



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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Table of Contents

Preface	v
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About ICMCER 2026	vi
-------------------	----

About IFERP Academy	vii
---------------------	-----

Message from Dignitaries	viii
--------------------------	------

About Keynote Speakers	x
------------------------	---

About Organizing Committee	xxiv
----------------------------	------

Abstracts Index	xxvi
-----------------	------

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 100+ manuscript papers, covering all aspects of ICMCER-2026. After review, approximately 60+ 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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Abstracts Index

The Impact of Buddhist Philosophical Principles on Environment to Attain Sustainable Development Goals in the Current Era	01
» Dr. Shreya Mitra	
Lightweight CNN Models for Real-Time Image Processing on Edge Devices: Performance Awareness	02
» Habi Patrick	
» Mary Mathews	
» Dr. Shailja Shukla	
Language Assessment for Primary Grades (LAPG) Results: Basis for A Proposed Reading Remediation Program for Deped Tawi-Tawi	03
» Malinao, Geanky O.	
Pineapple Disease Detection Using Image Processing with Text to Speech Feedback	04
» Ariel Jay G. Rumbaoa	
» Paulo V. Opiña Jr.	
Multi-Resolution CNN Framework for EEG Image-Based Analysis of Neuropsychological Alterations in Early Dementia ..	05
» Habi Patrick	
» Dr. Shailja Shukla	
Reframing SME Growth: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Global Drivers and Innovation-Centered Causal Pathways	06
» Jaypee S. Yongco	
Does Climate Change Influence the Food Security Problem? A Review in the Context of the BRICS Nations	07
» Somanath Kumar Mishra	
» Prasanta Patri	
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	08
» Dr. Harvey T. Ong	
» Gatan, Justine Mei O.	
» Juan, Kyle Christian	
» Lim, Jacob Benjamin B.	
» Palisoc, Thea A.	
Managerial Competencies of Officers and Financial Performance of Selected Agricultural Micro Cooperatives in the Province of Isabela	09
» Alan V. Bautista	
Workforce Perspective on the Interventions and Strategies to Mitigate Workplace Incivility: Basis for Institutional Policy Review	10
» Maychilou Lopez-Fabellar	

Unlocking Student Success: Assessing Training Needs and Challenges for Effective Guidance and Counseling Programs.....	11
» Mary Antoniete T. Jacinto	
» Joy C. Bermudez	
Narratives of Educators Managing Special Needs Students: An Analysis Using the FIRST Framework on Inclusive Education Program	12
» Riley Buzon	
» Zara Danieles	
» Alana Gella	
» Zuri Navarro	
» Kianne Portugaliza	
» Reese Rongavilla	
Gender-Focused Reintegrative Services: Insights from Marillac Hills Personnel.....	13
» Jacinta Cardenas	
» Erin Castro	
» Marielle Emata	
» Gael Ilano	
The Rise of Short-Form Content and Teachers' Perceptions Regarding Its Use As Supplemental Educational Material for Literacy	14
» Rico Z. Banaag	
» Julian L. Banogon	
» Alexandra G. Echevarria	
» Jadrian F. Jadwani	
» Julian A. Lim	
Teachers' Opinions, Experiences, Concerns, and Challenges Regarding Generative AI as an Aid to Instruction: A Case Study in Alabang Elementary School	15
» Dominic M. Canarejo	
» Reynaldo Marquis Antig III	
» Audrianna Maria Theresia Gabuya Jimenez	
» Paulyne Raisa Arciaga Fondevilla	
Exploring Grade 12 Students' Perspectives on Filipino Subjects at De La Salle Santiago Zobel.....	16
» Gogna, Andrea Helene	
» Luis, Isaiah Venice	
» Nicol, Daphne Pauleen	
» Sagre, Althea Charisse,	
» Soriano, Chelsea Lorin	
» Tejada, Loise Amiah	
The Feasibility of Waste Cooking Oil (WCO) as a Sustainable Dishwashing Bar	17
» Almazan, Rionnah Valerie P	
» Hortaleza, Athena Christianne G	
» Moraña, Krishamel K	
» Necesia, Benedict S	
» Olizon, Sofia Angela S	
» Oria, Mary Anjoleah S	
» Bofill, Blake N	

Design and Analysis of an Assistive Technology for People with Visual Disability	18
» Tushar Tiwari	
» Pratibha Mishra	
» Kusum Kanwar	
» Shilpi Tiwari	
Education in the 21st Century: Key Global Trends	19
» Begalynova K.K.	
» Ashilova M.S.	
» Begalinov A.S.	
Work Motivation Affecting the Performance of Generation Y Fashion Sales Staff in Bangkok Department Stores	20
» Ruedeechanok Rungruangmaitree	
Social Development in a Smartphone-Restricted Environment: A Qualitative Study of Filipino Female Adolescents	21
» Dotaro, KC	
<i>EduLegends</i> : Crisis Leadership Competencies and Response Strategies of School Heads in the National Capital Region	22
» Anteg, May Angelie L.	
» Salcedo, Renato E.	
Correlates Of School Heads' Leadership Styles and Teachers' Performance in Public Schools	23
» Maribelle G. Acac	
Integrated Guidance and Counseling Management System (IGCMS): Streamlining Transactions and Digital Counseling	24
» Mary Antoniete T. Jacinto	
Analyzing Institutional Clinic Visit Patterns for Data-Driven Medicine Procurement Decisions	25
» Kenneth B. Ancheta	
Gamified Learning Through Knowt: Enhancing Reading Comprehension and Motivation Among Filipino Grade 10 Students	26
» Gerald Gamboa	
» Emjay Mercado	
» Timothy Ethan Gabagat	
» Michael Ynoc Perez	
» Darius Ceasar Austria	
Lightweight CNN Models for Real-Time Image Processing on Edge Devices: Performance Awareness	27
» Habi Patrick	
» Mary Mathews	
» Dr. Shailja Shukla	
Language Assessment for Primary Grades (LAPG) Results: Basis for a Proposed Reading Remediation Program for Deped Tawi-Tawi	28
» Malinao, Geanky O.	
Robust Blind Equalization Algorithm using CNN	29
» H. Lithik Raj	
» B. Manasa	
» A. Rajendar	
» Ms. B. Veena	

Workforce Perspective on the Interventions and Strategies to Mitigate Workplace Incivility: Basis for Institutional Policy Review	30
» Maychilou Lopez-Fabellar	
Strengthening the Institution of Marriage: A Systematic Literature Review to Address Divorce among Young Muslim Couples	31
» Nor ‘Adha Ab Hamid	
» Norziah Othman	
» Nur Zulfah Md Abdul Salam	
» Mohd Farok Mat Nor	
Parent-Adolescent Communication for Reproductive Health in Shaping the Malaysian-Indonesian Families Well-Being	32
» Nor ‘Adha Ab Hamid	
» Norziah Othman	
» Rahmahtunnisah Sailin	
» Munawir Pasaribu	
» Yan Hendra	
» Widya Masitah	
Pineapple Disease Detection Using Image Processing with Text to Speech Feedback	33
» Ariel Jay G. Rumbaoa	
» Paulo V. Opiña Jr.	
Intra- and Inter-Linguistic Interference in English Vocabulary Acquisition	34
» Kamala Avadir Jafarova	
Data-Driven Improvement of Mathematics Competencies in Post-Pandemic Colombia: Evidence from SABER 11 Results and Skateholder Perceptions (2021–2024)	35
» Eliecer Montero-Ojeda	
» Maria-Janeth Jimenez-Rodriguez	
Situation of the Development of 21st-Century Skills in University Students from the Peruvian Amazon	36
» Isaac Ocampo Yahuarcani	
» Lelis Antony Saravia LLaja	
» Luz Angélica Angulo Rios	
» Olga Isuiza Mozombite	
» Brittany Ariana Rengifo Pinedo	
» Alenguer Gerónimo Alva Arévalo	
» Eros Andree Ruiz Angulo	
An Ensemble-Integrated Deep Learning Framework for Imbalance Quality Classification for Aquaculture	37
» Michelle D. Ancheta	
Multi-Resolution CNN Framework for EEG Image-Based Analysis of Neuropsychological Alterations in Early Dementia ..	38
» Habi Patrick	
» Dr. Shailja Shukla	
Integrated Marketing Communication as a Digital Music Distribution Strategy: A Case Study of TuneCore Indonesia	39
» Ericca Raisah	
» Muhammad Aras	
» Ricardo Indra	

Ecophilosophical Education by The Seaweed Women in Lembongan Island	40
» Candrawati, Putu	
Reframing SME Growth: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Global Drivers and Innovation-Centered Causal Pathways.....	41
» Jaypee S. Yongco	
Innovations and Advanced Foreign Experiences in Teaching Construction Drawings in the Education System.....	42
» Latipov Rustam Atakhanovich	
» Sevara Yoqubboeva Kurbondurdievna	
Does Climate Change Influence the Food Security Problem? A Review in the Context of the BRICS Nations	43
» Somanath Kumar Mishra	
» Prasanta Patri	
Development of Ambidextrous Managers through Bilingual Education in Project Management: Integration of Language Learning, Global Competence, and Strategic Flexibility	44
» Jonnathan López Hurtado	
GEO TIME Interactive Learning by PARAM.ED Model: Enhancing Achievement and Analytical Thinking on Geographic Coordinates and the World Time System	45
» Paramed Sukchaem	
Managerial Competencies of Officers and Financial Performance of Selected Agricultural Micro Cooperatives in the Province of Isabela	46
» Alan V. Bautista	
Perception of STEAM among University Students in the Professionalization Project of Loreto, Peru	47
» Isaac Ocampo Yahuarcani	
» Lelis Antony Saravia Llaja	
» Luz Angélica Angulo Ríos	
» Olga Isuiza Mozombite	
» Harvey Enrique Panduro Urrelo	
» Perlita Ríos Del Águila	
» Priscilla Claudet Del Castillo Pereyra	
» Eros Andreé Ruiz Angulo	
» Julio César Chong Vilchez	
Analysis of Airline Service Quality using AIRQUAL Integrated with Sustainability and Passenger Satisfaction at Garuda Indonesia	48
» M. Anas Faqih	
» Tarandhika Tantra, S.MB., M.M	
Analyzing Institutional Clinic Visit Patterns for Data-Driven Medicine Procurement Decisions.....	49
» Kenneth B. Ancheta	
Beyond the Metaverse: Understanding Customer Purchase Intention in Real -World AR Retail Platforms (Lenskart)	50
» Patel Snigdha	
The Influence of Cultural Heritage Ornament Transformation on the Congregation's Visual Experience-A Case Study of the Grand Mosque of Surakarta	51
» Siroj Ibnu Hajar Al Anshori	
» Desy Nurcahyanti*	
» Deny Tri Ardianto	
» Rahmanu Widayat	
» Agus Puwantoro	
» Bambang Sulistyono	

