

ACADEMICIA: An International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

ISSN: 2249-7137 Vol. 13, Issue 1, January 2023 SJIF 2022 = 8.252

A peer reviewed journal

ACADEMICIA

ISSN (online) : 2249-7137

ACADEMICIA

An International
Multidisciplinary Research
Journal



Published by

South Asian Academic Research Journals

A Publication of CDL College of Education, Jagadhri

(Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, India)

ACADEMICIA

An International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

ISSN (online) : 2249 –7137

Editor-in-Chief : Dr. B.S. Rai

Impact Factor : SJIF 2022 = 8.252

Frequency : Monthly

Country : India

Language : English

Start Year : 2011

Indexed/ Abstracted : Scientific Journal Impact Factor (SJIF2022 - 8.252), Google Scholar, CNKI Scholar, EBSCO Discovery, Summon (ProQuest), Primo and Primo Central, I2OR, ESJI, IJIF, DRJI, Indian Science and ISRA-JIF and Global Impact Factor 2019 - 0.682

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VISION

The vision of the journals is to provide an academic platform to scholars all over the world to publish their novel, original, empirical and high quality research work. It propose to encourage research relating to latest trends and practices in international business, finance, banking, service marketing, human resource management, corporate governance, social responsibility and emerging paradigms in allied areas of management including social sciences , education and information & technology. It intends to reach the researcher's with plethora of knowledge to generate a pool of research content and propose problem solving models to address the current and emerging issues at the national and international level. Further, it aims to share and disseminate the empirical research findings with academia, industry, policy makers, and consultants with an approach to incorporate the research recommendations for the benefit of one and all.

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**RECOGNISING VISUALS BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE
FIELD OF INFORMATION SECURITY IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS.**

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DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00013.7

ABSTRACT

This article aims to focus on the development of a recognition system, which is one of the most crucial issues of information security. The system was developed using artificial intelligence algorithms. The results of experimental studies on various images are also presented.

KEYWORDS: *Artificial Intelligence, Technique, Technology, Software, Image, Angle, Class, Plastic Card.*

INTRODUCTION

One of the rapidly developing areas of information technologies in the world is personal recognition, which is related to the creation of biometric systems. Biometric systems are widely used in social networks, electronic payments, forensics and a number of other fields. Therefore, at present, great attention is being paid to the improvement, development and implementation of methods and algorithms of personal recognition based on biometric technologies. The creation of biometric technologies and their widespread use is supported by scientific research in the developed countries of the world, including the USA, Germany, the Russian Federation, England, China, Japan, South Korea and other countries. These researches are primarily focused on increasing the speed and reliability of biometric systems. Therefore, one of the most important issues is the development of image preprocessing algorithms that provide high performance of these systems.

MAIN PART

In our country, the development of our national traditions and values, the in-depth study of the scientific heritage of our great thinkers, the education of our youth with love for the Motherland, knowledge and intellectual well-being are given attention as a priority of state policy.

The reforms carried out in this area have gained recognition worldwide and are considered to be a model of religious tolerance. In particular, the exclusion of Uzbekistan from the list of countries of particular concern in the sphere of religious freedom, the adoption of the resolution "Enlightenment and Tolerance" proposed by Uzbekistan at the plenary session of the UN General Assembly are clear examples of the words above. Particularly, the management of systems for access to facilities belonging to the religious sphere, the creation of identity recognition systems based on intelligent systems is one of the topical issues.

Theoretical research into the concept of artificial intelligence began in the 13th century. However, the official birth of the science of artificial intelligence dates back to the 1940s of the 20th century. At that time, Norbert Wiener founded the science of cybernetics.

Artificial Intelligence is a system of software environments in which human thinking is simulated in a computer process. The term "artificial intelligence" was coined by Stanford University (USA) in 1956.

