was created that included MobileNetV2 and EfficientNetB0, which offered superior performance and achieved an overall accuracy of 86%, with all disease classes producing balanced recalls, precision, and F1-scores of 0.86. The hybrid model further enhances the representation of features while also being computationally efficient and can be used in resource-limited settings. Finally, a multilingual speech-to-text feedback system was created to provide audio-based feedback in real-time to allow farm workers with little or no literacy the access to the mobile system for diagnosing crop-related diseases. The results highlight the effectiveness of lightweight hybrid models combined multimodal feedback for practical and precision agriculture applications.

Index Terms:

Pineapple Disease Detection, Image Processing, Text to Speech Feedback, Machine Learning, Deep Learning

Multi-Resolution CNN Framework for EEG Image-Based Analysis of Neuropsychological Alterations in Early Dementia

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Abstract:

Dementia is a progressive neurological disorder pigeon-holed by cognitive and cerebral decline, memory impairment and functional corrosion of the human brain. Recent advantages in the area of neuroimaging combined with deep learning have empowered automated dementia detection with high accuracy and exactness. EEG (Electroencephalogram) data, conventionally scrutinized as time-series signals which can be converted into spectrograms, topographic maps or scalograms allowing convolutional neural networks (CNNs) to acquire spatial patterns symptomatic of dementia. This paper provides and delivers an inclusive impression of CNN architectures that are mostly effective for EEG-image-based dementia cataloguing, comparing traditional CNNs, transfer of learning models and amalgam of deep-learning architectures.

Index Terms:

EEG, Dementia Detection, Convolutional Neural Networks, Spectrograms, Deep Learning, PhysioNet, Image Classification, TensorFlow, Biomedical Signal Processing

Reframing SME Growth: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Global Drivers and Innovation-Centered Causal Pathways

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Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research & Enterprise, Mindanao State University -Iligan Institute of Technology, Iligan City, Philippines

Abstract:

This study presents a comprehensive meta-synthesis of 49 peer-reviewed empirical and theoretical studies to identify, analyze, and integrate the core determinants of Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) growth across global contexts. Guided by the PRISMA framework, the review reveals five dominant and interrelated constructs—access to finance, human capital, innovation, policy support, and governance—each playing a context-sensitive role in firm performance. Innovation consistently mediates the effect of finance and talent, particularly in high-growth Asian economies, while human capital emerges as both an enabler and moderator of strategic adaptability. The review also exposes significant research gaps, including underrepresentation of sustainability, gender dynamics, and digitalization, alongside contradictory findings in capital structure and leadership behavior. The integrative framework developed herein provides a dynamic, causally rich map of SME development trajectories, with implications for economic policy, social equity, and global competitiveness. Findings are directly aligned with SDG 8 (Decent Work), SDG 9 (Industry and Innovation), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality), offering a roadmap for inclusive, resilient, and innovation-led SME growth. The conclusion of the review outlines the evidence-based policy strategies and future research directions that prioritize intersectionality, methodological rigor, and institutional responsiveness.

Index Terms:

SME Growth, Innovation, Human Capital, Financial Access, Sustainable Development

Does Climate Change Influence the Food Security Problem? A Review in the Context of the BRICS Nations

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Abstract:

Climate change poses a significant global threat to food security by intensifying pressures on agricultural production, livelihoods, and nutrition. These challenges directly impact the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 2. These impacts are shaped by diverse agro-ecological conditions, varying adaptive capacities, and uneven development roadmaps in the BRICS nations. Despite the growing issue of food security, to the best of our knowledge, few studies have examined the research trend, pattern, thematic evolution, and societal influence. Therefore, this study employed a mixed-methods approach, considering bibliometric and altmetric analysis techniques to capture both academic and societal contributions of published documents. The study considered the Scopus and Web of Science databases to conduct a comprehensive analysis of publication trends, thematic clustering, authorship, and geographical contributions. A final dataset of 2,213 relevant documents was extracted from 2003 to 2025. The findings reveal a rapid increase in publications since 2015, indicating a growing worldwide concern among researchers about food security issues. Additionally, China and India are the leading contributors in terms of publications, and they also have the most prolific authors, while Russia has published few documents in this domain. Thematic clustering highlights a strong emphasis on food security, adaptation, and climate change. However, a limited focus is observed on nutrition, equity dimensions, and integrated policy frameworks. By synthesizing the knowledge and identifying research gaps, this study is helpful to researchers and policymakers by providing strategic insights. Subsequently, it underscores the need for interdisciplinary and collaborative participation to strengthen adaptive capacities and achieve food security.