Optimizing the Visual Potential of Pawukon through Reconstruction of the Exhibition Setting for the Indonesian Culture Sustainability	52
» Ari Kurniawan	
» Desy Nurcahyanti*	
» Deny Tri Ardianto	
» Rahmanu Widayat	
» Agus Puwantoro	
» Bambang Sulistyono	
Entrepreneurial Strategies for the Commercial Revitalization of Majapahit Batik in the Digital Era	53
» Indarti Indarti	
» Irma Russanti	
» Silmy Ni'mah Fadhila	
» Eko Wahyuni Rahayu	
» Ika Anggun Camelia	
» Ervin Nuriana	
Navigating Culture and Faith: Teachers' Cultural and Religious Backgrounds and the Delivery of Comprehensive Sexuality Education to Grade 6 Students in a Philippine Public School.....	54
» Gerald Gamboa*	
» Khyle Andrew Palma	
» Apollo Bitao	
» Yance Zaviery Carcallas	
» Francis Kal-el Lascoña	
» Shanelle Magne Tulauan	
Sludge Content as Digital Pedagogy: A Mixed-Methods Study of Attention Span and Learning Outcomes Among Generation Alpha Students	55
» Gerald Gamboa*	
» Paula Lorraine Garcia	
» Jhon Justine Felipe	
» Princess Eunice Castenares	
» Ashley Nicole Porras	
» Alyanna Kate Costa	
» Paul Jose Gerald Reguera	
Helmet and Triple Ride Detection Using CNN and YOLO.....	56
» L. Lakshmi Vagdevi	
» G. Krishna Sri Mohan	
» Tatineni Karthik Sai	
» B.Veena	
Robust Blind Equalization Algorithm using CNN	57
» H. Lithik Raj	
» B. Manasa	
» A. Rajendar	
» B.Veena	
Rethinking Knowledge Hierarchies: NEP 2020 and the Project of Decolonisation in India.....	58
» Aipta Rout	
» Dr. Ananya Das	

Revitalizing Myanmar's Vernacular Home: Blending Cultural Heritage with Sustainable and Modern Living at Sagaing, Myanmar	59
» Zaw Phyto Linn	
» Kanjane Budthimedhee	
Gender Identity, Selfhood, and Morality in the Works of Iris Murdoch	60
» Dr. Vusala Aghabayli	

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

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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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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 carindaria 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, Carindaria, 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

Analyzing Institutional Clinic Visit Patterns for Data-Driven Medicine Procurement Decisions

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Abstract:

This study addressed the inefficiencies of traditional, frequency-based medicine inventory management at Isabela State University – Cauayan Campus by developing a comprehensive data-driven procurement framework. Following the structured Knowledge Discovery in Databases (KDD) methodology, 2,493 manual clinic records from the 2023 academic year were meticulously standardized and analyzed. A K-Means clustering algorithm was implemented via Python, utilizing the Elbow Method to determine an optimal $k = 3$ cluster model for pharmaceutical demand segmentation. Descriptive analytics revealed significant seasonal consumption peaks specifically during the months of January and August. Furthermore, a demographic disparity was identified, with faculty and staff exhibiting a 37% higher medication demand intensity per visit compared to the student population. The resulting framework, validated through extensive stakeholder consultation, confirms that an algorithmic, cluster-based approach effectively mitigates stock-out risks and improves inventory accuracy. Transitioning from reactive manual tracking to proactive machine learning optimizes institutional resource allocation and ensures consistent pharmaceutical availability for the university community.

Gamified Learning Through Knowt: Enhancing Reading Comprehension and Motivation Among Filipino Grade 10 Students

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Abstract:

This explanatory sequential mixed-methods study investigates Knowt, a gamified EdTech platform, on Grade 10 students' reading comprehension and motivation at De La Salle Santiago Zobel-BRafeNHS (N=93). Grounded in Barrett's Taxonomy, Day & Park's question types, and Mayer's Cognitive Theory of Multimedia Learning (CTML), it addresses the Philippines' low PISA 2022 reading scores (347 vs. OECD 476) to advance SDG 4. Over three weeks, students engaged in progressive Knowt activities (flashcards, AI quizzes, gamemodes). Quantitative analysis (z-test) showed posttest scores (59%) lower than traditional formative baselines (76%; $z=2.48$, $p<0.05$), attributed to increased difficulty/timing. However, in-app progression peaked at 68%, with qualitative FGDs (n=9) revealing themes of strategic reading gains, AI utility, and high engagement (90% rated 4–5/5). Findings indicate Knowt excels in motivation/strategies but requires scaffolding for comprehension. Recommendations: blended implementation with teacher guidance for Philippine classrooms.

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

Robust Blind Equalization Algorithm using CNN

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Abstract:

Blind equalization is a pivotal technique in signal processing, utilized to recover transmitted signals distorted during transmission without requiring prior knowledge of the channel characteristics. This research proposes a novel convolutional neural network (CNN)-based algorithm designed to address the challenges of traditional methods, such as susceptibility to noise and non-linearity in dynamic communication environments. The proposed CNN architecture leverages its hierarchical feature extraction capabilities to identify and mitigate distortions in received signals. It processes high-dimensional signal data by employing convolutional layers for spatial pattern recognition, pooling layers to reduce dimensionality, and fully connected layers for prediction and reconstruction. This integration not only enhances the algorithm's ability to autonomously learn features but also ensures robustness and adaptability across varying signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) conditions. Experimental results showcase significant advancements in equalization quality, achieving high reconstruction accuracy. This project explores signal equalization using deep learning techniques, specifically Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), to enhance the performance of railway communication signals. By comparing traditional equalization techniques with CNN-based approaches, this study demonstrates significant improvements in Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) and Bit Error Rate (BER).

Index Terms:

Convolutional Neural Networks, Blind Equalization, Signal Processing, Adaptive Reconstruction

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

Strengthening the Institution of Marriage: A Systematic Literature Review to Address Divorce among Young Muslim Couples

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Abstract:

Divorce has become an increasingly prominent issue within Muslim societies and Muslim minority contexts, reflecting broader changes in family structures, gender relations, and legal governance. While Islam permits divorce as a last resort, contemporary scholarship suggests that marital dissolution is shaped by complex interactions between religious norms, state legal systems, and socio-cultural realities. This study conducts a systematic literature review (SLR) of 42 peer-reviewed journal articles published between 2020 and 2025 to synthesize recent research on divorce within Islamic contexts. Guided by the PRISMA 2020 framework, articles were retrieved from Taylor & Francis and ProQuest databases using predefined keywords related to Islamic divorce. Thematic analysis identified eight dominant themes: Islamic legal frameworks and divorce governance; gendered experiences and post-divorce vulnerability; early marriage as a precursor to divorce; psychological and mental health implications; intergenerational and family system effects; changing marriage norms; methodological trends; and implications for Islamic family policy. The findings reveal persistent gender inequalities, significant psychosocial and intergenerational consequences of divorce, and growing tensions between traditional Islamic family ideals and contemporary social transformations. Despite the expanding literature, notable gaps remain in integrating Islamic ethical principles with empirical research, addressing preventive strategies, and informing policy and practice. This review contributes by offering a comprehensive thematic synthesis and highlighting future research directions to strengthen Islamic family scholarship and support sustainable family well-being.

Index Terms:

Islamic Divorce; Family Law; Marriage; Muslim Families

Parent-Adolescent Communication for Reproductive Health in Shaping the Malaysian-Indonesian Families Well-Being

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Abstract:

Social problems involving teenagers in Malaysia and Indonesia are increasingly worrying, especially regarding issues of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, sexual abuse, and sexual misconduct driven by uncontrolled social media exposure. Reproductive health education and sex education are still considered taboo in many families, and communication between parents and children on these issues is very limited. More teenagers who are involved in sexual activity are coming to clinics with sexually transmitted diseases, unplanned pregnancies and problems related to sex. If no services are provided, they will be exposed to the risk of teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease complications, unsafe abortion and infant abandonment. This study aims to identify and analyze the elements needed in the parent and adolescent communication in regards to reproductive health as part of contributing factors in shaping the well-being of Malaysian-Indonesian families. By synthesizing existing research, the study seeks to provide insights for the parent, adolescent, policymakers, counsellors, and relevant authorities to develop effective strategies in strengthening the well-being of families. This study uses a qualitative approach, applying a study based on library research methods and a research focus approach by conducting document content analysis, namely the Malaysian Family Wellbeing Index (IKK), the Indonesian People's Wellbeing Index (IKRaR), policies and guidelines that regulate the well-being of families and people in Malaysia and Indonesia. Overall, this review underscores the need for comprehensive communication between parent and adolescent, stronger awareness and counselling programs, and greater community awareness to strengthen the relationship among parent-adolescent in Malaysia-Indonesia.

Index Terms:

Parent, Adolescent, Communication, Reproductive Health, Well-Being

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

Intra- and Inter-Linguistic Interference in English Vocabulary Acquisition

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Abstract:

This study examines the phenomenon of intra-linguistic and inter-linguistic interference with a specific focus on English lexis. Lexical interference is analyzed at both the microstructural and macrostructural levels of language, where challenges arise from the influence of a learner's native language on vocabulary acquisition in a second language. The analysis considers interference caused by polysemy, synonymy, and antonymy, highlighting how nuanced semantic differences and structural variations between languages, such as Azerbaijani and English, contribute to errors in translation, comprehension, and usage. Drawing on theoretical perspectives and practical examples, the study identifies key areas of interference, including misinterpretations of lexical units, inappropriate synonym and antonym selection, and contextual errors in phrase construction. By addressing these challenges, the article aims to deepen the understanding of linguistic interference and offer insights for improving second-language vocabulary acquisition through a nuanced approach to semantic and structural distinctions.

Index Terms:

Intra-Linguistic Interference, Inter-Linguistic Interference, Macrostructural Levels, Microstructural Levels, Target Language, Lexical Interference

Data-Driven Improvement of Mathematics Competencies in Post-Pandemic Colombia: Evidence from SABER 11 Results and Stakeholder Perceptions (2021–2024)

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Abstract:

The study investigates how data management practices can support the improvement of mathematics competencies among Colombian secondary students in the post pandemic period, focusing on evidence from SABER 11 examinations between 2021 and 2024. Using a qualitative, descriptive–interpretive design, the research combines open ended surveys with documentary analysis of official ICES reports to identify trends, achievement gaps, influencing factors, and learning difficulties in mathematics across 18 urban and rural schools from multiple regions. The sample includes 1,125 participants (students in grades 10 and 11, university students, and mathematics teachers), allowing triangulation of perceptions with standardized test results. Data were organized through iterative categorization of responses and scores into thematic clusters related to performance levels, socio economic conditions, access to digital resources, and pedagogical practices. Results reveal persistent and, in some cases, widening gaps in mathematical performance between rural and urban schools, as well as between students from different socio economic strata, exacerbated by unequal connectivity, limited family support, and heterogeneous institutional responses during remote learning. Teachers and students report difficulties in consolidating fundamental concepts, problem solving skills, and mathematical reasoning, which align with patterns observed in SABER 11 achievement distributions. The study concludes that systematic use of assessment data, combined with context sensitive qualitative evidence, is essential to inform pedagogical and policy decisions aimed at reducing learning gaps, strengthening data literacy among school leaders and teachers, and designing targeted interventions to enhance mathematics achievement in post pandemic Colombia.