Programmes based on artificial intelligence solve a number of problems to varying degrees. Before creating any artificial intelligence system, it is advisable to organise several stages of designing this system [1, 2, 3]. The stages of AI design are:

- ✓ Problem identification;
- ✓ Data preparation;
- ✓ Selection of algorithms;
- ✓ Learning algorithms;
- ✓ Selection of a specific programming language;
- ✓ Run on the chosen platform.

Once these steps are clearly understood, the implementation process becomes much easier. Today, the demand for artificial intelligence is also growing day by day. It is quite possible to organise the processes in these steps using different algorithms. The use of different algorithms results in different facial images [4, 5, 6, 7].



Figure 1. Face images from different angles.

Today, artificial intelligence is used in various fields. Identification technologies based on human biometrics are also being created. Artificial intelligence is able not only to recognize a person by biometric parameters, but also to recognize objects in different images [8, 9, 10].

Question Posed

Image recognition using artificial intelligence in information security. By creating artificial intelligence, we collect images that have several groups to use image recognition technology. We have chosen images such as pens, pencils, plastic cards.

We divided the selected images into the following classes:

1. Class name (Pen).
2. Class name (Plastic Card).
3. Class name (Person).

After creating the classes, we insert the images belonging to this class. We have received various results from the recognition process and will review these results.

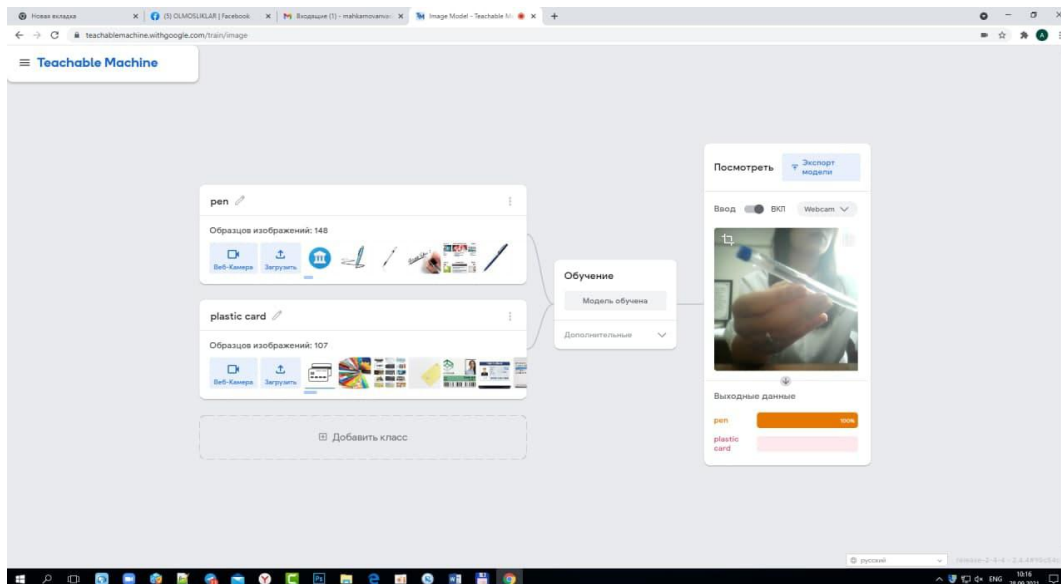


Figure 2. Result obtained by pen class name.

When we show the "Pen", "Plastic Card", "Person" to the ready artificial intelligence technology through the web camera:

- ✓ The result of the pen class, i.e. the recognition rate, was 100% when we entered 300 different images belonging to this class;