Index Terms:

Food Security; Climate Change; Climate Change Adaptation, Vulnerability, BRICS, Bibliometric, Altmetric

Analyzing the Moderating Effect of the Return Policy Leniency on the Influence of Reverse Logistics and Customer Return Intention Leading to the Effectiveness of the Return and Refund Management System of Macbeth Philippines

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Abstract:

The study examines the moderating role of return policy leniency on the relationship between reverse logistics, customer return intention, and effectiveness of return and refund management system at Macbeth Philippines. With e-commerce growth and rising customer expectations, flexible return policies increasingly influence satisfaction and loyalty. The study also explores secondary aspects, such as how customer attitudes and operational efficiency impact returns. Using a convergent parallel mixed-method approach, researchers surveyed 120 customers and employees in Metro Manila, measuring reverse logistics performance, return intentions, and policy leniency perceptions. Data analysis involved descriptive statistics and correlation testing to assess the moderating impact of policy leniency. Findings indicate a significant relationship between reverse logistics and return satisfaction, with customer return intentions tied to operational speed and product quality assurance. Return policy leniency amplifies the impact of logistics efficiency and customer intentions on return experience, underscoring its role in customer retention. Product defects and delivery errors were primary reasons for returns, emphasizing the need for quality controls. Recommendations include enhancing product accuracy, streamlining refund processes, and refining policies to balance flexibility with fraud prevention. The results provide valuable insights for e-commerce platforms aiming to optimize return management and improve customer loyalty through strategic policy adjustments.

Index Terms:

Return and Refund Management, Customer Return Intention, Return Policy Leniency, Reverse Logistics, E-commerce

Managerial Competencies of Officers and Financial Performance of Selected Agricultural Micro Cooperatives in the Province of Isabela

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Abstract:

Cooperatives in the Philippines to this present day already existed for more than a century since its legislated amalgamation to the socio-economic governance of the country in 1916. Throughout those more than 100 years, it has its successes and failures of which management is a crucial factor. This study investigated further the managerial competency of cooperative officers and financial performance of selected agricultural micro cooperatives in the province of Isabela. Data were gathered from all the selected 37 only compliant cooperative represented by 185 officers as respondents. The study mainly sought to answer if there is relationship between cooperative officers and managerial performance, cooperatives profile and financial performance and core managerial competency and cooperative financial performance of cooperatives. The study revealed that majority of the selected agricultural micro cooperatives served as respondents of this study had a fair financial performance rating, that only educational attainment variable had significant correlation with managerial competency. The cooperative cooperatives profile and financial performance was found of having no significant relationship and there is no significant correlation of the managerial competencies and cooperative financial performance. Based on the findings of the study a proposed action plan was formulated for the agricultural micro cooperatives. Notably recommended that the Cooperative Development Authority and other government and private entities and stakeholders in the administration, supervision and supporting the cooperatives may conduct necessary, relevant and timely trainings or continuing education and other development initiatives and actions to assist more the agricultural micro cooperative to have a reliable and accurate Management Information System and data analytics useful in decision-making specially to achieve a sound financial performance.

Index Terms:

Agricultural Micro Cooperatives, Cooperative Officers, Managerial Competency, Financial Performance

Workforce Perspective on the Interventions and Strategies to Mitigate Workplace Incivility: Basis for Institutional Policy Review

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Abstract:

This study aims to determine the workforce perspective on the intervention and strategies to mitigate workplace incivility in Higher Education Institutions in the premier region in the Philippines, which will serve as the basis for institutional policy review. The study used Descriptive statistics that summarized perceptions, while analysis of variance (ANOVA) determined the significant differences among the 225 respondents divided into three groups: University/ College Officials, faculty members, and non-teaching staff. The finding implied that there is significant difference among the perceptions of the workforce in the institutional intervention. Faculty perceptions vary from both non-teaching staff and officials, whereas the non-teaching staff and university officials convey aligned views on the intervention and strategies. Among all indicators conducting, regular survey recorded the lowest mean score of 3.97 across the three groups of respondents but still the rating remains agreeable. This postulates to improve survey design, increase feedback transparency, and clearly communicate how results lead to concrete actions. Overall, the key findings suggest providing input for institutional policy review and improvement, aimed at fostering respectful and productive work environments.