Index Terms:

Mathematics Competencies; Data-Driven Decision Making; Educational Assessment; Learning Gaps; Post-Pandemic Education

Situation of the Development of 21st-Century Skills in University Students from the Peruvian Amazon

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Abstract:

This study comprises a descriptive analysis of the knowledge developed in relation to 21st-century skills in public educational institutions in the city of Iquitos, located in the Peruvian Amazon. Within these educational activities, programming has been prioritized. Twenty-first-century skills are understood as a set of transversal competencies, knowledge, and abilities that are essential for achieving success in the current historical and social context.

This research places particular emphasis on the STEAM approach, which prioritizes the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. Additionally, it highlights transversal components such as critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration (commonly referred to as the “4 Cs”), as well as leadership, productivity, and social skills. Furthermore, the analysis focuses on the assessment of capacities developed in relation to the use of emerging technologies, including software development, graphic and 3D design, and robotics.

The findings of this study reveal a limited development of 21st-century skills within the educational institutions of Iquitos. This situation was analyzed from two perspectives. The first concerns the development of STEAM-related and transversal skills, where it was observed that the content and capacity development maintain a predominantly traditional orientation. The second perspective examines the development of competencies in the use of emerging technologies. In this regard, none of the participating educational institutions possess computer laboratories, specialized teaching staff, or curricular content that promotes the use of such technologies.

Index Terms:

21st-Century Skills, STEAM Education, Emerging Technologies, Higher Education, Peruvian Amazon

An Ensemble-Integrated Deep Learning Framework for Imbalance Quality Classification for Aquaculture

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Abstract:

Monitoring water quality is really important for making sure that aquaculture is sustainable. Water can change quickly. This can affect the health of aquatic system and how they will work. Due to the recent application of machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) algorithms for monitoring water quality, only a single model has been used in most current research, and class imbalances in the data collected have largely not been addressed.

The study introduces an ensemble integrated deep learning framework for improved classification of underrepresented water quality classification. The ensemble table utilizes water quality parameter like pH, dissolve oxygen, temperature, electric conductivity, salinity, turbidity, ammonia and nitrite to classify water condition into, excellent, good and poor according to aquaculture guidelines.

In order to properly address the imbalance classes, the applied SMOTE and ADASYN resampling techniques are applied only to the training data to prevent data leakage from impacting the training. The framework created an ensemble model of base learners (LightGBM, XGBoost, Extra Trees) and a Deep Neural Network using focal loss for the enhancement of recognition of the minority class. A meta model of logistic regression is utilized to achieve the stacking of multiple base learners.

The result from the five-fold cross-validation, and calculating the performance metric values of the F1-Score of 0.91, recall of 0.89 and PR-AUC of 0.91 indicate that the framework implemented in this study provides better outcomes than the base learners individually. The improvement in recall for the minority class, as well as the overall robustness are statistically significant

The framework can be used as a decision support for the early identification of poor water quality, thereby promoting sustainable aquaculture and being aligned with Sustainable Development Goals SDG 6 (Clean Water) and SDG 14 (Life Below Water).

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

Integrated Marketing Communication as a Digital Music Distribution Strategy: A Case Study of TuneCore Indonesia

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Abstract:

This study examines the implementation of Integrated Marketing Communication (IMC) in the digital music distribution ecosystem through a case study of TuneCore Indonesia. As a digital music aggregator in an emerging creative economy, TuneCore relies on coordinated communication to facilitate independent musician adoption of its distribution services. Using a qualitative case study approach, data were collected through in-depth interviews with key informants, communication material analysis, and observation of digital channels. The findings show that TuneCore Indonesia employs a digital-first modular IMC structure in which social media, educational events, public relations, and community engagement are aligned to move musicians from awareness to informed adoption. Despite a lean team structure, communication reach is extended through collaborations with music communities, campuses, media partners, and creative networks. Observability and trialability, derived from Diffusion of Innovations theory, emerge as key mechanisms that clarify complex aspects of digital distribution. The study proposes the Lean Aggregator IMC Framework to explain how resource-constrained digital platforms coordinate multi-channel communication effectively and demonstrates how such practices function as informal learning processes that contribute to digital distribution literacy within Indonesia's independent music ecosystem.

Index Terms:

Integrated Marketing Communication, Digital Music Distribution, Music Aggregator, Strategy Design, Indonesia

Ecophilosophical Education by The Seaweed Women in Lembongan Island

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Abstract:

Lembongan island is among the smallest and farthest islands in Indonesia that administratively belongs to Bali province. An island in nature, Lembongan people had always been familiar with the coastal way of life including fishing and seaweed cultivation. Seaweed production from this island is among the finest in the country. Nevertheless, the rapid tourism development in Bali has impacted Lembongan in a way that its people do not longer economically rely solely on seaweed cultivation, hence it has been challenged significantly. As the Covid-19 pandemic hit countries globally in 2019, Lembongan people realized that the seaweed farming could not be totally forgotten. Since 2004, a solid group of 30 male inhabitants in Lembongan village has operated a seaweed cultivation organization. Interestingly, each single member is accompanied by his wife, whom in this research are referred to as seaweed women. The purpose of this research was to analyze how seaweed women in the island contribute ecophilosophically to the education of marine protection to their female fellows and the people visiting the islands. Research was conducted qualitatively and data was collected through observation, interviews, and literary studies. The subjects of this study were 33 seaweed women in Lembongan island. The results of the study indicated how this seaweed women contributed ecophilosophically in ways to protect the coastal living aspects of the island based on *Tri Hita Karana* philosophy. The findings confirm that, apart from being rigorously challenged by globalization, the seaweed women managed to maintain a balance and an integrated interrelationship between the islanders and the Spirit, among themselves, the islanders with the planet.

Index Terms:

Education, Ecophilosophy, Seaweed, Women, *Tri Hita Karana*

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

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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

Innovations and Advanced Foreign Experiences in Teaching Construction Drawings in the Education System

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Abstract:

The article briefly examines the state of teaching drawing in secondary schools of the country on the example of construction drawing and the level of its compliance with modern requirements. The teaching of construction drawing in foreign countries was analyzed. It was also studied and analyzed the innovations in the teaching of construction drawing and important aspects of advanced foreign experience, innovative approaches to the educational process in them. The results of the analysis show that the science program includes the introduction of students to the professions of architects and builders through the study of construction drawings (vocational work) and teaching them to read simple construction drawings, the effective use of time in graphic exercises and assignments. Tasks designed to develop students' creative abilities using graphic tools are described.

Index Terms:

Scale, Facade, Plan, Shear, Master Plan, Scheme, Conditional Image, Graphics, Interior, Clear Image, Sketch, Layout, Isometry, Dimetry, Information, Innovative Technology

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

Development of Ambidextrous Managers through Bilingual Education in Project Management: Integration of Language Learning, Global Competence, and Strategic Flexibility

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Abstract:

The development of ambidextrous managers represents a strategic challenge for higher education institutions committed to preparing leaders who can operate effectively in global, complex, and dynamic environments. This article introduces the Bilingual Ambidexterity in Project Management Education (BAPME) model, which integrates bilingual instruction, cognitive flexibility, and managerial education as essential components of professional growth. Drawing on a systematic conceptual and documentary review, the study explores how bilingual education—particularly through English-Medium Instruction (EMI)—enhances critical thinking, adaptability, and cultural intelligence, which are core elements of managerial ambidexterity. The proposed model suggests that language learning, beyond its communicative dimension, functions as a metacognitive process that strengthens the ability of managers to alternate between strategic exploration and operational implementation. The paper concludes with pedagogical, curricular, and institutional implications aimed at transforming project management education into a genuinely global and bilingual paradigm.

Index Terms:

Bilingual Education; Managerial Ambidexterity; Cultural Intelligence; Project Management; EMI; Global Leadership Development

GEO TIME Interactive Learning by PARAM.ED Model: Enhancing Achievement and Analytical Thinking on Geographic Coordinates and the World Time System

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Abstract:

This study presents the development and effectiveness of the GEO TIME Interactive Learning innovation using the PARAM.ED Model to enhance Grade 7 students' understanding of geographic coordinates and the world time system. The innovation integrates interactive applications, 3D simulations, digital maps, learning games, and multimedia tools aligned with the seven-step PARAM.ED instructional sequence—Primary Knowledge, Analysis, Renovation, Acting, Measure, Evaluation, and Development. The research employed a Research and Development (R&D) design with a sample of 38 Grade 7 students selected through cluster random sampling. Research instruments included the innovation package, learning plans, an achievement test, an analytical thinking test, and a satisfaction questionnaire. Data were analyzed using mean, standard deviation, and dependent t-test. The results revealed that the innovation achieved very high quality as evaluated by experts and demonstrated an efficiency score of 82.67/83.50, exceeding the 80/80 benchmark. Students' post-learning achievement was significantly higher than their pre-learning scores at the .01 level. Analytical thinking skills were at a good level, while overall student satisfaction was at the highest level. The findings indicate that the GEO TIME innovation effectively enhances geographic understanding, promotes higher-order thinking, and increases learner engagement through interactive digital tools. The model shows strong potential for broader implementation in 21st-century geography education.

Index Terms:

Geo-Time Interactive Learning, PARAM.ED Model, Geographic Coordinates, World Time System, Analytical Thinking Skills

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

Perception of STEAM among University Students in the Professionalization Project of Loreto, Peru

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Abstract:

This document presents a descriptive study on the perception and knowledge of the STEAM approach among students in the teacher professionalization program at the Faculty of Education and Humanities (FCEH) of the National University of the Peruvian Amazon (UNAP). The professionalization program is an initiative that supports university degrees for non-professional education sector personnel who mainly work in the rural sector of the department of Loreto in Peru. Over the last two decades, according to data from the Regional Competitiveness Index (INCORE), the Loreto region in Peru ranks last in the area of education. This is due to various factors, including a lack of teacher training, discontinuous educational services, scarce educational materials, and poor equipment (more than 90% of the rural sector does not even have access to electricity or sewage services). Internationally, the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) approach is being promoted. This is a pedagogical method that integrates or articulates the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics in the interaction between teaching and learning. However, teachers and staff in the education sector are unfamiliar with the STEAM approach (how to implement it and even its conceptual aspects). The STEAM approach is little known among teachers who are students in the professionalization program at UNAP in Loreto, Peru. In addition, there is a need for the National University of the Peruvian Amazon to improve or increase the content related to the STEAM approach in the professionalization program.