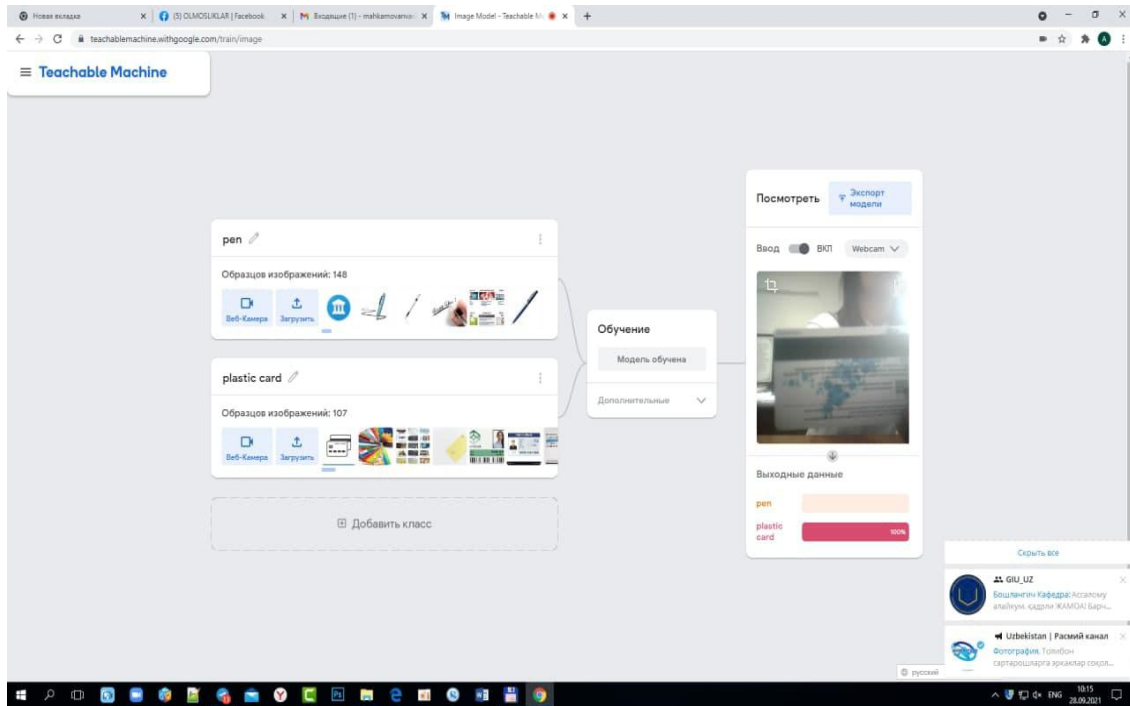


Figure 3. Result obtained by Plastic Card class name.

- ✓ The result obtained for the Plastic card class, i.e., the recognition index, when we entered 615 different images belonging to this class, was 100%;