Index Terms:

Workplace Incivility, Higher Education Institutions, Workforce Perception, Institutional Intervention, Leadership Role

Unlocking Student Success: Assessing Training Needs and Challenges for Effective Guidance and Counseling Programs

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Abstract:

The Guidance and Counseling Office of Isabela State University–Angadanan Campus, established in 2002, has continuously supported students’ academic and personal growth. However, no comprehensive assessment has been undertaken to evaluate students’ training needs and challenges, emphasizing the need for systematic research to improve service effectiveness. This study aimed to determine the training needs and challenges faced by college students to develop responsive and student-centered guidance interventions. Utilizing a descriptive-correlational research design, it was conducted during the School Year 2024–2025 with 453 student respondents. Data was collected to examine the relationship between students’ demographic profiles, challenges, and training needs. Results revealed that students strongly agreed on the effectiveness and relevance of the guidance and counseling services, particularly in policies and programs. Despite these favorable views, respondents experienced concerns such as anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, interpersonal conflicts, and career-related stress. All training need areas—personal, social, academic, family, and social issues—were rated as “very important,” underscoring the need for developmental interventions. Correlational analysis indicated significant associations between demographics and both challenges and training needs. The study concludes that strengthening mental health initiatives, promoting collaboration among stakeholders, and implementing the proposed programs will enhance students’ resilience, well-being, and academic success.

Index Terms:

Training Needs, Challenges, Guidance and Counselling Services, Mental Health, Guidance Interventions

Narratives of Educators Managing Special Needs Students: An Analysis Using the FIRST Framework on Inclusive Education Program

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Abstract:

Students with disabilities continue to encounter significant barriers in classroom settings, particularly when resources are limited and individual needs are not fully addressed. Teachers serve a critical function in promoting inclusive education, ensuring that every student is valued and supported. At Itaas Elementary School (IES), a commitment to inclusion is evident in daily practice; however, teachers frequently face complex and demanding circumstances. This study aimed to document the experiences of four mainstream classroom teachers at IES through open-ended surveys, highlighting both the challenges encountered and the adaptive strategies utilized. Thematic analysis identified two primary issues: inadequate training and resources for special needs education, and the need for differentiated instruction and flexible teaching approaches. Despite deficiencies in formal training and institutional support, teachers demonstrated resourcefulness and a strong sense of responsibility, often collaborating with colleagues and relying on their own initiative to address the diverse needs of their students. These findings emphasize the need to improve teacher preparation, strengthen systems for identifying and documenting student needs, and implement comprehensive school-based programs to ensure that all learners, regardless of ability, receive appropriate support.

Index Terms:

Inclusive Education, Special Needs, FIRST Framework, Teacher Narratives, Professional Development, Thematic Analysis

Gender-Focused Reintegrative Services: Insights from Marillac Hills Personnel

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Abstract:

Existing research on gender-responsive rehabilitation institutions in the Philippines, especially from the perspective of institutional personnel, remains limited. This study addresses this gap by examining gender-sensitive practices, personnel roles, and institutional policies within a single-sex rehabilitation context. Drawing on Hidden Curriculum Theory, the research operationalizes gender theory and policy guidelines into practical tools for staff. The study examines how Marillac Hills provides gender-sensitive educational, behavioral, and therapeutic services to help female clients become socially productive, self-motivated, and responsible individuals. Participants of this study, counselors and social workers, were selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected via structured interviews and analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings indicate that Marillac Hills promotes self-motivation and responsibility through an integrated rehabilitation system that combines therapeutic healing, collaborative accountability, and policy-driven empowerment. The institution is progressively implementing inclusive, gender-responsive policies consistent with the DSWD Gender Focus Point System. In summary, the study highlights the significance of sustained gender-responsive practices in fostering positive youth development.