Index Terms:

STEAM Approach, Educational Perception, Teacher Professionalization, Educational Service, Loreto Education

Analysis of Airline Service Quality using AIRQUAL Integrated with Sustainability and Passenger Satisfaction at Garuda Indonesia

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Abstract:

The airline industry faces fierce competition and ever-increasing passenger expectations, requiring airlines to continuously improve service quality by integrating sustainability principles. This study aims to analyze the service quality and passenger satisfaction of Garuda Indonesia using the AIRQUAL framework integrated with sustainability, combined with Important-Performance Analysis (IPA). A quantitative survey was conducted involving 385 Garuda Indonesia passengers selected through purposive sampling. Data was collected using a valid and reliable questionnaire to measure passenger expectations and perceptions in the five dimensions of AIRQUAL, namely airline facilities, terminal facilities, personnel, empathy, and image, which were integrated with the attributes of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This analysis includes descriptive statistics, gap analysis, IPA matrix mapping, and customer satisfaction evaluation. The results of this study indicate that overall passenger satisfaction is categorized as satisfied, with an average score of 4.035 out of 5.00. However, the gap analysis shows a negative gap value of -0.12. This value indicates that service performance has not fully met passenger expectations. The IPA results identified the airline's physical aspects and terminal physical aspects as the main priorities for improvement in Quadrant I, which relates to the quality of aircraft physical facilities, safety equipment, and terminal facility comfort. Meanwhile, empathy is in Quadrant II, indicating that performance that has met passenger expectations must be maintained, while the personnel and image dimensions show good performance and need to be maintained consistently.

Index Terms:

Service Quality, AIRQUAL, Sustainable Development Goals, Customer Satisfaction, Importance-Performance Analysis, Garuda Indonesia

Analyzing Institutional Clinic Visit Patterns for Data-Driven Medicine Procurement Decisions

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Abstract:

This study addressed the inefficiencies of traditional, frequency-based medicine inventory management at Isabela State University – Cauayan Campus by developing a comprehensive data-driven procurement framework. Following the structured Knowledge Discovery in Databases (KDD) methodology, 2,493 manual clinic records from the 2023 academic year were meticulously standardized and analyzed. A K-Means clustering algorithm was implemented via Python, utilizing the Elbow Method to determine an optimal $k = 3$ cluster model for pharmaceutical demand segmentation. Descriptive analytics revealed significant seasonal consumption peaks specifically during the months of January and August. Furthermore, a demographic disparity was identified, with faculty and staff exhibiting a 37% higher medication demand intensity per visit compared to the student population. The resulting framework, validated through extensive stakeholder consultation, confirms that an algorithmic, cluster-based approach effectively mitigates stock-out risks and improves inventory accuracy. Transitioning from reactive manual tracking to proactive machine learning optimizes institutional resource allocation and ensures consistent pharmaceutical availability for the university community.

Beyond the Metaverse: Understanding Customer Purchase Intention in Real-World AR Retail Platforms (Lenskart)

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Abstract:

The environment of contemporary retail has been redefined by the swift development of immersive technologies, which, in comparison with fully immersive virtual reality (VR), have seen little research on augmented reality (AR) technology. AR allows the seamless integration of the digital with the physical aspect of shopping and consumer decision-making in visually intensive product categories like eyewear, cosmetics, and fashion, where physical trial is vital. The conceptual framework of the study is the Stimulus–Organism–Response (SOR) model, used to investigate consumer purchase intention in a real-world context. Here, the AR-enabled retail experience, through Lenskart's virtual try-on feature, acts as external stimuli influencing consumers' internal psychological responses—flow experience and perceived personalisation—to produce a behavioural response in the form of purchase intention. A theoretical and analytical shift in research scope contributes to better coverage of immersive commerce literature, explaining how AR-generated experiential elements enhance consumer engagement, build trust, and encourage purchase decisions within real retail environments. Over the last ten years, the retail industry has undergone radical change due to digital innovation, greater internet connectivity, and evolving consumer behaviour. Traditional retail, based on in-store experiences, has shifted to omnichannel models, while modern consumers still demand engaging, interactive, and personalized shopping experiences.

Index Terms:

Augmented Reality, Purchase Intention, Virtual Try-On, Lenskart, Immersive Retail, Consumer Behaviour, Flow Experience, Trust, Convenience Orientation

The Influence of Cultural Heritage Ornament Transformation on the Congregation's Visual Experience–A Case Study of the Grand Mosque of Surakarta

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Abstract:

Surakarta Grand Mosque is a cultural heritage building, containing a visual and spatial system consciously designed by its predecessors during its time. The division between the veranda and the main room is formed through the spatial configuration and the visual elements of the doors and ornaments. Documentation from the Pakubuwono X era shows the presence of ornaments on the wall separating the main room and the veranda, which are no longer found today. Changes in form and visuals indicate that the transformation of ornaments has the potential to influence the mosque's spatial hierarchy system. Ornaments in the Mataram Kingdom era were placed as part of a sacred marker system. They functioned to direct attention, create atmosphere, and emphasize the differences in spatial levels. This placement reflects a visual knowledge system integrated with the community's religious practices. The loss of elements can change the visual structure that shapes the spatial experience. This condition is important to study so that the role of ornaments in forming sacred hierarchies can be scientifically understood. This study analyzes the influence of the transformation of cultural heritage ornaments on the spatial hierarchy based on the visual experience of the congregation at the Surakarta Grand Mosque. The research focuses on identifying the form of transformation, analyzing changes in the visual configuration of the spatial threshold, and examining its impact on the visual experience of the transition to the main room. The research method uses a qualitative approach with visual-spatial analysis and a study of the congregation's visual experience. The research stages included a preliminary study, collection of historical photo archives and documents, documentation of existing conditions, visual comparative analysis between old and current configurations, and focused interviews regarding visual experiences. The final stage involved synthesizing the analysis and formulating a conceptual model of the influence of ornamental transformation on the spatial hierarchy system. The research outputs were a thesis draft approved by the supervisor and one Scopus-indexed scientific article. The urgency of this research lies in the need for scientific documentation of changes in visual elements in cultural heritage buildings. The results are expected to serve as a reference for mosque managers and the Surakarta City government in preserving remaining ornamental elements. This research can serve as a valid learning resource for students, researchers, and the public. The resulting visual documentation has the potential to be developed into a digital representation as a medium for education and visual memory preservation. The Technology Readiness Level (TRL) is at Level 2–3 because the research is in the concept formulation and initial validation stages of the conceptual model. This research supports SDGs 4 by providing research-based learning resources for cultural heritage, SDG 11 by contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage and urban identity, and SDG 17 through collaboration between universities, mosque managers, and local governments.

Index Terms:

Cultural Heritage, Surakarta Grand Mosque, Visual Experience, Ornamental Transformation

Optimizing the Visual Potential of Pawukon through Reconstruction of the Exhibition Setting for the Indonesian Culture Sustainability

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Abstract:

Pawukon, as a traditional Javanese calendar system, is a visual and cosmological knowledge construction that represents the relationship between humans, time, and nature in the Nusantara tradition. The Wuku structure, symbolic illustrations, script typography, and cyclical calendar composition form a complex and meaningful visual system that has excellent potential to be developed as an aesthetic experience in the context of museum exhibitions. This potential has not been fully actualized in exhibition practices, especially in the Pawukon exhibition space at the Radya Pustaka Museum, which is still dominated by an informative approach based on text and conventional displays. This real condition shows that the construction of curatorial narratives, visual dramaturgy, and presentation strategies has not optimized the visual power of Pawukon as a medium for learning and interpretative experiences for visitors. This study aims to formulate a reconstruction model for Pawukon exhibitions that optimizes visual potential by strengthening curatorial strategies and aesthetic experiences to support the sustainability of Nusantara culture. A comparative study was conducted in the Pawukon exhibition space at the Radya Pustaka Museum, as the central location, and at the Sonobudoyo Museum, as a comparison object, to identify the curatorial approach, visual narrative structure, display composition, and visitor interaction patterns with the artifacts. The research method used a research and development approach that began with a literature study and field observation to map the visual, curatorial, and spatial conditions, followed by a comparative study as the basis for formulating indicators for the reconstruction of the exhibition layout including the design of the curatorial narrative, information hierarchy, visual composition, object and space relations, artistic lighting, and the possibility of interactive media integration. The design stage produced a conceptual design and a prototype of the exhibition layout in the form of a simulation or mock-up that serves as a reconstruction model, optimized to maximize the visual potential of Pawukon. Limited trials were conducted with students and visitors to measure the quality of the aesthetic experience, the level of interpretive involvement, and the increase in cultural understanding, and the evaluation results served as the basis for refining the model to develop an applicable, replicable exhibition layout formula. The targeted outputs are scientific articles in accredited national or international journals, a validated conceptual model of the reconstruction of the Pawukon exhibition layout, and a prototype of the exhibition layout design based on aesthetic experience. This research contributes to achieving SDG 4 on quality education by strengthening museum-based cultural literacy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities through cultural heritage preservation, and SDG 17 on partnerships to achieve goals through strategic collaboration between universities and museum institutions to develop innovative and sustainable exhibition layout models.

Index Terms:

Cultural Sustainability, Curatorial, Pawukon, Aesthetic Experience, Exhibition Reconstruction

Entrepreneurial Strategies for the Commercial Revitalization of Majapahit Batik in the Digital Era

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Abstract:

The Majapahit Batik, inspired by the visual and philosophical legacy of the Majapahit Kingdom, represents an important part of Indonesia's cultural heritage. However, in the face of rapid digital transformation and global market competition, this traditional craft faces challenges in maintaining both its cultural authenticity and commercial relevance. This study aims to identify and analyze entrepreneurial strategies that drive the commercial revitalization of Majapahit Batik in the digital era. Using a qualitative descriptive approach through case studies in Mojokerto and Trowulan, data were collected via in-depth interviews with artisans, designers, and creative entrepreneurs, as well as document analysis of digital marketing practices. The findings reveal that successful revitalization strategies are driven by three key factors: (1) product innovation that blends traditional motifs with contemporary design aesthetics; (2) digital transformation through social media branding, e-commerce platforms, and virtual exhibitions; and (3) cultural storytelling that reinforces brand authenticity and emotional connection with consumers. Moreover, the synergy between cultural values and entrepreneurial creativity emerges as a sustainable model for heritage-based industries. This study contributes to the literature on heritage entrepreneurship and provides practical insights for developing competitive and culturally grounded creative businesses in Indonesia's digital economy.