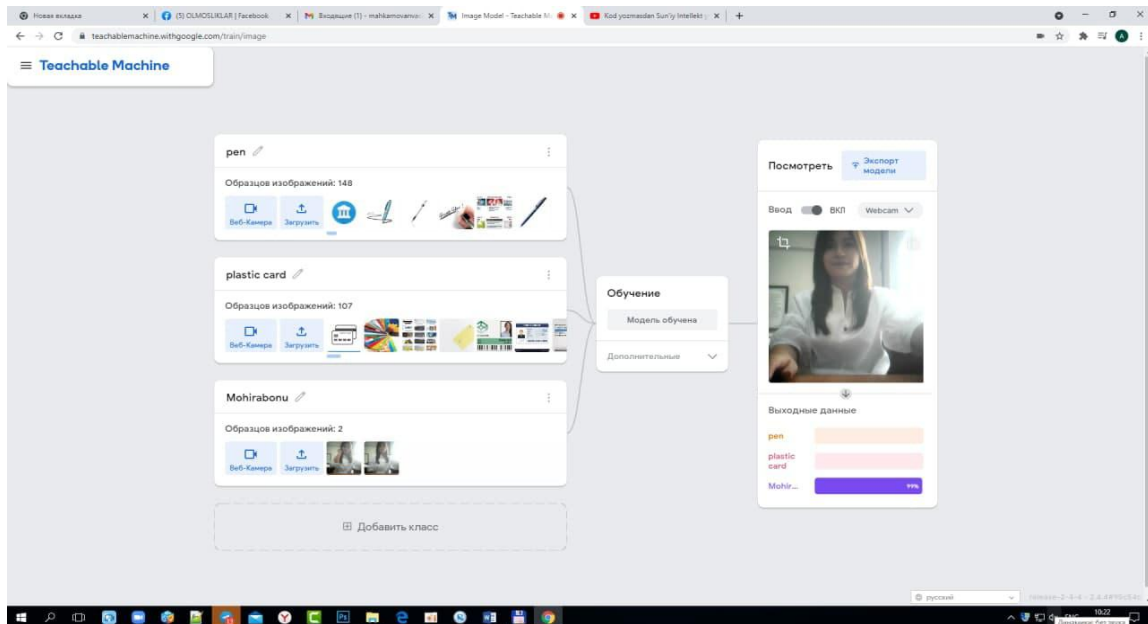


Figure 4. The result obtained by the image of the person's face.

- ✓ In order to know the level of person recognition in our last created class, we included 9 images of 1 person taken from different rakus, and as a result, the recognition rate showed 100%;

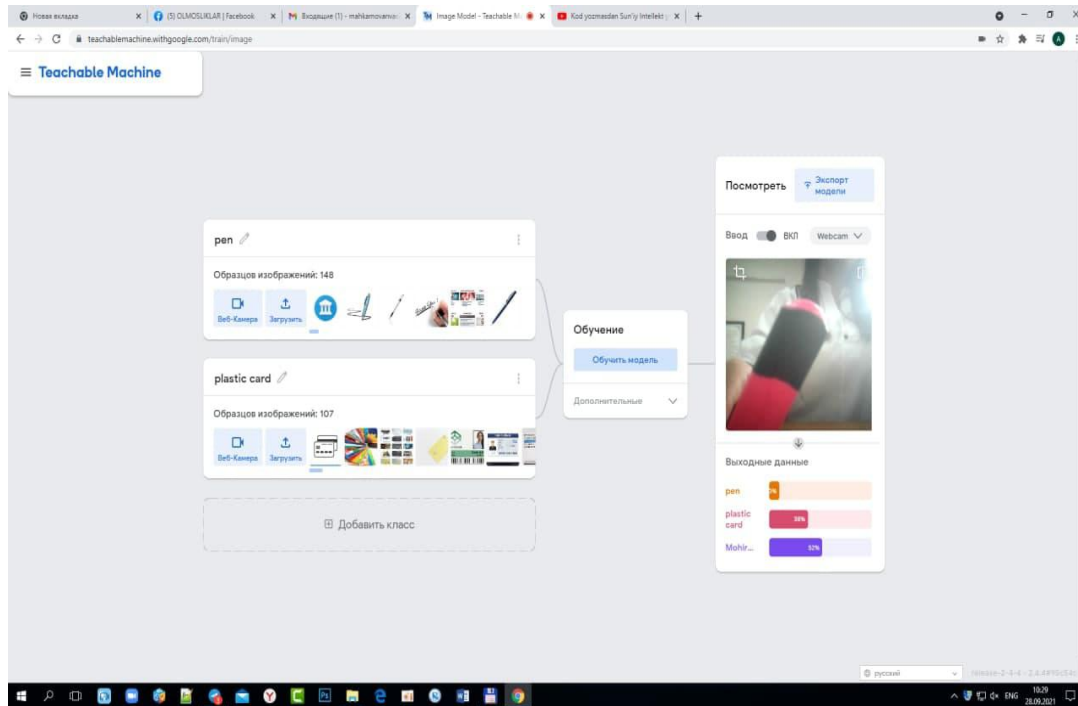


Figure 5. The result obtained from an image that is not included in the database.

- ✓ In addition, the recognition rate of the artificial intelligence program created in the process of showing the image of various items not included in the database to the technology did not show a clear percentage. The reason for the low recognition rate is that another item we tested was not included in the program.