The Rise of Short-Form Content and Teachers' Perceptions Regarding Its Use As Supplemental Educational Material for Literacy

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Abstract:

As digital technology evolves, Short-Form Content (SFC) has emerged as a dominant cultural phenomenon, profoundly shaping the cognitive and social habits of Generation Z. Despite its ubiquity in daily life, a significant research gap exists regarding the empirical integration of SFC within formal pedagogical frameworks. Existing literature frequently categorizes social media as a distraction, leaving a critical void in understanding how educators can strategically harness micro-learning formats to enhance classroom instruction. This qualitative study addresses this gap by investigating the firsthand experiences of teachers who utilize SFC in their curriculum. Through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), the research explores how educators leverage their prior knowledge of digital trends to bridge the divide between recreational consumption and academic engagement. Findings indicate that SFC serves as a transformative tool for visual and audio-visual learners, significantly improving motivation, literacy, and attention spans through "chunked" instructional delivery. Specifically, SFC is most effective in teaching vocabulary, short story introductions, and grammar, where design features like trending audio and high-contrast graphics optimize information retention. Beyond immediate engagement, this study underscores the importance of SFC as a sustainable pedagogical evolution, provided there is a concurrent improvement in digital infrastructure. By translating social media mechanics into effective teaching strategies, this research provides a foundational blueprint for adapting educational models for Generation Alpha. It ultimately argues that embracing short-form content is not merely a trend, but a necessary shift to ensure pedagogy remains relevant in an increasingly digitized world.

Index Terms:

Short-Form Content, Generation Z, Digital Pedagogy, Teacher Perspectives, Micro-Learning, Thematic Analysis

Teachers' Opinions, Experiences, Concerns, and Challenges Regarding Generative AI as an Aid to Instruction: A Case Study in Alabang Elementary School

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Abstract:

As Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) reshapes the global pedagogical landscape, its integration within the Philippine public education system remains characterized by a lack of regulation and systemic support. While international discourse on GenAI is vast, there is a critical research gap concerning its localized application in resource-constrained public elementary settings, where the “digital divide” presents unique instructional challenges. This qualitative case study addresses this void by investigating the experiences, perceptions, and hurdles of English teachers at Alabang Elementary School in Muntinlupa City. Utilizing purposive sampling, the researchers conducted semi-structured interviews with six educators, analyzing the data through inductive thematic analysis. The findings reveal five pivotal themes: (1) GenAI as a transformative instructional aid, (2) polarized teacher attitudes and adoption rates, (3) concerns regarding student overreliance and the erosion of critical thinking, (4) persistent technical and ethical dilemmas, and (5) a stark absence of institutional policy and training. These results highlight a significant policy-practice gap, where teachers are independently leveraging GenAI to streamline lesson preparation while simultaneously navigating risks like academic dishonesty and AI hallucination without administrative guidance. The importance of this study lies in its role as a localized baseline for the Department of Education, providing empirical evidence for the urgent need for ethical frameworks and professional development. Ultimately, this research calls for a proactive institutional response to ensure that GenAI serves as a catalyst for educational equity rather than a source of professional and ethical vulnerability in basic education.

Index Terms:

Generative AI, Public Education, English Teaching, Teacher Perspectives, AI Ethics, Philippine Education System

Exploring Grade 12 Students' Perspectives on Filipino Subjects at De La Salle Santiago Zobel

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Abstract:

Within the Philippine educational landscape, Filipino subjects serve as the primary cornerstone for preserving national identity and fostering communicative competence. However, as debates persist regarding the reduction of Filipino in the Senior High School curriculum, a critical research gap has emerged: the lack of empirical data concerning student perceptions in elite, English-dominant private institutions. While existing literature extensively explores public school contexts where Filipino is the primary medium of instruction, there is little understanding of the linguistic and cultural dissonance experienced by students in Westernized, private educational environments like De La Salle Santiago Zobel School. This study addresses this void by examining the attitudes and engagement levels of students navigating these English-centric spaces. Employing a qualitative research design, the study conducted semi-structured interviews with 14 Grade 12 students, selected via stratified random sampling and analyzed through Braun and Clarke's thematic analysis. Findings reveal a complex duality: students primarily view Filipino as a pragmatic tool for improving language proficiency—admitting to significant fluency struggles—while simultaneously recognizing its existential role in fostering nationalism and civic awareness. Despite the challenges of a linguistic environment that favors English, participants strongly opposed curriculum reduction, advocating instead for pedagogical revitalization. The significance of this research lies in its challenge to the “global-only” mindset, providing educators and policymakers with essential evidence to support the retention of Filipino subjects. It argues that maintaining a robust Filipino curriculum in private schools is vital for ensuring cultural cohesion and preventing the marginalization of national identity in an increasingly globalized society.