Index Terms:

Cultural Revitalization; Majapahit Batik; Digital Transformation; Creative Economy; Heritage-Based Product

Navigating Culture and Faith: Teachers' Cultural and Religious Backgrounds and the Delivery of Comprehensive Sexuality Education to Grade 6 Students in a Philippine Public School

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Abstract:

Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is a mandated component of the Philippine basic education curriculum, yet its implementation is constrained by dominant cultural and religious norms, particularly in elementary schools. This study examined how teachers' cultural and religious backgrounds shape the delivery of CSE, and how students perceive the CSE they receive, at Alabang Elementary School. Using a convergent parallel mixed-methods design, qualitative data were gathered through structured interviews with six teachers who had at least one year of experience teaching CSE-related content, while quantitative data were collected from thirty Grade 6 students using an 18-item Likert-scale survey. Thematic analysis revealed limited formal CSE training, the need to manage diverse and sometimes emotionally charged student reactions, and structural and curricular constraints under the MATATAG curriculum. Teachers reported negotiating their conservative upbringings by adapting language and content to break generational taboos while remaining sensitive to cultural and religious expectations. Descriptive statistics showed that students generally perceived CSE lessons as clear, respectful, and useful, though comfort in asking questions and views on age-appropriateness were more varied. Integrated findings highlight teachers as cultural mediators and underscore the need for sustained CSE-focused training and clearer curricular guidance.

Sludge Content as Digital Pedagogy: A Mixed-Methods Study of Attention Span and Learning Outcomes Among Generation Alpha Students

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Abstract:

This explanatory sequential mixed-methods study examines the effects of sludge content-TikTok-native multimedia combining narrated instructions with unrelated gameplay visuals-on Grade 7 Generation Alpha students' attention span and learning outcomes. The intervention deliberately violates Mayer's coherence principle to address declining attention spans among digital-native learners. Using a quasi-experimental design with 61 respondents, the study employed the Attention Control Scale ($\alpha=.90$), formative assessments, observational checklists, and semi-structured interviews with 18 students and 1 teacher. Paired t-tests revealed significant improvements in attention focus ($t_{60}=2.21, p=.031, d=0.28$) and overall attention control ($t_{60}=-3.48, p=.001, d=-0.45$), with reduced off-task behaviors. However, formative assessment scores showed no significant difference between traditional and sludge-content instruction ($t_{60}=0.38, p=.707$). Thematic analysis indicated increased cognitive load but enhanced self-regulation strategies. Findings suggest sludge content serves as a double-edged pedagogical tool requiring careful balance between engagement and cognitive demand.

Helmet and Triple Ride Detection Using CNN and YOLO

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Abstract:

Developing countries have always relied on motorcycles as their primary mode of transportation, but unfortunately, the number of motorcycle accidents has been on the rise in recent years. One of the leading causes of fatalities in these accidents is the lack of helmet usage by motorcyclists. To ensure that motorcyclists wear helmets, traditional methods include manual monitoring by traffic police at intersections or the use of CCTV footage to identify those not wearing a helmet. However, these methods require significant human effort and intervention. This system proposes an automated approach to identify non-helmeted motorcyclists and retrieve their license plate information from CCTV footage. The system first differentiates moving objects as motorcycles or non-motorcycles. For classified motorcyclists, the system identifies whether they are wearing helmets or not. If the motorcyclist is not wearing a helmet, the system extracts the license plate number using an OCR algorithm. We used CNN and YOLO Algorithm to identify the no helmet condition and triple ride condition. Automatic detection of safety helmet wearing is significant in ensuring safe production. However, the accuracy of safety helmet detection can be challenged by various factors, such as complex environments, poor lighting conditions and small-sized targets. This paper presents a novel and efficient deep learning framework named High-Resolution You Only Look Once (HR-YOLO) for safety helmet wearing detection. The proposed framework synthesizes safety helmet wearing information from the features of helmet objects and human pose. HR-YOLO can use features from two branches to make the bounding box of suppression predictions more accurate for small targets.

Index Terms:

Safety Helmet, Convolutional Neural Network, YOLO, Signal Processing

Robust Blind Equalization Algorithm using CNN

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Abstract:

Blind equalization is a pivotal technique in signal processing, utilized to recover transmitted signals distorted during transmission without requiring prior knowledge of the channel characteristics. This research proposes a novel convolutional neural network (CNN)-based algorithm designed to address the challenges of traditional methods, such as susceptibility to noise and non-linearity in dynamic communication environments. The proposed CNN architecture leverages its hierarchical feature extraction capabilities to identify and mitigate distortions in received signals. It processes high-dimensional signal data by employing convolutional layers for spatial pattern recognition, pooling layers to reduce dimensionality, and fully connected layers for prediction and reconstruction. This integration not only enhances the algorithm's ability to autonomously learn features but also ensures robustness and adaptability across varying signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) conditions. Experimental results showcase significant advancements in equalization quality, achieving high reconstruction accuracy. This project explores signal equalization using deep learning techniques, specifically Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), to enhance the performance of railway communication signals. By comparing traditional equalization techniques with CNN-based approaches, this study demonstrates significant improvements in Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) and Bit Error Rate (BER).

Index Terms:

Convolutional Neural Networks, Blind Equalization, Signal Processing, Adaptive Reconstruction

Rethinking Knowledge Hierarchies: NEP 2020 and the Project of Decolonisation in India

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Abstract:

The decolonisation movement in education is advanced by India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which represents revolutionary turn toward reconsidering ingrained knowledge hierarchies. NEP 2020 challenges the predominance of Western-centric curricula that have historically excluded local epistemologies by emphasizing indigenous knowledge systems, multilingualism, and holistic learning in India's sociocultural fabric. This study looks at the policy's potential for a horizontal platform of learning, promoting the diverse Indian knowledge traditions aimed at revitalizing grassroots pedagogies. From a sociological perspective, NEP 2020 reimagines education as a means of achieving social justice by integrating traditional practices with vocational skills to strengthen marginalized communities and reconcile urban-rural divisions. In order to undermine hierarchical structures that sustain inequality, it promotes interdisciplinary approaches that prioritize gender-inclusive spaces, community-based learning, and regional languages. This promotes collective identity and sustainable development, which is consistent with India's pluralistic society. NEP 2020 paves the way for a decolonized educational environment that empowers future generations by emphasizing lived experiences and cultural sovereignty.

Index Terms:

NEP 2020, Decolonization, Knowledge Hierarchies, Indigenous, Multidisciplinary Learning, Sociocultural Equity

Revitalizing Myanmar's Vernacular Home: Blending Cultural Heritage with Sustainable and Modern Living at Sagaing, Myanmar

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Abstract:

This study examines the evolution of Myanmar's vernacular architecture amid increasing threats like flooding and seismic activity. As rural regions modernize, poorly constructed contemporary buildings are replacing traditional timber dwellings, often disregarding climate performance and geological safety. Through a thirty-year longitudinal autoethnographic case study of the author's family residence (House 1.0 to 4.0), this research identifies critical "maladaptations," such as the adverse thermal "oven effect" caused by uninsulated zinc roofing.

To address the "Structural Paradox"—where the Delta requires flood-resistant rigidity while Sagaing needs seismic flexibility—the study proposes a hybrid design model for Mindan Village, Sagaing. Key innovations include a split-level layout for modern sanitation, a double-roof system for passive cooling, and a composite column system with slotted steel connections acting as a seismic fuse. This research demonstrates that by adapting indigenous knowledge from the Ayeyarwady Delta into solutions for Sagaing, it is possible to construct a resilient architectural model that protects Myanmar's cultural identity while enhancing multi-hazard safety.

Index Terms:

Vernacular Architecture, Sagaing Fault, Multi-Hazard Resilience, Autoethnography, Seismic Fuse, Sustainable Hybridization

Gender Identity, Selfhood, and Morality in the Works of Iris Murdoch

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Abstract:

This article examines the representation of gender identity in Iris Murdoch's fiction, focusing on how her works challenge conventional gender roles and interrogate the social and moral implications of gendered experience. Murdoch's novels provide a rich ground for exploring characters who resist binary classifications and traditional expectations, presenting individuals in search of self-discovery and authenticity. Her female characters, in particular, are portrayed as intellectually independent, emotionally complex, and actively engaged in shaping their own lives. By depicting women who defy passive stereotypes and assert their agency, Murdoch critiques patriarchal structures and highlights the transformative potential of female autonomy and solidarity. Through close readings of *The Bell* and *The Black Prince*, the article explores contrasting representations of gender dynamics, power relations, and selfhood. In *The Bell*, Dora Greenfield's journey from subordination toward independence exposes the constraints of patriarchal institutions and underscores the significance of women's bonds in resisting male-dominated environments. At the same time, Murdoch destabilizes traditional masculinity through characters such as Paul Greenfield and Michael Meade, whose emotional insecurity challenges normative ideals of male authority. The novel further engages with gender and sexuality through Toby Gash, whose struggle with heteronormative expectations reflects broader issues of identity formation. In *The Black Prince*, Murdoch investigates gendered power imbalances by depicting Bradley Pearson's manipulation and objectification of the women in his life, critiquing the commodification and emotional exploitation embedded in patriarchal norms. Across her works, Murdoch intertwines questions of gender, ethics, and personal integrity, illustrating how gender profoundly shapes moral choices, relationships, and self-perception. Ultimately, her fiction invites readers to reconsider the complexity of gender identities and contributes meaningfully to feminist literary discourse.

Index Terms:

Gender Identity, Feminist Discourse, Female Agency, Masculinity, Literary Text

I. INTRODUCTION

In contemporary literary studies, the exploration of gender identity has emerged as a central concern for understanding how writers engage with social norms, power dynamics, and the development of personal freedom. Iris Murdoch, one of the most influential British novelists of the twentieth century, offers a nuanced and philosophically rich perspective on gender through her complex characters, intricate interpersonal relationships, and ethical explorations. Her works frequently challenge conventional expectations associated with femininity and masculinity, presenting individuals who struggle to define themselves both within and beyond socially constructed gender roles. Murdoch's narratives do not merely reflect the social status of women and men; they interrogate the moral, psychological, and existential consequences of living within a gendered society.

Murdoch's sustained interest in morality, freedom, and human psychology provides a compelling framework for examining how gender shapes personal identity, relational ethics, and moral decision-making. Her novels depict women who resist passive roles, assert intellectual and emotional autonomy, and navigate patriarchal constraints, while male characters often reveal vulnerabilities and insecurities that destabilize dominant stereotypes of masculinity. Through these portrayals, Murdoch critiques the limitations of rigid binary gender structures, emphasizing the transformative potential of individual agency and ethical self-consciousness. Murdoch's philosophical grounding in existentialism and moral realism allows her to probe how characters' gendered experiences intersect with broader questions of selfhood, love, and responsibility.

This research aims to explore Murdoch's contribution to discussions of gender identity by analyzing key novels such as *The Bell* and *The Black Prince*. By investigating how Murdoch intertwines gender with themes of ethics, sexuality, selfhood, and moral development, the study illuminates her broader critique of societal expectations and her influence on feminist literary discourse. Additionally, this study contextualizes Murdoch within post-war British literature, highlighting how the existentialist concerns and social transformations of the twentieth century informed her literary exploration of gender, freedom, and personal integrity.