In order to recognize images in artificial intelligence programs, the image must be of good quality and the lighting must be normal.

CONCLUSION

From the conducted experimental studies, it can be said that the greater the number of images of a given object in classes, the higher the recognition rate will be if the images are taken from different angles. The use of artificial intelligence in the software development process has been found to be effective. It is also necessary to pay attention to the light in the process of taking pictures. Because, if the given image is not of good quality, the recognition accuracy has dropped significantly. Artificial intelligence can be used effectively in person recognition.

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BEHAVIOURAL CONSTRUCTIVIST APPROACH TO THE SEMANTICS OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN PROPOSITIONAL ANALYSES

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DOI: [10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00004.6](https://doi.org/10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00004.6)

ABSTRACT

The paper is concerned with an approach to the semantics of the individual within propositional expression. The objective of the paper is to propose behavioural constructivism as an analytic approach to the semantics of constative sentences. The primary focus of the essay is to present the semantics of the individual referent in a proposition. The method adopted to achieve this objective is content analysis. The analysis has shown that the individual described in any given proposition is neither its subject nor its predicate but a relation, which is a construct of the cognitive agent and expressed in a proposition. So, the central issue in the semantics of a proposition is its expression of a relation constructed upon experience, not the description of the subject's state. A proposition is a report of the existence of such a construct.

KEYWORDS: *Constructivism, Behavioural, Proposition, Individual, Subject, Predicate.*

INTRODUCTION

The structure of the bifurcation of objects in the expression of any proposition as subject and predicate has portended a serious problem for semantics and the philosophy of language. Propositions are expressed in present continuous tense and as a relation between two entities joined together by a copula. The subject is said to be a predicate. For example, "a is b." A literary understanding of the proposition could present the relation expressed as that of identity of the two objects. But traditional metaphysics, especially following Aristotle, would rather assume that the proposition is an expression of the relation of substance to its accidents. So, the subject term is taken as the substance, and the predicate term is the accident. On that account, the subject is taken as the individual that the proposition is about.

Traditional nominalism is quick to move from its assumption that words in language are labels for things and a description of the state of affairs to the submission that the proposition is a description of the state of the subject. But that will amount to a bias against the predicate. Why is it that the subject of the proposition is presented as the individual and not the predicate? If the semantics of propositions are permitted to model the structure of the proposition, then the

assumption that the subject is the individual will remain unquestioned. But is it possible to assume that the predicate is the individual? It will also amount to an aberration to assume the contrary position, which is that the predicate is the individual. Such an assumption will defeat common sense. Let us assume that the predicate is granted to be reckoned as the individual; then what will its argument places be called? If we assume that since predicates are general terms (because they could be found in identical forms in more than one instance), then they cannot be individuals, could we also deny the unique identity of the class of each predicate? From this vantage point, the predicate as a distinct class, say of ripped oranges, is also distinct. But to refer to an individual instance of a ripped orange as an individual will defeat common sense.

Now why do analysts choose to ignore the individuality of classes in the analysis of the proposition, but prefer to favour the individuality of the subject? The essay has shown that this policy is based on the assumption of the validity of the picture theory of language. But again, picture theory has been shown to be erroneous. Thus, the individual in the proposition, as understood by the behavioural constructivist approach, is neither the subject's nor the predicate class's individuality, but a relation built on experience by the cognitive agent. A construct such as an individual is the result of sensory stimulation interpreted in relation to past experiences and expressed in the proposition as a relation. Hence, the individual is the relation which the proposition expresses and that relation is a construct upon un-demarcated experiences.

THE PROBLEM OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN PHILOSOPHY OF LOGIC

Traditional philosophies of language have overlooked an aspect central to resolving the problem of the individual in propositional analysis. That aspect is the one that has to do with what, in this essay, is called the unexpressed factors of language expression. These extra-logical factors function unexpressed in the background of every language, helping to move, motivate, and regulate it. Only a thorough logical analysis of language brings these factors to light. They are properties like the logical axioms or the individuals' functions, or generators, with their process of generation. According to the latter, the process of generation is a language actuator for the individual function $f(x)$, which generates individuals. So, the semantics of propositions would only be complete once the possibility of the individual was properly captured in theories.