Index Terms:

Filipino Subjects, Private School Education, National Identity, Curriculum Reduction, Student Perceptions, Linguistic Dissonance

The Feasibility of Waste Cooking Oil (WCO) as a Sustainable Dishwashing Bar

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Abstract:

In the Philippines, the improper disposal of waste cooking oil (WCO) by households and small eateries leads to severe environmental degradation and infrastructure damage, such as clogged drainage systems. Despite these hazards, a significant research gap exists regarding the ability of small food establishments, specifically “carinderias,” to sustainably supply WCO for a community-driven social enterprise model. While technical processes for converting oil into soap are documented, existing literature lacks localized data on the operational feasibility and community engagement required to maintain such an initiative as a viable local enterprise. This study addresses this void by assessing the Waste2Wash project in Pasong Buaya, Imus, Cavite, which repurposes WCO into sustainable dishwashing bar soap. Employing a convergent parallel research design, the researchers gathered data from 15 purposively sampled carinderia owners and staff through semi-structured interviews and surveys, utilizing thematic analysis and descriptive statistics. Findings reveal that carinderias are a consistent and sufficient source of WCO, with participants demonstrating a very high willingness to engage in the initiative (mean = 4.40). The importance of this paper lies in its role as a practical blueprint for integrating circular economy practices into local contexts. By aligning with SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), the study demonstrates how transforming hazardous waste into affordable cleaning products can simultaneously mitigate environmental risks and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for marginalized sectors.

Index Terms:

Waste Cooking Oil (WCO), Sustainable Dishwashing Bar, Carinderia, Circular Economy, Social Enterprise, Feasibility Study, Waste2Wash

Design and Analysis of an Assistive Technology for People with Visual Disability

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Abstract:

This study investigates the mobility challenges and social stigma experienced by visually impaired individuals and proposes a wearable assistive technology to enhance independent navigation. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 43 million people worldwide are blind, including nearly 4.95 million in India (0.36% of the national population). Despite ongoing efforts by governmental and non-governmental organizations aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 8, 11, and 17), accessibility barriers and workplace dependency persist. To address these issues, the present work proposes a knee-mounted, below-joint wearable assistive device designed using principles of ergonomics and gait analysis. The system integrates radar sensors for obstacle detection, image-based recognition, wireless earbud alerts, and a belt-mounted vibration module. The device provides obstacle detection up to 5 meters, identifies surface inclinations greater than 4.5°, and delivers alerts within 3 seconds of stimulus detection. A gyroscopic vibration mechanism utilizes Coriolis force sensing to enhance environmental feedback. The hands-free design reduces reliance on traditional canes and aims to minimize the social stigma associated with visible assistive tools. The analysis results demonstrate reliable obstacle detection within the specified range and rapid user notification. However, optimal performance requires that the knee flexion angle not exceed 15° from the vertical axis. Overall, the proposed system offers a practical, ergonomic, and affordable solution to promote independence, usability, and social inclusion among visually impaired individuals. Future work may focus on integrating artificial intelligence-based adaptive learning, novel, sophisticated hardware components, and conducting large-scale user trials to further optimize usability and scalability.

Index Terms:

Assistive Technology, Visually Impaired, blind, Sensors, Human Ergonomics, Differently-Abled

Education in the 21st Century: Key Global Trends

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Abstract:

Globalisation, digitalisation require a fundamental and qualitative restructuring of the education system. It has ceased to be merely a mechanism for the transmission of knowledge and is now regarded as an instrument for the development of flexible competencies, critical thinking, and the capacity for lifelong learning. The aim of the study is to analyse the key global trends shaping the development of educational systems. The research methodology is based on an interdisciplinary approach that integrates achievements in pedagogy, the sociology of education, philosophy, and the knowledge economy. General scientific methods are employed, along with documentary analysis, content analysis. The results of the study consist in identifying the key trends, which include: the digitalisation and technologisation of learning; a gradual decline in the level of commercialisation of education and the transformation of education into a value in its own right; a growing emphasis on interdisciplinarity in education and the inclusion of the discipline "Impact on the Planet"; the transformation of learners into producers of knowledge and co-authors of knowledge communities; the humanisation of education and learner-centred approaches. Conclusion: contemporary education is developing under the influence of the trends examined, forming a new paradigm in which education becomes a key factor in social progress, cultural dialogue, and the sustainable development of the world.

