UPCOMMING CONFERENCES
International Research Conference on Business, Economics and Social Sciences
IRC-2015

ISTANBUL CONFERENCE
5, 6th December 2015
Turkey

DUBAI CONFERENCE
29, 30th December 2015
DUBAI

BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS

October 25-26, 2015. Singapore

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October 25-26, 2015
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Conference Session Plan

16th International Research Conference on Business, Economics and Social Sciences, IRC-2015
October 25-26, 2015
Singapore.

Venue: Bayview Hotel Singapore
30 Bencoolen St, Singapore 189621
Singapore.

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**Closing Ceremony**
Best Presentation Awards.
Special Awards and gifts for Presenters
Marketing Innovation as a Business Strategy

Mr. Olakunle Felix Adekunle
Marketing Director, Pusat Bahasa Laguna, Selangor, Malaysia,

Abstract

There is a saying that any organization will be doomed if it does not produce managerial innovations. The successes of many companies in today’s environment are basically due to their innovative approaches. Today, for survival of any organization innovation is a key factor. No wonder, many companies who have remained at the top always encouraged innovation. The success of companies today is mainly due to their innovative approaches. Many companies should have progressed well in the past and but not doing well because of lack of innovative approach in marketing. It is very easy to run when the conditions are favorable. However, real test comes when there is competition. The innovative approach has helped many companies to improve their standing.

The word innovation almost always conjures up an image of a scientist in a laboratory, working to develop new products. But marketing innovations in the laboratory of the marketplace are frequently as important in creating and sustaining market performance. Yet, very little research has actually addressed this issue explicitly. According to Damanpour (1991), “organizational performance may depend more on the congruency between innovations of different types…”

Han, Kim and Srivastava (1998) also cite the restrictive definition of ‘Innovation’ in marketing literature to mean largely product innovation. We seek to explore a broader construct called marketing innovation that includes product innovation. This may imply some radical innovations or it may mean a series of well-orchestrated changes in marketing plans consisting of the marketing mix elements- Product, Price, Promotion and Place. The existing constructs of market orientation, though they measure the elements of customer orientation and competitor orientation fairly well, fall short on the specific areas of responses in terms of changes in marketing strategy-in particular, innovative handling of the marketing mix elements.

Research Objectives: We expected our study to fill an important gap in understanding the market-orientation and performance link as applicable to Indian companies. The more specific objectives of this study were as listed below: To define marketing innovation from the success stories of some Indian companies for the purpose of this study. To investigate the impact of marketing innovation on business performance.

Keywords: Marketing, Innovation, Business Strategy

JEL Classification: M31
Green Consumption Behavior: Attitudes and Obstruction to be green

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Abstract

Understanding green consumption behavior is critical for any marketer and it is clear that there are many different motives drive for green consumer behavior. However, the higher levels of public awareness of environmental concerns do not directly translate into actual buying and consumption in regard to environmental friendly products and services. The emerging picture of green consumption behavior is a process that is strongly influenced by consumer attitudes, but demands for green products have been remained controversial, complex, and vary in different cultural contexts. This study examines the attitudes and obstacles of being green from the Sri Lankan consumers’ perspective. The objective of the study is to investigate from the motivational aspect of how individual values, behavior specific beliefs and moral norms affect attitudes and intention towards green consumption behavior in a developing country perspective and to explore the some insights into why there is an attitude-behavior gap and examines the obstacles to being green in the Sri Lankan culture specific. Then the research is used ‘interpretive mixed-method’ research approach in order to strategically achieve this research objective. A survey strategy has been subjected to test attitude-behavior relationships and then the ‘themat analysis’ followed by in-depth interviews to justify its significance in capturing uncovered reality. The findings emerged the several important themes from the study: green means practice of Buddhist Philosophy or religious teaching; green is government responsibility; green is doubt and not for everybody; personal commitments restrict to be green. This research would be directly significant and benefited to government policy designers and marketers in Sri Lanka and other Asian countries as well.

Key Words: Green consumption behavior, Green Consumer, Green Attitudes, Green intention, Actual Green Behavior
Abstract

Many children have been sexually abused. In this case the parents as indirect victims. Ikhlas Therapy given to help the process of mentoring parents to children. Purpose of the study was to know whether the ikhlas therapy can help parents the process of mentoring also to know whether the ikhlas therapy can increase the self-efficacy for parents of child victimized sexual abuse. The research methods use experiment methods with one-group pretest-postest design. In this design, at the beginning researcher will do some measurement the self-efficacy of parents with measurement tools. The measurement tools is self-efficacy scala. After that, they will given manipulation form ikhlas therapy and then do the measurement back with the same measurement tools. This proposal research will produce a scientific article that describe on of the handling of the sexual child abuse cases and also will produce modules ikhlas therapy that will hel the counselor, psychologist, and practitioner to do the therapy process. it can be conclude that ikhlas therapy can be the one effective intervention for parents as indirect victims. which will be able to increase self-efficacy for parents . So it can be a good mentor for children during the recovery period after sexual child abuse cases .

Keyword : Child sexual abuse, ikhlas therapy, self-efficacy, experiment
The case of "Carne y Punto"

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Abstract

Small and specialized companies are finding it very difficult to be competitive and survive in phenomena such as globalization and the expansion of large supermarket chains. They must face the evolution of the consumer, taking into account their new preferences and lifestyle. It is important to study the segment of supermarkets and specialty stores as well as knowing the projection of the main consumers in the coming years.