The emphasis on the individual function in the essay is germane because most of the controversies in traditional philosophy of language are controversies about the comprehensive relation of the notion of the individual to experience. For instance, the proposition "*so and so is such and such*" ordinarily appears at first glance to be straightforward but suddenly becomes complicated in philosophical analysis. How does "*so and so*" become "*such and such*"? Is it a member of the class "*such and such*" or is it identical with it? To say that the individual is identical with a predicate is to say that the individual is a predicate. This completely obviates the subject-predicate bifurcation that supports our logic. It is often clear in this analysis that individuals are not identical with any single one of their predicates, because one individual is capable of standing in several relations to an infinite disjunction of predicates. If it is a member of the class of "*such and such*," where is that class in experience? Much of the philosophy of language is based on the reconciliation of the entity's relationship with experience, which is divided into subject and predicate in expression. It is the reconciliation of the logic of expression with the logic of experience; logic here is used in the sense of the structure of relations. But as stated above, the pivot of that relation lies not in the structure of expression but in the

unexpressed extra-logical factors. Nonetheless, many philosophers write as if the logical space expressed in language must be the same as the extra-linguistic space provided by experience.

So, how is the individual as a linguistic object possible in propositional expression? This question could actually be understood as a question about what an individual is. The ability to successfully resolve this quandary in the philosophy of language depends to a great extent on the understanding of the logic of language. How do we come to know about the individual and its predicates as an object in our propositions? Traditional philosophical views of language offer numerous responses to this question. But only a few, taken as paradigms of such responses, will be discussed in the essay.

THE NOMINALIST RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN PROPOSITIONS

The traditional philosophical conception of language is copy-theoretic. Thus, from the nominalism of ancient philosophy to the atomism of logical positivism, the understanding of language is founded on picture theory. The picture theory of language assumes a cognitive autocracy of the object as an epistemological validation. Cognitive autocracy is the establishment of all cognitive authorities on the object, with the subject as a passive receptacle of all knowledge. Another epistemological fallacy attendant to the picture theory orientation is the fallacy of the absolute objective standpoint, according to which the search for the interpretation of a theory is absolutely dependent on the object. Attendant to this fallacy is the fallacy of ontological convenience, which involves the assumption of the existence of some fictitious, putative entities as the domain of reference for concepts that lack empirical correlation. This tradition ignores the achievements of Immanuel Kant (1965) in epistemology. Kant turned the table upside down in the manner of a Copernican Revolution. Knowledge no longer depended on the object but on the subject. The Kantian Copernican man's aggression became so extreme that the concept of the thing-in-itself was questioned. Edmund Husserl admired Kantian epistemology but bemoaned the fact that Kant never distinguished between worlds that project from him and things in themselves (Husserl, 1970, p. 14).

The traditional philosophy of language is a label theory, which excludes a proper analysis of the intuitive elements in such an analysis. A tradition, which is properly represented by a theory called nominalism and attributed to Plato, states that words are labels or names for things. The relationship between a word and a thing is, therefore, a relationship of naming. Aristotle is alleged to have supported this tradition with his understanding of the roles of predicates as both identification and descriptive (Evans, 1987, p. 50).

Consequently, "some predicates identify the nature of a thing, others identify quality or quantity, and so on" (Evans, 1987, p. 50). In this descriptive use, predicates express various features that things possess (Evans, 1987, p. 50).

The picture theory of language is also traceable to David Hume. Humean epistemology is an impressionist epistemology. Wilfrid Sellars (1972) transforms this epistemology into a theory of language to argue that: "... in developing the form of the classical doctrine that the mind knows the world by virtue of containing a "likeness" of it, Hume assumes without careful explanation that the "perception" of a configuration of objects is a configuration of perceptions" (p. 228). This mindset manifests itself in the perception of language as labels for mental images. Humean empiricism had a radical implication for logical positivism and its anti-metaphysical orientation.