Index Terms:

Assistive Technology, Visually Impaired, blind, Sensors, Human Ergonomics, Differently-abled

Work Motivation Affecting the Performance of Generation Y Fashion Sales Staff in Bangkok Department Stores

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Abstract:

This research aimed to (1) study the level of work motivation of Generation Y fashion sales staff in a Bangkok department store, (2) analyse the level of work performance, and (3) examine the influence of motivation on work performance. The sample consisted of 400 Gen Y fashion sales staff. The research instrument was a questionnaire that was tested for content validity (IOC = 1.00) and reliability (Cronbach's Alpha = 0.921). Data analysis employed descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation) and inferential statistics, including multiple regression, to examine hypotheses and multiple correlation problems. The research results revealed that overall motivation was at a high level. The factors ranked from highest to lowest were responsibility, achievement, advancement, job description, and recognition. Overall work performance was at a high level, with workload being the highest, followed by work quality, cost-effectiveness, and time management. Multiple regression results indicated that the model was statistically significant ($F=13.841$, $p<.001$), explaining 13.9% of the variance in work performance (Adj. $R^2=.139$). The variables with significant positive effects were achievement ($\beta=.216$, $p<.001$), recognition ($\beta=.208$, $p<.001$), job description ($\beta=.151$, $p=.001$), and responsibility ($\beta=.144$, $p=.002$). Advancement had a positive but non-significant effect ($\beta=.092$, $p=.050$). Recommendations for action: Organizations should focus on designing challenging and meaningful work, establishing concrete recognition and appreciation systems, increasing work autonomy and responsibility, and developing a competency-based advancement system to sustainably improve the performance of Gen Y fashion salespeople.

Index Terms:

Work Motivation; Performance; Generation Y; Fashion Sales Staff

Social Development in a Smartphone-Restricted Environment: A Qualitative Study of Filipino Female Adolescents

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Abstract:

The increasing integration of smartphones into adolescents' daily lives has prompted growing concern regarding their influence on social development, particularly during a critical period of identity formation and interpersonal growth. This study examines the effects of smartphone abstinence on the social development of Filipino female adolescents within a structured, technology-restricted educational environment. Grounded in Social Learning Theory, Psychosocial Development Theory, and Sociocultural Theory, the study explores how the absence of smartphones shapes social interaction patterns, communication behaviors, and relational experiences.

A qualitative research design was employed involving twenty female adolescents aged 12 to 19 enrolled at Girls Town Cavite, a residential institution where smartphone use is institutionally restricted. Data were collected over one academic semester through focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews. Thematic analysis was conducted to systematically identify patterns related to face-to-face interaction, peer engagement, emotional regulation, and social competence.

Findings indicate that smartphone abstinence is associated with increased frequency and quality of in-person social interactions, stronger peer relationships, enhanced communication skills, and heightened emotional awareness. Participants reported greater involvement in collaborative activities, improved conflict management, and deeper reflection on their interpersonal behaviors. These outcomes suggest that reduced digital exposure may foster social environments that support meaningful relational engagement and socioemotional development.

By examining adolescent social development in a low-technology context, this study contributes empirical insights relevant to education, psychology, and sociology, and highlights the potential value of intentional technology regulation in promoting healthy adolescent social development.