Keywords: strategy, supermarkets, specialty stores, resource-based view.

JEL D11, D21, L66
Re-Designing Nigeria’s Future: A Historical Appraisal of Leadership Recruitment in Pre-Colonial Yorubaland as Panacea to Nigeria’s Leadership Problem

Adebisi David, ALADE
Department of History and International Studies
Adekunle Ajasin University
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aladeadebisidavid@yahoo.com

Abstract

It is often said that organization fails because managers fail. In African states, there is high tempo of following the residual paths of Western political style in the quest to establish reliable institutions. While nothing is inherently wrong with appropriating political leadership recruitment processes from non-African cultural backgrounds, what is awkward is that Africans are so engrossed in this that our own models, whatever their worth, are rarely considered. The problem of bad leadership has caused African states the problem of bad follower whose attitude in public employment retard growth and development rather than boost it. Leader of Nigeria, a nation with abundant human and natural resources have become money managers. The paper therefore, using historical analytical methodology explore the Yoruba pre-colonial leadership recruitment techniques and criteria as a panacea to the present Nigeria leadership problem. The trajectory of Nigerian problems can be attributed to bad leadership resulting from the recruitment of greedy candidate with bad track records. The study argues that rather than institute measures to ameliorate leadership selection and recruitment in Nigeria, influential thieves are celebrated and elected into political offices based on ethnic, religious and tribal affinity. The paper submits that the western model of leadership recruitment which our past and present leaders copied seem to have failed in providing desired answers to the leadership problem confronting Nigeria, hence the need for paradigm shift to the pre-colonial style that suit our history as a nation for the achievement of the desired socio-economic and political development of Nigeria.

Keywords: Leadership, Recruitment, Nigeria, Yorubaland, Re-Designing, Pre-colonial.
Skin Bleaching in Nigeria: Appraisal of the influence of Western Television Programmes on the Cultural Values of Nigeria Youths

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Abstract

The ideal skin complexion represented in the media in Nigeria, whether through television commercials, billboards, prints or digital advertisements, is often of fair skin tones. Observation reveals that Nigeria youths who are naturally complexioned- dark-skinned, chocolate, and even fair-skinned tend to have greater complexion dissatisfaction; an assumption held by many African scholars over the years that foreign media contents have direct and debilitating effects on African youth both jointly shared by optimistic modernization theory. The paper seeks to explore using historical analytical methodology, the contributory role of Western television programmes to skin bleaching among Nigeria youths. It also probes the role of the media in influencing the cultural values of Nigeria youths. The paper applies the theory of acculturation and diffusionism as the theoretical framework for analysis. The study argues that more exposure to Western television programmes reinforces complexion dissatisfaction among Nigerian youths as western television stars and celebrities are often quickly imitated. Employing an Africanist lens, the paper therefore posits that skin bleaching is part of an emerging cultural behaviour among the Nigeria youths which results from uncontrolled obsession and exposure to Western television programmes and contents. The paper concludes and recommends the improvement of local television stars and movie industry as panacea to ameliorate Nigerian youth complexion preference and as well check the cultural genocide among the youths.

Keywords: Skin, Western, bleaching, television programmes, Nigeria, cultural values, youths.
Assessing Program Quality Through Internal Student Satisfaction Survey

Marilou Bernales-Lleno
Professor, College of Business Administration
University of Perpetual Help System DALTA
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Abstract

In my educational institution, the quality of service provided to students determine the quality of learning. Program services must be assessed constantly to determine if students in the program are motivated to learn. This study was intended to assess students’ satisfaction towards the quality of services provided in one of the universities in the Philippines. A survey was conducted among 269 students in the Business Administration program to assess the quality of services in the areas of admission and registration, teaching, learning and assessment, student services, library services, information technology services, canteen services, outreach activities, physical facilities and provision for spirituality and religious beliefs in the university. It is revealed in general that the students in the program were moderately satisfied on the services, placing the management to further identify opportunities for improvement and meet its responsibility to its students. A quality improvement plan was suggested to sustainably meet the demands of the program and effectively manage its services.
A Discourse Analysis on Framing US-Philippine relations through Print Media’s Coverage of EDCA

Brown, Meryl Louise Torres
Malveda, Beatrice Anne De Leon
Beatrice Anne Malveda, 870 Gonzalo Puyat St., Quiapo, Manila, Philippines, 1001
Email: brown.malveda@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examines discourse production in the reportage of foreign affairs. In early 2014, Philippines announced the planning and signing of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) with the United States. This research discusses vested interests of stakeholders, conflicting frames the print media used in their reportage, and representations of diplomatic concepts of friendship, peace and security in Philippines-United States foreign policy. The study ties together the use of critical discourse analysis, media diplomacy theory, postcolonial theory and framing analysis to unveil frames used by Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI), The Philippine Star (PStar) and Manila Bulletin (MB) in representing these diplomatic concepts. It combines the results of coded print articles from March 15 to July 29, 2014, and coded official government documents. The study points out that (a) PDI’s reportage used conflicting frames while PStar and MB employed non-conflicting frames; (b) security is the main purpose for of EDCA but friendship exists because of the long-standing US-Philippine history that seeks to maintain international peace; and (c) US interests in deepening ties with the Philippines are to advance its strategy of Asia rebalance, thwart economic growth of China, and counter insurgency in the South. The need for EDCA was rationalized in light of the Philippine-China territorial dispute that the US pursued to reinforce military strength in the Asian region. Evaluating the power relations between the stakeholders is pertinent to achieve the study’s purpose of molding the Filipino populace as critical thinkers who are concerned of the society they live in.
Women's Empowerment and Economic Development - Special Reference of Bellary District in Karnataka State

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Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University,
Bellary, Karnataka,
Email-honnuswamy@gmail.com

Abstract

This is why many development organizations try to tackle gender inequality, the impact of unequal gender roles on how people live and use resources, how they experience poverty and inequality, and whether they are free to make decisions about their own lives. Women's empowerment and economic development are closely related: in one direction, development alone can play a major role in driving down inequality between men and women; in the other direction, empowering women may benefit development.