The development of feminist literary theory, reflecting historical concerns and author-centered approaches, can be designated as *Feminist Literary History*. The primary objective of this stage was to establish a corpus of texts by non-male authors, evaluated according to new critical standards. In the mid-1970s, feminist literary critics drew attention to women writers who had traditionally been marginalized or neglected in the English literary sphere, focusing on an independent female literary tradition and promoting the creation of a new literary history (Klarer 94). By the late 1970s, new concepts emerging from the term "feminism," rather than "women's studies," began to appear, including "feminist research" and the "feminist perspective in science." This evolution reflected the logical development of research frameworks that arose from a feminist-informed reflection on and understanding of social reality.

Following French feminists such as E. Cixous (1937) and J. Kristeva (1941), early 1980s feminist literary criticism focused on textual and stylistic representations. Recognizing that gender differences manifest in writing style, narrative structure, content, and plot, feminist literary criticism naturally intersected with areas traditionally explored by text-oriented formalist and structuralist schools. This movement regards female anatomy, narrative construction, plot, content, and logic as integral to what is termed a *feminine* writing style, encapsulated in the French concept *écriture féminine* (Klarer 95).

By the 1980s, the questions emerging from women's studies had developed into significant theoretical concerns. Scholars made considerable contributions to research, particularly in studies of human nature and subjectivity. For example, the concept of "sex" became a critical analytical tool. Distinctions between sex, as a biologically determined set of characteristics, and gender, as a socially constructed set of traits, were rigorously examined. This

conceptual differentiation marked a terminological shift within women's studies, with the neutrality and analytical precision of the term *gender* becoming a central concern.

Subsequently, male scholars increasingly engaged in gender research, linking masculinity to broader gender studies. Literary attention to male and female homosexuality also intensified, reflecting the recognition that gender studies encompass the experiences of both sexes. M. Klarer observed that, during this phase, feminist movements acknowledged the significance of men within literary and feminist frameworks. Consequently, this stage represented a critical paradigm shift, transitioning from feminist theory to comprehensive gender theory (Klarer 95). Gender theory expanded its scope to examine not only women but also interactions between men and women, encompassing both femininity and masculinity, and, in contemporary scholarship, addressing sexual diversity and non-normative gender identities.

The mid-twentieth century, marked by the aftermath of World War II, the rise of existentialist thought, and the emergence of second-wave feminism, created fertile ground for literary examinations of gender identity, selfhood, and female agency. Iris Murdoch, Jean Rhys, and Doris Lessing, although differing in style, approach, and context, collectively offer complementary insights into these issues. Murdoch's novels, informed by existentialist philosophy and moral realism, explore ethical and relational dimensions of gender, interrogating how individuals navigate moral and emotional dilemmas. Rhys, in contrast, foregrounds postcolonial and racialized contexts, examining the tensions of identity, marginalization, and cultural displacement. Lessing, aligned with second-wave feminism, emphasizes societal, political, and economic constraints on women, portraying the tensions between structural pressures and personal agency (Murdoch, Rhys, Lessing)

In Murdoch's *The Bell* (2001), for example, the protagonist Dora Greenfield negotiates personal freedom within a patriarchal religious institution, challenging expectations of female passivity and highlighting the transformative potential of solidarity among women (Murdoch 2001, 132). Similarly, in *The Black Prince* (2003), Bradley Pearson's manipulative relationships with women expose the pervasive objectification and power imbalances that define traditional masculine roles (Murdoch 2003, 127). In both novels, Murdoch foregrounds the ethical responsibilities of her characters, demonstrating the inseparability of gender identity from broader moral and existential questions.

Comparatively, Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966) reimagines the marginalized figure of Bertha Rochester from Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, exploring the interplay of colonial power, race, and gender in shaping identity (Rhys 59). Rhys portrays Antoinette as socially and racially ambivalent, negotiating pressures imposed by patriarchal and colonial hierarchies, while Murdoch's characters operate primarily within moral and relational ethical frameworks. Lessing, in works such as *The Golden Notebook* and *The Grass is Singing*, situates women within socio-political and economic contexts, illustrating how structural forces shape autonomy, desire, and self-realization (Lessing 573). Together, these authors demonstrate the multifaceted nature of gender identity, emphasizing the interaction between personal agency, social norms, and systemic constraints.

Moreover, the evolution from feminist to gender theory underscores the broadening of literary analysis from women-centered critiques to the examination of relational and intersectional gender dynamics. While early feminist criticism prioritized the recovery and reevaluation of women authors and protagonists, subsequent theoretical developments incorporated ethical, psychological, existential, and socio-political dimensions, allowing for a more holistic understanding of gender identity in literature. The inclusion of male perspectives, the analysis of non-normative sexualities, and the recognition of both masculinity and femininity as socially constructed phenomena reflect the maturity of the field and its capacity for interdisciplinary synthesis (Klarer, 95).

In conclusion, since the late 1960s, currents emerging from feminist literary theory have profoundly shaped literary scholarship. Early publications focused on women as protagonists, authors, or canonized figures, followed by a stage emphasizing poetic-aesthetic concerns and feminine writing styles. Contemporary literary studies, informed by gender theory, allow for a comprehensive consideration of both sexes, highlighting the interplay between ethical, psychological, and socio-cultural factors. While feminism remains foundational, current scholarship demonstrates the increasing collaboration of male and female researchers, establishing a shared interdisciplinary environment that enriches our understanding of gender identity in twentieth-century literature.

II. METHODS AND METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative literary research methodology, using close textual analysis to examine the representation of gender identity in Iris Murdoch's

selected novels. The analysis focuses on *The Bell* and *The Black Prince*, supported by secondary scholarly sources on feminist literary theory, gender studies, and Murdoch's philosophical approach to fiction. The methodology is structured around four key components: textual analysis, thematic categorization, comparative evaluation, and cross-author comparison.

a) Close Textual Analysis

Each novel is examined in detail to identify passages that reveal gendered behaviors, power dynamics, emotional conflicts, and moments of self-realization. Particular attention is paid to character development, narrative voice, and the ethical dilemmas that shape gender identity. This method allows for an in-depth exploration of how Murdoch constructs and deconstructs traditional gender roles and portrays the negotiation of morality and selfhood.

b) Thematic Categorization

Extracted textual evidence is organized into thematic clusters such as female agency, patriarchal structures, male vulnerability, and sexual identity. These themes clarify how Murdoch engages with gendered experiences, highlighting recurring patterns across different texts and supporting a systematic framework for analysis (O'Connor). Thematic categorization also enables the identification of relationships between characters' gendered behaviors, moral decision-making, and societal norms.

Table 1. Thematic Coding Framework

Theme	Description	Example Characters
Female Agency	Women resisting traditional roles	Dora, Lady Marsh
Patriarchy	Male-dominated institutions	Paul Greenfield, Imber Abbey
Male Insecurity	Emotional vulnerability in men	Michael Meade, Bradley Pearson
Sexual Identity	Non-normative identity exploration	Toby Gash

c) Comparative Evaluation

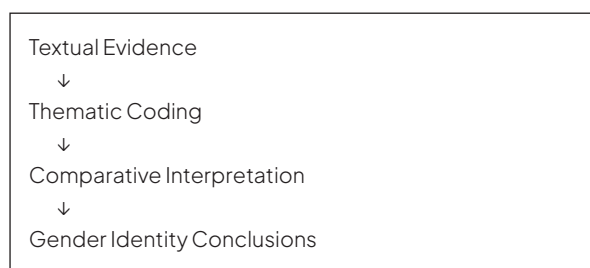
A comparative approach is employed to examine similarities and differences across Murdoch's novels, focusing on narrative strategies, character development, and ethical dilemmas. This method situates Murdoch's works in dialogue with other mid-20th-century writers such as Jean Rhys and Doris Lessing, allowing the study to highlight convergences and divergences in the depiction of gender identity, selfhood, and female agency.

Comparative evaluation provides a broader perspective, revealing how literary and philosophical contexts influence the portrayal of gender roles.

d) Cross-Textual Interpretation

By integrating textual evidence, thematic coding, and comparative evaluation, this study considers the novels both individually and collectively. Cross-textual interpretation enables a deeper understanding of Murdoch's narrative patterns, moral concerns, and ethical explorations, as well as the wider social, cultural, and philosophical forces that shape gender representation in literature.

Methodological Diagram



This combination of methods ensures a comprehensive and systematic analysis, demonstrating how Murdoch's fiction contributes to broader debates on gender and identity in modern literature.

III. DISCUSSION

Iris Murdoch's works provide rich material for exploring gender identity in English literature, as she consistently challenges traditional gender roles and societal expectations through her depiction of complex characters and their relationships. Her narratives focus on individuals who defy conventional norms of gender expression, resisting binary classifications and seeking paths to self-discovery. Murdoch's female characters are intellectual, independent, and multifaceted, with diverse desires, ambitions, and struggles. They challenge passive stereotypes of femininity and are portrayed as active participants in shaping their own destinies (Aghabayli 331). Through her exploration of romantic, familial, and social dynamics, Murdoch addresses themes of love, passion, and intimacy, emphasizing equality, mutual respect, and emotional connection.

Equally significant is Murdoch's nuanced portrayal of male characters, who often reveal emotional vulnerability,

ethical uncertainty, and psychological complexity. Her male protagonists, such as Paul Greenfield in *The Bell* and Bradley Pearson in *The Black Prince*, confront moral dilemmas and personal insecurities that destabilize conventional notions of masculinity as inherently dominant or rational. Paul struggles with controlling his domestic and institutional environment, revealing his dependency on power structures, while Bradley's manipulative relationships highlight the emotional consequences of patriarchal entitlement (Murdoch 2001, 132; 2003, 127). Additionally, characters like Toby Gash in *The Bell* and Jake Donaghue in *Under the Net* navigate societal pressures related to sexual identity and autonomy, showing that male vulnerability and non-normative experiences are integral to Murdoch's critique of gender norms.

By examining both female and male experiences, Murdoch highlights the interconnectedness of gender, morality, and personal identity. Her works portray gender as a dynamic force that shapes interactions, ethical choices, and self-perception, rather than a fixed binary category. Dora Greenfield's assertive pursuit of personal freedom within Imber Abbey, for example, illustrates how female agency confronts patriarchal structures, while Bradley Pearson's objectification of women exposes the ethical pitfalls of unchallenged masculine privilege. Murdoch's intricate characterizations demonstrate that personal growth and moral development require both women and men to critically engage with societal expectations and cultivate ethical self-awareness (Aghabayli 333). This dual focus not only broadens the literary representation of gender but also underscores Murdoch's enduring contribution to feminist and gender-based discourse in modern British literature.

Gender Identity and Literature

There are a number of shared features that connect gender issues and literary fiction, as literature both reflects societal attitudes toward gender and challenges them. Literary fiction serves as a space for exploring diverse gender identities, as well as for empowering them and creating conditions for self-expression.