Index Terms:

Smartphone Abstinence, Adolescent Social Development, Technology Restriction, Filipino Female Adolescents, Qualitative Study

EduLegends: Crisis Leadership Competencies and Response Strategies of School Heads in the National Capital Region

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Abstract:

This study, titled *EduLegends*: Crisis Leadership Competencies and Response Strategies of School Heads in the National Capital Region, examined the crisis leadership competencies demonstrated by experienced school heads, referred to as *EduLegends*, and the response strategies they employed in navigating educational crises. Specifically, it explored how these competencies influenced decision-making, communication, and problem-solving during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and natural calamities. A convergent parallel mixed-method design was employed, with quantitative and qualitative data collected simultaneously to provide a comprehensive understanding of crisis leadership. The quantitative phase utilized a researcher-developed questionnaire measuring nine crisis leadership competencies and five crisis response strategies, while the qualitative phase involved thematic analysis of open-ended responses. Findings indicated that *EduLegends* generally demonstrated high proficiency across all nine competencies, with Relationship-Building and Collaboration and Coaching and Trustworthiness emerging as the strongest. Crisis leadership competencies were found to be significant predictors of crisis response strategy utilization, particularly in relation to collaboration, innovation and technology use, and strategic planning. Qualitative findings revealed key challenges faced by school heads, including limited resources, emotional and personal struggles, and difficulties in transitioning to online instruction. Additionally, monthly income and leadership awards emerged as significant predictors of competency and strategy utilization levels. The study concludes that relational, strategic, and adaptive capacities are central to effective crisis leadership in education. These findings informed the development of the *EduLegends* Zenith Model, which illustrates the dynamic and multidimensional nature of crisis leadership among school heads.

Index Terms:

Smartphone Abstinence, Adolescent Social Development, Technology Restriction, Filipino Female Adolescents, Qualitative Study

Correlates Of School Heads' Leadership Styles and Teachers' Performance in Public Schools

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Abstract:

This study examined the leadership styles of school heads and the teaching performance of teachers in the Division of Misamis Oriental, Philippines. Specifically, it identified prevailing leadership approaches among school administrators and determined their relationship to teachers' instructional performance. A descriptive-correlational research design was employed. Data were gathered using a researcher-developed questionnaire to assess leadership styles and an adapted version of the Department of Education's Classroom Observation Tool (COT) to evaluate teaching performance. Both instruments underwent validation and reliability testing prior to administration. Approval and consent were secured from the Schools Division Superintendent and Public School District Supervisors before data collection from public school administrators and teachers. Findings revealed that school heads predominantly practiced a combination of transactional and situational leadership styles in managing and interacting with teachers. In terms of teaching performance, teachers were rated outstanding in lesson presentation and teacher-learner interaction, while lesson organization, content knowledge and relevance, and lesson execution were rated very satisfactory. Statistical analysis further showed significant differences in leadership styles when grouped according to administrators' age, gender, educational attainment, and years of administrative experience. Moreover, results indicated a significant relationship between school heads' leadership styles and teachers' teaching performance. Through multiple linear regression analysis, a new leadership model emerged, identifying laissez-faire leadership as having the greatest predictive impact. The findings suggest that laissez-faire leadership fosters professional autonomy, encourages innovation, and enables strategic leadership practice. Hence, the study recommends adopting appropriate elements of laissez-faire leadership to enhance teacher performance and organizational effectiveness.

Integrated Guidance and Counseling Management System (IGCMS): Streamlining Transactions and Digital Counseling

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Abstract:

Established in 2002, Isabela State University (ISU) Angadanan has grown to over 3,000 students, making traditional, manual guidance and counseling methods inefficient and error-prone. This study addressed this challenge by developing a web-based Guidance and Counseling System. The system's goal was to automate services, organize student records, and facilitate early detection of issues through analytics, all while complying with ISO/IEC 25010 quality standards. The researcher used descriptive and developmental designs, employing Agile methodology (Scrum framework) and gathering data via focused group discussions with student services personnel. The developed system automates tasks like issuing good moral certificates and promissory notes. Key features include descriptive analytics dashboards to detect academic, behavioral, and mental health concerns, and a chatbot for virtual appointments and real-time communication. Evaluated by IT experts, staff, and students, the system demonstrated strong compliance with ISO/IEC 25010 standards (overall mean rating of 4.34). Findings show the system significantly improved the efficiency, accessibility, and accuracy of services, supporting student well-being and institutional quality assurance. Future enhancements, like sentiment analysis and an Android-based platform, are recommended.

Index Terms:

Guidance And Counseling Management System, Guidance Student Services, Descriptive Analytics, ISO 25010, Agile Methodology