The paper’s overall objectives are challenging simplistic claims that, on the one hand, women’s empowerment will “cause development” or, on the other, that economic growth will lead to women’s empowerment. Main objective is based on the empirical study of Bellary district it is based on primary and secondary date which will helpful for researcher to find out the truth.
Can Expectancy Theory explain the poor participation and high attrition rates of male students in tertiary education in the UAE?

Sultan Ali Rashed Alkaabi, Peter Albion, Petrea Redmond.
School of Teacher Education and Early Childhood,
Faculty of Business, education, law and accounting (BELA),
University of Southern Queensland (USQ), Queensland, Australia

Abstract

As the UAE looks ahead to the ‘post-oil’ global economy and plans for the future, it is striving to create a world class higher education system. The leadership of the country has identified human capital as the key resource for the future and has been investing heavily in human development initiatives for some time. One of the most serious problems that have emerged out of initiatives to dramatically increase the number of graduates has been the relative under-performance of male students. They account for only thirty percent of student numbers and have far higher attrition rates than female students. A number of studies have addressed this problem but these come from a variety of perspectives and are not always theoretically rigorous. An analysis of previous studies suggests that expectancy theory would be an ideal theoretical prism through which to examine the problem and find potential solutions. This paper assesses the work that has already been done from the perspective of expectancy theory and suggests a structured research agenda revolving around the theory.
Creating Urban Space Beyond Conventional Limits in Singapore

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Abstract

The rapid and simultaneous increase in the rate of development and population growth is a unique problem facing nations in Southeast Asia. As nations in the region develop, scores of people flock to cities for jobs and a better life. As a result of the improved prosperity they experience, deaths are delayed, while more births are facilitated. However, many nations in Southeast Asia do not have the land space and regulatory structure to manage the convergence of development and population growth. This paper addresses the challenge of nations in the region, such as Singapore, face in crafting policy that effectively continues economic growth, while also taking into account the need to construct and maintain infrastructure capable of managing the increasing strain placed on urban centers. Using Singapore as a case study, we examine the city-state’s use of underground space to identify effective land-use policies and present policy options for other burgeoning nations in Southeast Asia, which are forced to balance land constraints and rapid population growth.

Keywords: Underground space, Caverns, Reclamation, Subterranean, Livability.
Analyzing the Nonverbal Communication of De La Salle University- Dasmariñas Professors in the Classroom

Mary Angela S. Barlongay & Lei Allysa A. Deaño

Abstract

Actions, hand movements, facial expressions and gestures are all part of the learning techniques that most teachers use to better explain the lesson in class. Nonverbal communication sends wordless cues and these cues can be found in the classrooms. The researchers would want to know the meaning of the commonly used nonverbal cues, the student’s perspective about the professor’s nonverbal cues and what are the common nonverbal cues that the professor’s use. The researchers can help the professors by telling them the perception and thoughts of their students regarding the nonverbal communication that they use in the classroom.

The paper is a descriptive type of paper. The researchers would observe classes from De La Salle University-Dasmarinas and using cameras to serve as proof, the researchers would record the nonverbal communication that the professors use in the classroom. The researchers would also interview the students in the professor’s class regarding their perspective and understanding of the nonverbal cues of their professors.
Quality Adjusted Rent to Income Ratio for Sub-divided Unit Tenants

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Abstract

Facing ever increasing property price and shortage of public rental housing, numerous low-income families in Hong Kong resides in sub-divided units, facing inadequate living environment. In the first quarter of 2015, it is found that the average rent to income ratio for sub-divided unit tenants has increased from 29.2% (2013) to 41.1%. Over the past three years, the increase in rent is two time of the increase in average private household income. This implies households are spending increasing proportion of income on housing expense.

We also noted that the living area per capita has decreased from 67.6 square feet to 47.8 square feet in two years’ time. The tenants not only have to bear rental increase, they also find no other way but to downsize their living space in exchange for “affordable” housing. The rent to income ratio has deteriorated much more severely than some superficial indicators show. Basically, the low-income households have to cram into smaller housing units to achieve the affordability level. If the tenants were having the same living space as they had in 2013, they would have to spend 72.8 per cent of their income on rent.