Feminist theories have significantly influenced the study of gender and literature by offering new perspectives on the representation of gender roles, gender identity, and difference in literary texts. This intersection of feminist theory and literary analysis examines portrayals of gender norms in literature, encouraging readers to reconsider social structures and providing alternative ways of thinking

about both classical and contemporary works.

Feminist theories encompass a broad range of ideas and movements that seek to critique and resist societies that have historically marginalized women. These theories emerged from the need to address systemic inequalities faced by women and have evolved over time to incorporate diverse perspectives and approaches. At the core of feminist theory lies an examination of how social constructions of gender, gender identity and difference, as well as gender relations, are formed and how they, in turn, sustain gender inequality. Feminist theories aim to deconstruct these power imbalances and advocate for social, political, and economic equality. (Aghabayli 232)

During the formation of English-language gender literature and the development of women's prose, writers of the *Feminist phase* (1880–1920) played a crucial role. By challenging the social norms of their time, they laid the foundation for the subsequent stage of literary development—the *Female phase* (1920–1990)—in women's literature. Writers of the Feminist phase not only reflected the social and cultural transformations of their era but also explored themes such as the “New Woman,” marriage, economic independence, gender identity, and sexuality, critically engaging with patriarchal structures that governed society and paving the way toward greater gender equality. Consequently, the artistic representation of gender issues became one of the most prominent and dynamically developing themes in twentieth-century British literature.

The consequences of the Second World War, the rise of existentialist philosophy, and the emergence of second-wave feminism led writers such as Iris Murdoch to depict the complex social, psychological, and existential problems of their time, while also addressing issues of gender identity and female self-awareness. Despite feminist critiques of female oppression within the literary canon, the canon also contains novels that support and promote women's empowerment.

By the late 1980s, productive creativity as a “woman—author of literary texts” began to raise doubts and uncertainties. According to researcher Toril Moi, the aim of feminist literary criticism is to create a new, female-centered literary canon fundamentally different from male-dominated literature. However, following M. Foucault, the researcher notes that a new canon would not be any less repressive than the old one. Therefore, rather than creating a new canon, the primary goal should be to avoid any canon dominated by

a particular group (Moi 172). Furthermore, after Barthes' declaration of the “death of the author” in 1977, a text is regarded as an act of writing rather than the expression of an individual subject; thus, it is impossible to speak of the author's “truth,” and authorship cannot be coded strictly as female. Women authors may write masculine texts, and antifeminists may produce feminist texts. Accordingly, in feminist literary criticism, concepts such as “women's literature,” “female reader,” and “female style” refer not to the author's biological traits but to the stylistic criteria of different genders.

Thus, Barthes' thesis shifted focus from the writing of texts to their reception (the “death of the author” implied the “birth of the reader”) and proved highly productive for literary criticism. Any text can, therefore, be analyzed from a female perspective. Sexuality and sexual desire, central to female perception, are understood broadly: if traditional male thinking is based on rigid egocentrism, in women it relies more on psychological and social experience (Jerebkina 132).

By the late twentieth century, feminist literary research had made significant contributions to literary theory and culture. Works by many female authors, including secondary and forgotten figures, were rediscovered and studied not only within major world literary traditions but also across national literatures. Feminist criticism re-examined both classical female and male authors, from antiquity to modern times, offering new interpretations of the classical literary canon.

Two main directions can be identified in feminist literary criticism: Anglo-American and French. The French approach draws on Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalytic theory, as well as the works of Derrida and Barthes, while the Anglo-American approach emphasizes the relationship between texts and their extratextual context. However, given the field's breadth, this division is not exclusive. Despite differences in methodological approaches—narratological, sociological, psychological, etc.—all share the common goal of analyzing texts through a gendered lens (O'Connor).

Considering the directions of the feminist movement, the main thematic concerns can be summarized according to the stages of feminism and its focus: (1) women's position in patriarchal society, family, and marriage; (2) sexuality and sexual orientation as mechanisms shaping subjectivity; and (3) power—inequality in social groups and strategies for addressing it. Accordingly, feminist literary criticism analyzes texts through three primary categories: gender,

sexuality, and power.

English writer Iris Murdoch repeatedly emphasized in interviews that sex is connected to both power and gender, noting: "People in our lives can play two roles—either master or slave. Those who cannot be masters become slaves" (Conradi, 212). While there are other, more primitive aspects related to power, this relationship constitutes the fundamental expression of sex.

The Intersection of Gender and Morality in Murdoch's Narrative World

Although Iris Murdoch lived and created during the period when feminism was at its most flourishing, her work has somehow not become the subject of innovative research. Like Simon de Beauvoir, I. Murdoch expressed her personal feminist ideas and advocated female solidarity, while at the same time openly stating that she disagreed with stereotypical public opinion on non-traditional sexual orientation, promoting each person's freedom of choice. Deborah Johnson, noting that she is familiar with Murdoch's works and has researched them, states that the irrational aspect of male values is clearly visible in Murdoch's writings (Johnson 26). In numerous interviews, Murdoch spoke about the problems of those close to her and said: "Sex is related to the issue of power, and so is gender. People can play two kinds of roles in our lives—they are either masters or slaves. Those who cannot be masters become slaves" (Conradi 212). Despite the existence of more primitive aspects related to the issue of power, this connection is the fundamental expression of sex.

Iris Murdoch critiques societal expectations and norms related to gender, exposing the limitations and contradictions inherent in traditional gender roles. She seeks to intertwine the theme of sexuality with moral and ethical questions, exploring how gender influences moral choices, relationships, and self-perception. (Packer) Murdoch aims to address questions surrounding the interaction between gender identity, ethics, and personal integrity, examining how these elements shape individual experiences and decisions.

Iris Murdoch's novels present the process of identity formation, including how gender shapes one's sense of self and interactions with the world. Through characters grappling with issues of personality, belonging, and authenticity, she emphasizes how gender influences human experiences and identity, highlighting its impact on individual self-concept and the formation of personal identity.

Iris Murdoch's novel *The Bell* tells the story of Dora Greenfield, a woman who struggles against the limitations of traditional marriage and societal expectations. The novel is centered on the theme of female will, desire, and the quest for personal freedom within the framework of patriarchal structures. The protagonist, Dora, is the primary embodiment of women's freedom in the narrative. Although initially appearing to conform to traditional gender roles and societal norms as the wife of Paul Greenfield, the director of Imber Abbey, Dora's character evolves throughout the novel, revealing a transformative development. She begins to question the constraints of her marriage and gender role as a woman, ultimately affirming her independence and striving to pursue personal interests beyond the confines of domestic duties (Murdoch 2001, 132). Through Dora's life story, Murdoch exposes the patriarchal structures within Imber Abbey. The school, led by Paul, reflects a male-dominated environment that mirrors traditional power dynamics and gender roles. Dora's disobedience and search for freedom challenge these structures, rejecting the limitations imposed on women within such institutions. In contrast to the patriarchal setting, the author also portrays the importance of female solidarity and support, as seen in Dora's relationships with women like the independent-minded Lady Marsh and her interactions with other female characters. These relationships highlight the significance of women's bonds in navigating and resisting patriarchal norms.

Iris Murdoch also presents her views on male weakness and insecurity through characters such as Paul Greenfield and Michael Meade. Despite holding positions of authority, both men are embroiled in internal conflicts and emotional struggles, which calls into question traditional notions of male power and dominance. Through these portrayals, Murdoch destabilizes conventional masculine stereotypes and emphasizes the complexity of gender identities.

The intersections of gender and sexuality are subtly explored in the character of Toby Gash, a young man grappling with his sexual orientation. Toby's internal struggles and the societal pressures to conform to heteronormative expectations provide an opportunity for the novel to examine gender dynamics and the challenges of self-expression in a conservative environment.

The Black Prince (Murdoch 2003) is a novel that explores the inner world of the aging writer Bradley Peson, reflecting on his past relationships and artistic endeavors. Through his examination of Bradley's interactions with women, Murdoch presents ideas about power, manipulation, and

emotional dependency. The novel particularly addresses the power dynamics and emotional manipulation characteristic of relationships between men and women. The protagonist, Bradley Pearson, is a figure who exerts control over the women in his life, manipulating them to fulfill his desires and fantasies (Murdoch 2003, 127). Murdoch depicts the objectification of women through Bradley's relationships with his former lover, Christian, and his neighbor, Julian. Bradley views women as objects of desire and passion, treating them as possessions to be controlled, disregarding their autonomy in the pursuit of his own fantasies and wishes. This theme underscores broader societal issues regarding the commodification and dehumanization of women. The novel critiques the restrictive nature of gender norms and their stifling impact on personal freedom and authenticity.

In *Under the Net* (Murdoch 1982), Iris Murdoch explores questions of selfhood through the protagonist Jake Donaghue's encounters with others, including women who challenge his limited understanding of identity and relationships. Although the novel is less explicitly centered on gender than her later works, Murdoch subtly reveals how gender expectations influence personal choices and moral awareness. Female characters are depicted as independent figures whose presence complicates Jake's self-perception, pushing him to reconsider his assumptions about autonomy and responsibility. Throughout the narrative, Murdoch connects personal growth with ethical reflection, showing that genuine selfhood requires recognizing others as morally equal individuals rather than objects of desire or convenience.

Gender Identity and Feminist Perspectives in Post-War British Literature

The consequences of World War II, the rise of existentialist philosophy, and the emergence of second-wave feminism profoundly shaped post-war British literature, influencing writers such as Jean Rhys, Iris Murdoch, and Doris Lessing. These intellectual and historical forces not only reflected the complex social, psychological, and existential concerns of the period but also foregrounded questions of gender identity and women's self-realization. In Rhys's works, female protagonists are frequently depicted as struggling with alienation, displacement, and fractured identities, reflecting broader postcolonial anxieties and the search for belonging. Murdoch, by contrast, integrates existential philosophy with an ethical examination of human relationships and gender dynamics, portraying characters who confront moral dilemmas, the nature of love, and the

instability of socially prescribed gender roles. Lessing's fiction, situated firmly within the context of second-wave feminism, explores women's psychological and social struggles while critically interrogating traditional gender norms and the intersections of gender, politics, and psychology.

A notable dimension of twentieth-century British literature is the convergence of gender identity and feminist perspectives within postcolonial writing. Postcolonial literature, often articulated through the voice of the "other," foregrounds culturally sensitive and marginalized experiences, with gender emerging as a particularly contested site shaped by histories of trauma, domination, and systemic oppression.

Comparative Analysis of Gender Identity and Feminist Perspectives in the mid-20th Literature

The mid-20th century witnessed profound social, political, and philosophical transformations, including the aftermath of World War II, the rise of existentialist thought, and the second-wave feminist movement. These changes shaped British literature, providing fertile ground for examining gender identity, selfhood, and female agency. Iris Murdoch, Jean Rhys, and Doris Lessing offer complementary but distinct perspectives on these issues, reflecting the ethical, cultural, and social complexities of women's experiences.

From the perspective of studying the search for gender identity in literature, Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966) is highly significant. Rhys reimagines the story of Bertha, Rochester's first wife from the West Indies, originally presented in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (1847). Bertha, the daughter of a Welsh father and a Creole Dominican mother, is crucial to Brontë's narrative development. However, Rhys constructs a fictional life for this previously peripheral character in Rochester's Thornfield Hall, a life marked by madness and isolation. In two of the most authoritative studies on *Jane Eyre*—Gilbert and Gubar's *The Madwoman in the Attic* (Gilbert) and Spivak's *Three Women's Texts and Critique of Imperialism* (Spivak)—Bertha's isolation is depicted. For feminist writers Gilbert and Gubar, she is like Jane's shadow: "the angry aspect of the orphan child, the ferocious secret self Jane has been trying to repress," which will not be exorcised "until the literal and symbolic death of Bertha frees her from the furies that torment her and makes possible ... wholeness within herself" (Kirilina 360–361).

In postcolonial terms, Spivak interprets Bertha's "otherness" as "an allegory of the general epistemic

violence of imperialism, constructing the colonized subject who burns herself to celebrate the social mission of the colonizer" (Spivak 251).

In *Wide Sargasso Sea*, Rhys uses Brontë's novel as an intertext to depict Antoinette/Bertha. The story is divided into three parts: the first covers Antoinette's childhood and youth up to her marriage with Rochester, narrated by the heroine herself; the second describes Rochester's arrival in the West Indies, his marriage, and his disastrous relationship with Antoinette; the third and final part recounts the heroine's imprisonment on the third floor of Thornfield Hall.

By giving voice to both Antoinette and Rochester, Rhys creates two conflicting subjectivities, generating a tension in male-female relationships. Yet this conflict is not as straightforward as it appears. As Rochester remarks about his arranged marriage, "I have not bought her, she has bought me, or so she thinks" (Rhys 59).

While Rochester defends his masculinity and the discourse of colonial dominance, the unfamiliar, new environment—marrying a beautiful, wealthy heiress from the colonies—suddenly affects him: "Too much blue, too much purple, too much green. The flowers too red, the mountains too high, the hills too near. And the woman is a stranger" (Rhys 59).

Antoinette remains racially and socially ambivalent. As the daughter of a white father and Creole mother, she belongs to a decayed colonial aristocracy threatened by the freed black majority. As Gurmukh Singh notes, Antoinette's Creole status is "not only a sign of personal/social instability but also a model for destabilizing dual constructions (white/black, inside/outside, etc.). In *Wide Sargasso Sea*, it is a pseudo-rationalization for the peculiar experiences of colonial power" (Huggan 657).

Antoinette has no stable identity. Later betrayed by her servant Amélie, who calls her a "white cockroach," she explains to her husband: "This is me. Before my people sold themselves to the slave traders in Africa, we all were called this. I have heard English women call us white negroes. Therefore, when I am among you, I often think, who am I, where is my country, where do I belong, and why was I born at all?" (Rhys 85). Unlike Brontë's ending, in Rhys's narrative, Bertha's final statement is: "Now at last I know why I was brought here and what I have to do" (Rhys 155). This conclusion is deliberately ambiguous, leaving multiple possibilities open: Should she escape the conflicting demands of her Creole identity? Flee Rochester's imposed

otherness? Destroy the house symbolizing European cultural dominance?

According to Bhaba, regarding the protagonist's ambiguous identity, if "minorities" wish to assert themselves as discursive subjects, the canon must be rewritten and open to inquiry. Antoinette escapes the fictional and historical narratives that silence her, securing her own story and subjectivity [175, p.72].

Antoinette's "madness" can be interpreted as excessive femininity, a result of restrictions imposed on the female body and behavior. She poses a contaminating threat to the social structures Rochester defends. In some sense, she acts as an "objective relation" of her colonial culture, with her passions and uncontrollable behavior mirroring the landscape and social exuberance of the West Indies (175, 39).

The novel's interrogation of self and other, male and female, colonizer and colonized, is significant for feminist and postcolonial critique, raising questions about power, privilege, and wholeness.

In English literature, Iris Murdoch's works also provide rich material for exploring gender identity. By depicting complex characters and relationships, she challenges traditional gender roles and societal expectations. Her female characters are intellectually independent and multifaceted, resisting passive stereotypes and actively shaping their destinies. Through explorations of romantic and familial dynamics, Murdoch addresses themes of love, passion, and intimacy (Murdoch 2000, 273).

Murdoch critiques societal gender expectations, combining sexuality with moral and ethical questions, exploring how gender shapes moral choices, relationships, and self-perception. Her novels depict identity formation, showing how gender influences selfhood and interactions with the world. For example, in *The Bell*, Dora Greenfield challenges patriarchal structures within Imber Abbey, asserting independence and highlighting the importance of female solidarity (Murdoch 2002, 132). In *The Black Prince*, Bradley Pearson's manipulation of women underscores the objectification and constraints imposed by patriarchal norms (Murdoch 2003, 127).

Doris Lessing, similarly, addresses the intersections of gender, race, and social class, portraying women's psychological, social, and political struggles. In *The Golden Notebook* and *The Grass is Singing*, Lessing foregrounds women navigating societal expectations, autonomy, and personal choice, illustrating the tensions between personal

freedom and structural constraints (Lessing, 283, 295). Her works remain central to feminist literary criticism, revealing the complexity of women's roles, their confrontation with patriarchal systems, and the pursuit of selfhood: "I'm a feminist. I've been a female for a long time now. It'd be stupid not to be on my own side" (Lessing 573).

When examined from a gender studies perspective, the works of Rhys, Murdoch, and Lessing collectively offer rich insights into mid-20th-century gender issues, reflecting the personal and social dimensions of women's identities and the challenges they faced in a rapidly changing world. Their literature intertwines personal agency, social structures, and gendered experience, contributing

substantially to both feminist and postcolonial literary discourse.

The following table provides a comparative overview of Murdoch, Rhys, and Lessing in terms of their approaches to gender identity, social context, and literary strategies:

Between these frameworks, clear distinctions emerge. Murdoch interrogates ethical and relational dimensions of gender, examining how individuals navigate moral and emotional dilemmas in intimate and social contexts (Murdoch 2001, 2003). Rhys, conversely, centers postcolonial, racialized, and spatialized dimensions of gender, demonstrating how historical and social power

Table 2. Gender Identity and Feminist Perspectives in 20th-Century British Literature

Author	Context/Framework	Gender Identity Focus	Key Themes	Approach/Method
Iris Murdoch	Post-WWII, existential philosophy	Moral, psychological, relational	Selfhood, ethical dilemmas, love, intimacy	Philosophical, psychological
Jean Rhys	Postcolonial/Caribbean/European	Marginalized, racially and socially complex	Alienation, colonial oppression, identity	Feminist, postcolonial, psychological
Doris Lessing	Second-wave feminism, contemporary society	Autonomy, social structures, feminism	Power, sexuality, societal critique, personal choice	Socio-political, feminist

structures shape identity and agency (Rhys 59). Lessing's work emphasizes societal, political, and economic constraints on women, while also highlighting the importance of personal choice and feminist consciousness (Lessing 103, 296). By situating gender within these intersecting domains—existential, postcolonial, and socio-political—the authors collectively illuminate the multifaceted nature of women's experiences in the mid-

20th century.

In addition, Rhys and Lessing extend Murdoch's ethical and relational concerns into broader socio-historical and postcolonial contexts. For instance, while Murdoch's characters like Dora Greenfield and Bradley Pearson negotiate selfhood and moral integrity within gendered social expectations (Murdoch 2001, 2003), Rhys foregrounds the influence of colonial hierarchies and

Table 3. Intersectionality and Female Agency

Author	Intersectionality	Female Agency	Societal Constraints	Narrative Technique
Murdoch	Gender and morality	High, ethically driven	Patriarchal norms	Psychological and philosophical
Rhys	Gender, race, colonialism	Struggling, conflicted	Colonial and patriarchal systems	Retelling and expanding canonical texts
Lessing	Gender, class, politics, sexuality	Assertive, independent	Patriarchy, societal expectation	Multi-perspective, socio-political critique

racialized power structures on female identity (Rhys 155). Lessing highlights how patriarchal and socio-political structures intersect with personal agency, portraying women who negotiate professional, domestic, and social spheres, sometimes challenging and sometimes conforming to social norms (Lessing 349).

This comparative framework demonstrates that 20th-century British women writers approached gender identity from multiple interrelated perspectives, ranging from ethical and existential (Murdoch) to postcolonial and racialized (Rhys), and socio-political and feminist (Lessing). Collectively, their works reveal the complex interplay of personal, moral, and societal dimensions of gender,

offering rich material for literary and feminist scholarship.

IV. CONCLUSION

The analysis of Iris Murdoch's works demonstrates that her fiction provides a profound and multifaceted exploration of gender identity, challenging traditional assumptions about femininity, masculinity, and interpersonal relationships. Through characters who struggle with self-understanding, desire, and moral responsibility, Murdoch exposes the limitations of patriarchal norms and reveals the complexity of gendered experience. In *The Bell*, Dora Greenfield's journey toward personal freedom highlights the potential of female agency and solidarity in resisting oppressive structures. Meanwhile, the emotional insecurity of male characters such as Paul Greenfield and Michael Meade destabilizes dominant ideals of male authority. *The Black Prince* further expands this critique by examining the manipulation, objectification, and emotional dependency embedded in masculine power.

Across her novels, Murdoch incorporates gender into broader philosophical questions concerning morality, authenticity, and the formation of personal identity. Her male and female characters alike are depicted as vulnerable, ethically conflicted individuals whose struggles illustrate the interplay between gender roles and moral choices. This study therefore confirms that Murdoch's fiction not only critiques rigid gender binaries but also reimagines them through psychologically rich, ethically complex portrayals.

The significance of these findings lies in Murdoch's contribution to feminist literary discourse and her impact on modern understandings of gender in fiction. By foregrounding the tensions between societal expectations and individual selfhood, she encourages readers to reconsider conventional gender narratives and recognize the transformative potential of personal agency. Murdoch's work thus remains highly relevant for contemporary discussions of gender identity, ethics, and human relationships in literature.

Moreover, Murdoch's sustained engagement with ethical vision situates gender identity within a wider humanistic framework, where freedom entails responsibility to others. Her fiction suggests that genuine moral growth emerges through attention, compassion, and self-critique, offering a literary model that transcends ideological dogma while remaining deeply responsive to feminist concerns today. Through her characters and novels, Murdoch calls readers

to confront the complexities of gender relations and societal expectations, thereby leaving a lasting impact on feminist discourse in literature.

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