Keywords: Sub-divided units, housing, rent-to-income ratio
Relationship between Working Capital Management and Profitability

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Abstract
This study investigates the relationship between working capital management policies and profitability for 317 non-financial BSE500 firms listed at the Bombay Stock Exchange for the period of 2009-2014. We establish a relationship between profitability of a company and working capital management, for which we use the cash conversion cycle and its components. We establish this relationship by model building using regression analysis. Our studies find that the behaviour of Indian companies deviates from results seen in Shin and Soenen (1998), Deloof (2003), Padachi (2006), Samiloglu and Demirgunes (2008) in the case of no. of days inventory and cash conversion cycle in that these are found to be positively correlated to profitability. We find accounts receivable and no. of days accounts payable to be negatively correlated, in line with existing literature such as Deloof, (2003), Jose et al. (1996), Lazaridis and Tryfonidis (2006). The data obtained from this paper can help managers by allowing them to better manage their working capital profitability in order to maximize the profits of their companies.
Audience Reception Of Online Filipino Satirical News: A Study On Selected Communication And Journalism Students In Cavite

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Abstract
Nowadays, people rely on the Internet as a convenient source of information. As it is with other things, new media brought with it contrasting effects in the context of publishing factual and reliable information. This research endeavor focuses on the emergence of online Filipino satirical news and how audience decodes its meaning. The paper intended to determine how Communication and Journalism students in Cavite receive and understand online Filipino satirical news. Given their background on media and journalism in particular, Communication and Journalism students are exposed to satire because of social media. The research endeavor intended to (1) identify the exposure of selected Communication and Broadcast Journalism students of Cavite to online Filipino satirical news, (2) determine the reaction of these students towards online Filipino satirical news, and (3) find out how these selected students understood the online Filipino satirical news articles.

The paper is a qualitative-quantitative study. It uses the theories of Uses and Gratifications and Stuart Hall’s encoding-decoding model. The researchers surveyed selected college students from different universities which offer Communication and Journalism programs. After this, a focus group discussion and interview were also employed to validate the results of the survey. The findings of the study ascertained how online satirical journalism can be used as a tool for social awareness, critical thinking, and other perceived purposes.

Keywords: online satirical news, satire, encoding-decoding, social media
The Interconnection between Individually Guided Professional Development Activities and the Emergence of Autonomous Teachers

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to examine the interrelationship between individually guided professional development activities and the emergence of autonomous teachers. To gather the intended data, a questionnaire was administered with 60 EFL teachers working at schools of foreign languages of four different state universities in Turkey. Subsequent to the administration of the questionnaire, a semi-structured interview was conducted with the participants on the purpose of gaining deeper insights into the types and effects of professional development activities they attended during the year 2012, and to what extent they perceive themselves autonomous with respect to their professional development. The findings revealed that even though the participants do not perceive themselves autonomous regarding their professional development, they think that there is a strong interconnection between individually guided professional development activities and the emergence of autonomous teachers.
An Exploratory Study of Employee Involvement in Frauds and Forgeries in Pakistan’s Banking Industry and Precautions Taken against it

MehakYouunus
SZABIST KARACHI CAMPUS

Abstract

This research aimed to investigate the employee involvement in frauds and forgeries in banking industry of Pakistan and precautions taken against it. This research explored the types of frauds prevailing in Pakistan’s banking industry. Moreover, the organizational causes and driving forces for employee involvement in frauds are thoroughly investigated in this study. This study conducted in-depth interviews from the officers working in fraud/compliance/risk department of commercial banks as well as the officials working in the inspection and policy maker departments of the State Bank of Pakistan. The research questions were developed under the guidance of experts working in the banking industry; hence, it possesses internal validity. This study analyzed the data using thematic analysis and it is found that there are some of the driving forces and causes that are pertinent to Pakistan banking industry only. This study revealed that the State Bank of Pakistan has instructed many policies and guidelines to banks against frauds which are not properly implemented. These policies includes precautionary measures also which are recommended by the State Bank of Pakistan to execute for lessening ratio of frauds. Besides this, banks are also taking initiatives to control rising trend of frauds and forgeries. At the end, brief conclusion and effective recommendations are given to the practitioners, policy makers, and banks management.

Keywords: Fraud and Forgery, Employee Involvement, Pakistan Banking Industry.
The Effect of Joint Audit on Audit Quality: Empirical Evidence from Companies Listed on the Egyptian Stock Exchange

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the effect of joint audit on accounting conservatism, our proxy of audit quality, of companies listed on the Egyptian stock exchange, by examining whether companies audited by two independent auditors are more conservative than companies audited by a single auditor. In addition, we investigate whether this relationship is affected by the type of joint audit regimes (i.e., voluntary versus mandatory), and the mix of joint auditors appointed (i.e., two big 4 auditors, or two non-big 4 auditors, or one Big 4 auditor paired with one non-big 4 auditor). To test our hypotheses, we use a sample of 32 companies listed on the Egyptian stock exchange during the period 2009 through 2013. The results of our multiple regression analyses show that there is no significant difference in level of accounting conservatism between financial reports issued by companies audited by joint auditors and financial reports issued by companies audited by single auditors. Also we find that there is no significant difference in level of accounting conservatism between financial reports issued by companies subject to voluntary joint audit regimes and financial reports issued by companies subject to mandatory joint audit regimes. Finally, our findings suggest that the mix of joint auditors appointed to conduct audit process has no significant effect on level of accounting conservatism.

JEL Classification: M410, M420

Keywords: Joint Audit, Audit Quality, Accounting Conservatism, Joint Audit Regimes, Mix of Joint Auditors.

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Towards a Framework of Understanding the School Culture of Public Secondary Schools in the National Capital Region, Philippines

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Abstract

This study explored the patterns of school culture among selected public secondary schools in Metro Manila by profiling, categorizing and analyzing their tangible and intangible cultural elements. The foundation for this study was built from the review and comparison of the conceptual studies on school cultures which culminated on the development of a centralized framework. The framework points out similarity within the abstract (intangible) and concrete (tangible) elements prevailing in the school culture of all public secondary schools under study. These are significantly influenced by additional elements engrained in the culture of the public schools: the transitory school leadership, faculty departmentalization and the practice of bureaucracy. This revealed the existence of hierarchical bureaucratic type of culture that needs further examination to establish a best-fit culture where there is congruence between and among its positive school features and becomes a foundation on which changes to classrooms may occur, enabling students to develop better protective behaviors and resilience. Understanding the school culture of public secondary schools is an essential ingredient to transform the schools into settings in which all students succeed academically and all teachers continually improve and a guide for school leaders to create solidarity, give meaning and inspire commitment towards productivity within and among each members of the school community. The framework that emerged from this study serves as a guide in creating programs that will explore and exploit the power of school culture as an agent of change for the betterment of the public education in the country.

Keywords: cultural elements, school culture, leadership, departmentalization, bureaucracy
Image Of Dasmariñas Traffic Enforcers As Perceived By Its Citizens: A Public Relations Proposal

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Abstract

This study will determine and analyze the image projected by Dasmariñas traffic enforcers as perceived by its citizens to create a Public Relations proposal. Traffic enforcers have been negatively described by people mainly because of media depictions and the citizens and motorists experiences with the enforcers. For this reason, the researchers decided to investigate on the matter and test if this notion is seen by the citizens of Dasmariñas. The study will center itself on the image projected by the traffic enforcers as to how the citizens observe them instead of how their image or actions affect traffic management. It will determine what image traffic enforcers think they project, examine if this is in line with the citizens’ perception, and create a Public Relations proposal for the image’s improvement or maintenance. As a quantitative research, surveys, focus interviews and observation checklists will be used by the researchers as tools to gather data needed for the study. The researchers will administer two survey questionnaires among the Dasmariñas traffic enforcers and selected citizens among the most traffic congested areas in the city. Focus interviews for drivers of public transportation vehicles and the Dasmariñas traffic management bureau head will also be conducted to obtain an in-depth report of their experiences with the enforcers. The researchers will also observe the actions and behavior of the traffic enforcers while on duty to verify the images perceived by the citizens,
Gender Discrimination and Policy interventions: A comparative study of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh - Critical Connections

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Abstract

Responding to the imperatives of the changing times the Indian Government has come up with various policies and laws to deal with gender discrimination. Some of the important programmatic interventions include Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and laws like the Domestic Violence Act of 2005. This study aims to research the linkages of such policies and laws with the awareness and action in the field and establish the critical connections with women’s status in society.

India has one of the most severe forms of gender discrimination. During the last decade, there has been a substantial decline in the Sex Ratio at Birth as well as the Child Sex Ratio. The 2011 Census data and the different rounds of Sample Registration Surveys have shown that the problem is acute in the states of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. Apart from this immediate concern of gender discrimination there is grave area of concern that is domestic violence. The National Crime Records Bureau 2014 reports that cases of violence against women and girls have shown an increase of 146.3% over the 2012 figures.

The specific objective of the study is to analyse the components of these schemes and policies and examine their conceptual clarity in terms of their contradictions, contestations and challenges as far as the status of women is concerned. It is also to determine the awareness of these policies, schemes, programmes and laws to women and men especially in terms of countering gender discrimination.

Keywords: Job Withdrawal Post-SCI: Precipitating Factors
Withdrawal from Employment Gained Post-SCI: Precipitating Factors

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Abstract

Despite the high prevalence of withdrawal from employment gained post-traumatic spinal cord injury (tSCI), relatively few studies have examined the factors that precipitate job withdrawal. Within the context of general systems theory, the aim of the present study was to identify and classify the factors that led to job withdrawal post-tSCI. Using purposive sampling and a structured proforma, 30 participants completed an in-depth telephone interview. Job withdrawal was precipitated more frequently by micro-system (person-centred) factors or meso-system (job-related) factors than macro-system (socio-economic) factors. Micro-system factors fell into five groups (SCI-related, psychological/psychosocial, mobility, general health and knowledge/skills/abilities) as did meso-system factors (job design, psychosocial climate, ergonomics, human resources and work cycles). Two groups of macro-system factors were identified (proximal and distal). Classifying job withdrawal factors within the context of general systems theory provides an integrated framework for intervention development and furnishes decision-makers with guidance as to whether a top-down or bottom-up approach would be more feasible/beneficial to address preventable job withdrawal post-tSCI.

Keywords: traumatic spinal cord injury (SCI), job withdrawal, job acquisition, job retention, systems theory
The Buy-Write Strategy: Effect of Asset Class & Investor Sentiment

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Abstract

Existing research focuses on buy-write strategy performance when index options are used as the underlying asset, finding positive excess risk-adjusted returns which are suggestive of option overpricing. My purpose is to extend this literature by conducting a thorough analysis of strategy performance when individual stock options are used instead of index options. Moreover, I examine whether underlying asset class and investor sentiment has an effect on buy-write performance. Using US data from 2008 - 2015, I sort S&P 500 constituents to form portfolios of large, small, growth and value stocks and test for differences in buy-write performance. The returns of each portfolio are then regressed against 2 separate proxies of investor sentiment and several control variables to test the effects of investor sentiment. Contrary to aforementioned buy-write research, I find no evidence of excess risk-adjusted returns, likely due to the implied vs. realised volatility anomaly which is observed in index options but not stock options. Despite existing evidence that options on small and value stocks are expensive relative to large and growth stocks, I find no evidence that firm characteristic has an effect on buy-write performance. This is potentially explained by the relative illiquidity of small and value options resulting in increased trading costs which are not accounted for in previous studies. Consistent with the literature, my results show that in general, investor sentiment has a positive relationship with buy-write returns, especially for small and value stocks.
The Influence of Game Addiction and Internet Addiction Among University Students in Thailand

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Abstract

The present study aims to investigate the prevalence of game addiction and internet addiction among students in a private university in Thailand. The study determined the level of game addiction, Internet addiction, depression, anxiety, stress, self-regulation, and social support among university students. The study also examined the direct and indirect influence of game addiction and Internet addiction on the level of depression, anxiety, and stress mediated by self-regulation and social support. The study comprised of 380 students from a private university and the instruments employed for the research were Personal Information Questionnaire by the researchers, Game Addiction Scale (GAS), Internet Addiction Test (IAT), Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Scale (DASS-21), Self-Regulation Questionnaire (SRQ) and Social Provision Scale (SPS). The results indicated that respondents were not addicted to games but they were addicted to internet. The respondents’ level of depression, anxiety and stress were below average. They seem to have higher levels of self-regulation and social support. The results showed that the respondents’ level of game addiction and internet addiction has a direct influence on their level of depression, anxiety, and stress. Game addiction and internet addiction has an indirect influence on the level of depression, anxiety and stress being mediated by social support. Game addiction and internet addiction also has an indirect influence on depression mediated by social support.

Keywords: Internet addiction, game addiction, depression, stress, anxiety, self regulation, social support
Determinants Of Settlement Audit Recommendation Of The Audit Board Of The Republic Of Indonesia

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Abstract

Purpose- This study aims to determine the factors that affect the settlement of the audit recommendations Audit Board of the Republik of Indonesia (BPK-RI). Analysis of the research done by testing whether the settlement of the audit recommendations are influenced by several characteristics such as characteristics possessed by the auditee auditor characteristic, executive assembly characteristic and legislative assembly characteristic.

Design/ Methodology /Approach- The method employed in this study was purposive sampling. The population used was local government who has had Local Government’s Financial Statement (LPKD) that had been audited in 2012 and 2013. This analysis employed a multiple regression analysis 305 local governments as the sample.

Result- The result of research showed that local government type and age affected audit recommendation settlement level of BPK RI. The two variables showed positive effect on follow-up settlement resulting in the audit result of BPK RI. In addition, this study showed that the interaction between education background and local government nature, with local government type interaction affected positively. And then, there is a negative correlation result of interaction between education background and political party monitoring on the settlement of BPK RI audit recommendation. Meanwhile, the remaining interaction variable shows no effect on the settlement of BPK RI audit recommendation.

Implication- The implication of research is that the settlement of BPK RI audit recommendation is an important matter for the improvement of local government financial accountability. The settlement level of BPK RI audit recommendation requires good cooperation between local government, BPK RI auditor, legislatives and executives to make the settlement run smoothly.

Originality- This study examine the factors that affect the settlement of the audit recommendations in the local government Indonesia

Keywords: Settlement Audit recommendation, Local Government, Audit Opinion.
Abstract

Slovakia as the small and very open economy with relatively limited scope of domestic market, insufficient raw materials and low agricultural potential is predestined for further development of international trade and relations. One of the most important issues in open countries is to determine the effects of income and relative prices on international trade. The purpose of this paper is estimation of the price and income elasticities of international trade in the case of the Slovak Republic. We use annually/quarterly time series data of Slovak economy for the period 1993–2014 in estimation import and export demand functions. Furthermore, these elasticities are re-estimated for different sub-periods in order to verify whether they are stable over time or they are changing with respect on the level of openness or other features influencing the Slovak trade like entering the EU and adopting the euro. In order to recognize the contribution of the main trade partners to the Slovak economic growth, the particular income export elasticities are estimated. We suppose that the income export elasticity will be high and the price elasticities will be low due to participation of the Slovak Republic in the Eurozone and the high share of the EMU countries on the Slovak trade.

Keywords: income elasticity of exports, income elasticity of imports, price elasticity of exports, price elasticity of imports, international trade

JEL classification: F14, C22
Abstract

Most empirical studies found that the spot market exhibits high- and low-state volatilities and the state tends to persist for a while. However the well-known option pricing models such as Black-Scholes, constant-elasticity-variance and jump-diffusion are based on the assumption that the volatility of underlying asset is a constant. We firstly construct a Two-State volatility model by using Markov chain theory to estimate the high and low volatilities of the spot market as well as state transition probability. Then, we use the Two-State volatility model to implement and evaluate the models for option pricing: Two-State lognormal model (TLN), Two-State constant-elasticity-variance model (TCEV) and Two-State jump-diffusion model (TJD). Compared to Black-Scholes option pricing model, we examine the pricing performance of these three Two-State volatility option pricing models among strike prices and maturities factors. Using as large as 140,902 datasets of Taiwan stock index options (TXO) covering out-of-sample period from 01/01/2013 to 31/12/2014 and strike prices from 3,900 to 9,600, our study indicates that TLN has the smallest pricing error among the models over the entire range of strike prices and maturities for call option. In particular, both pricing errors of TLN and TJD reduced among the deep-in-the-money and in-the-money categories within 15 days to maturity for both call and put options. In general, we demonstrate that TLN yield the outstanding overall performance as applying call options for pricing.

Keywords: Two-state volatility model, Taiwan stock index options, Markov chain theory, Options pricing
Studying and Ranking the Effective Factors on Buyers Satisfaction of Consuming Goods Online Shopping

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effective factors on buyers satisfaction of consuming goods online shopping. In this study broad theoretical foundations in the context of online shopping and buyers satisfaction were examined. The analytical model of the study was taken from the Lee & Torbun model and according to this model the affecting factors on buyers satisfaction were examined in seven dimensions which are as follow: support for sending and receiving orders, the price of goods, the quality of website contents, website speed, financial security, ease of use and privacy. Statistical society of the study were 78625 buyers of online goods in Khorasan state and the sample according to Morgan's table is 384 persons. The data for the study was collected using a questionnaire. Data had been analyzed with SPSS Software. One-Sample t-test has been used for analyzing and Friedman test for the ranking. Results show that all variables have significant effect on buyers satisfaction. Based on Friedman test the ranking of the variables are different. Ranking of the quality of website content is the first one and website speed is the last one. At the end some research proposals and recommendation have been stated.

Keywords: buyers satisfaction, Consuming goods and online shopping
Firms Constrained by Categories in the Product Market

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Abstract
In this article, the author explores the firms constrained by categories in the product market. Categories of products are defined by some common features recognized by consumers and producers. The fundamental thesis is that categories of products are imposed by producers or consumers but evolve through multiple ways of producer-consumer interaction. As Rosa et al. (1999) suggest, the author also argues that the sensemaking process is revealed in the stories that consumers and producers tell each other in the media. Specific hypotheses pertaining to the use of product category labels in published sources and the acceptability of different product category members throughout the development process are tested for the Japanese medical pharmaceutical industry between 2000 and 2005. The findings suggest that the firms constrained by categories is caused by the relationship not between producers and customers used products but between producers and evaluators of products, and causes impediments of innovation of products.

Keyword: Categorical change, Firms Constrained by Categories, Impediment of Innovation
Convergence Of Slovakia To The Eu: Measures And Perspective

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Abstract
For today's political and economic processes within the European Union is economic and social cohesion one of the main operational priorities. Cohesion is achieved mainly through the promotion of growth-enhancing conditions and the reduction of disparities between the levels of development of EU member states which are key targets of the European Cohesion Policy.
In the current period in Slovakia has occurred further slowdown in economic growth which has led to the suspension of catching-up process. Beta convergence has been suspended as well as convergence of the price levels. Real convergences how ed poorer results than nominal convergence and recent data on nominal convergence shows that in the current low-inflation environmental most all EU countries could fulfill the inflation criterion.
The aim of this paper is to analyze the convergence of the Slovak economy through the development of the main indicators of real and nominal convergence to the EU and an impact assessment on the possible development in Slovakia are compared with the situation and the perspective in selected EU member states.
Inherent in the analysis of convergence are also estimates of absolute and conditional convergence and its impact on economic development, as well as the analysis of price convergence. The results confirm that catch-up process takes place in the EU, which is influenced by several external factors. They also confirm the reduction of disparities among EU countries, which are generally still higher than the difference between the price index items within these countries.

Keywords: nominal and real convergence, absolute and conditional convergence, the European Union
JEL classification:E60, O11, O57
Incentives for Tax Planning in Chinese SOEs

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Abstract

The majority shareholder of Chinese State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) is also the recipient of the tax- the government, and Chinese SOEs are thus expected to have unique incentives for tax planning. Companies without the government shareholder normally strive to save taxes for investors, however, SOEs might have incentives to pay more taxes to their largest shareholder. This study investigated the unique incentives for tax planning in Chinese SOEs, especially how CEOs influence the tax planning. Chinese CEOs in SOEs are rewarded by two means for their performance: 1) similar as CEOs in western countries, Chinese CEOs are rewarded by compensation; and 2) CEOs can be rewarded by political promotion. By studying the largest 300 SOEs listed on Shanghai and Shenzhen Stock Exchanges for the period between 2002 and 2014, we hypothesized and found effective tax rates (ETRs) were positively associated with compensation and also positively associated with the probability of political promotion of the CEOs, suggesting the monetary reward (i.e., compensation) and the non-monetary reward (i.e., promotion) both motivate CEOs in SOEs to pay more taxes to the majority shareholder (i.e., the Chinese government). This could be an example of the majority shareholder taking unfair advantage of the minority shareholders. We also found stronger corporate government enforcement could mitigate this effect, and Chinese SOEs cross-listed in Hong Kong or other western stock exchanges paid more taxes on average compared to Chinese SOEs only listed on Shanghai or Shenzhen when the CEOs’ compensation and/or probability of promotion is similar.

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Moderation Role Of Firm’s Entry Mode On Decisions About Product And International Diversification

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Abstract

Recent scholars concerned extent of growth along product and international diversification decisions are likely to be pursue simultaneously and endogenously rather than separately because both form of growth build on firm’s existing resources which is limited (Kumar, 2009). While many studies seek to explain whether the relationship between product diversification and international diversification is complementary or substitutive, there is no set answer. Hitt and his colleagues indicated that if level of both diversification alternatives are high, this would enable firms to differentiate their products and services with lower costs. On the contrary, there are other arguments suggesting the trade-off relationship between product and international diversification (Tallman and Li, 1996; Wolf, 1977; Palich, Cardinal, and Miller, 2000). Wiersema and Bowen (2009) claim that increased coordination and control costs makes geographic and product diversification being substitutable at least in the short run. Hence, previous empirical results are inconclusive and contradictory.

According to Hashai and Delios (2011), the relationship between product and international diversification is not identical for all firms and have specified conditions to determine endogenous relations. Thus we expect that there is some variables to moderate the relationship between product and international diversification. One of the variables which catch our attention is mode of entry. Mode of entry is about how the firm transferring and creating resources for a new industry to innovate new kinds of products (Jones and Hill, 2013). Mode of entry could give some instructions to set clear conclusions to diversification research.
Ecopreneurship Mini Market as the First Step in Creating International Inorganic Waste Management Centre Based on Entrepreneurship in Indonesia

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Abstract

In 2013 the number of Indonesian population reached more than 230 million inhabitants. With the increasing of population from year to year. The household consumption accounted for the largest share of Indonesia’s GDP, 55.8 percent and continued to grow significantly. Public consumption such as foods, drinks, and others had increased inorganic waste in the community. However, there is no effective solutions for managing an existing inorganic waste in our environment. Ecopreneurship mini market is one of the solutions that engage less educated people able to utilize inorganic rubbish surrounding environment through a system of effective and efficient management of the spirit of the movement of 5R (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, Repair, and Replace). In Ecopreneurship mini market there are at least 3P + K, which means: (1) training, (2) processing, (3) Marketing, (4) Cooperation. The main purpose of this paper are to determine, assess, and as a solution to problems caused by inorganic waste in society. The data used from data of final rubbish processing (TPA) from Department of Cleaness and Landscaping and data of small and medium enterprises from Department of Cooperatives and SMEs of Semarang city in period 2010 – 2014. Therefore, the implementation of ecopreneurship mini market as pilot project to establish the international inorganic waste management centre based on entrepreneurship in Indonesia. Finally, less educated people easier to promote their product and income distribution of the community go hand in hand with greener environment will be achieved.

Keywords: marketing, inorganic waste management, entrepreneurship.
Abstract

The employment growth rigidity remained one of accompanying signs of transformed economics in the region of Central Europe. The Slovak Republic is no exception and its inability of labour market to employ additional labour force into production process persists as an important tasks for policy makers. The most analysed determinant of such development was rapid growth of labour productivity, however, the paper provides also additional, less analysed determinants of employment development by utilizing structural decomposition based on I-O analysis. Structural change itself, but also change in share of imported intermediate products on total production proved to be negatively influencing employment development. Also contribution of change in the structure of final demand was found to be strictly negative. These results provide new, not yet quantified results of various determinants contribution and aim to be important extension of current state of research in given area. Keywords: structural decomposition, structural change, employment development. JEL classification: J24, J21
Seaweed Development In Labuhan Kuris Village Sub District Lape Sumbawa Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province

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Abstract

Indonesia is a unitary state consisting of clusters of large and small islands connected by wide oceans and has the potential to support the development of local and national economies to increase foreign exchange earnings, employment, and incomes of the population. One area in Indonesia that utilize the results of the sea is Sumbawa regency of West Nusa Tenggara. Based on the Decree of the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries No. KEP.32 / MEN / 2010 on Establishment of Regions Minapolitan as amended by Decree of the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries No. KEP.39 / MEN / 2011, Sumbawa as the one Minapolitan of 174 Minapolitan in Indonesia by commodities seaweed seed. Minapolitan is the conception of economic development of region-based marine and fisheries based on the principles of integration, efficiency, quality and speed. There are 6 sub-district as a point of land development seaweed in Sumbawa, one of which is the village of Labuhan kuris District of Lape with seaweed production reached 29.436 tonnes with utilization area growing as many as 1328.51 hectares. Given these commodities, Sumbawa opportunity to step forward does not seem difficult. However, the potential of it did not make the state of the local community shifted from the poverty line. To overcome this, the need for conductor linking between education, technology, and labor market through the application of the theory of the Triple Helix. The main thinking triple helix theory is the importance of synergy between academic strength, business, and government. This paper intends to elaborate on the opportunities and challenges minapolitan as a form of education and technology alignment and an application of the theory of the triple helix in improving community development and regional competitiveness.

Keywords: Empowerment, Minapolitan, Triple Helix, Education, Technology
The Effects Of Psychological And Communication Problems Among The Converted Muslims

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Abstract

This research are more likely to empirical and scientific research relate to opinion, feelings and action by converted Muslims in Malaysia. This to identify the communication problems among the converts Muslims and their families. Besides that, this research is to identify the problems faced by converts Muslims after they converted. Furthermore, this research is to identify the kind of support needed by the converts after they convert.

For this research, we use collaborative, quantitative and qualitative method. We have been interview three informal person. The first one is Chief Executive of MACMA in Malacca (En.Lim Jooi Soon), the second one is Chief Deputy Executive Officer Of Islamic Religious Department of Malacca(Haji Mohd Nawi bin Abu Bakar) and the last one is Miss Hanaa Tiang Me Fah (Converts, PERKIM Kuala Lumpur). We interview them with the same questions but we do a research by their feedback. We also distribute 31 questionnaires to the converted Muslim at Balai Islam Malacca.

We ask them what are the factors that brings them to convert to Islam. We also distribute the questions which is they have to state the problem faced by converted after being a Muslim in Malacca. Plus, we also make a research through questionnaires about their families reaction about their changes. Besides, we as a group mate state the questions about the psychological effect that faced by the newly convert and the communication problem that make them hard to communicate.

Keywords: Psychological, Communication, Converted Muslim, Empirical and Scientific.