The principal document on language for the logical positivists was the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1961) of Ludwig Wittgenstein. Language was divided into elementary propositions and propositions by logical atomism. Russell, who is also a member of this school, divided his own language into atomic propositions and molecular propositions. The elementary propositions are the same as the atomic propositions. The concept or proposition of Wittgenstein is identical with Russell's molecular propositions.

According to Wittgenstein's picture theory of language, "the simplest kind of proposition, an elementary proposition, asserts the existence of a state of affairs" (1961, p. 166). Sellars (1972) argues that "it is a familiar fact that Wittgenstein restricts his conception of picturing to matter-of-factual statements in the narrow sense" (p. 222). Wittgenstein's writings corroborate this position. For instance, he writes in the *Tractatus* that "an elementary proposition consists of names." "It is a nexus; a concatenation of names" (Wittgenstein, 1961, p. 167). And he considered proposition to be the truth function of elementary propositions (p. 166). By so doing, Wittgenstein believed that he had discovered the logic of language. That conviction gave him the impetus to claim that: "most of the propositions and questions of philosophers arise from our failure to understand the logic of language" (p. 165).

For Wittgenstein, the logic of language is the conception of language as copy-theoretic. This conception of language completely ignored the contribution of the subject or the cognitive agent.

Wilfrid Sellars' own theory of language is a fraud with mythological thinking. He finds a correspondence between language and the world by virtue of the "Myth of the Super-Subscriber" (Sellars, 1972, p. 228). The duty of this inscriber is to inscribe in a wax-like form and at an incredible rate all the thoughts of the individual (Sellars, 1972, p. 228). Sellars' inscription resembled facts corroborating the Cartesian position that ideas are configurations of the ego.

Therefore, for nominalists, the linguistic structure of the individual is identical with the objective structure of experience. This has serious implications for the individual's comprehension. Either the individual is simply a predicate as literarily expressed in language, if language is just a label, or the individual possesses a predicate as exposed in philosophical analysis. If the individual is a predicate as literarily expressed in the proposition, then the individual will amount to an infinitely denumerable set of irreconcilable identities, which will erode the unity of the individual as an entity. As a result, labelling theory or nominalism is problematic.

THE CONCEPTUALIST AND CONTEXTUALIST RESPONSES TO THE PROBLEM OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN PROPOSITIONS

Conceptualism transfers the realm of meaning from the physical state of affairs to mental images. Conceptualist semantics is rooted in mediaeval grammar. Accordingly, the mediaeval grammarians postulated that "*vox significati mediantibus conceptibus*" (the word signifies through the medium of concepts) (Udofot, 1998, p. 50). Conceptualism is also found in the works of Frege in his discussion of the components of language as consisting of expression, sense, and reference (Resnik, 1980, p. 18). Conceptualist semantic essence is the idea of sense, which is mental. There is still a sense of naming that the meaning of words assumes in conceptualism. The difference is that what is named are mental images derived from language use rather than physical entities of the state of affairs. It implies that the relation of the subject to the predicate is a mental picture. But what is unclear is the nature of the picture. Is it a picture of a class, where the subject is domiciled in the predicate, or is it a picture where the subject and

predicate are different manifestations of identical individuals? It is in just this solipsism that conceptualism fails to address the problem of the individual in the proposition.

Contextual semantics, as well as speech-act semantics, is the conviction that the meaning of a word is only found in the realm of activities. The proponents of this are the later Wittgenstein of the *Philosophical Investigations* (1993) and Malinowski, the anthropologist. According to Malinowski, language should not be removed from its context but seen as used by people for hunting, fishing, planting, buying, and selling (Udofot, 1998, p. 57). He derided the language of books as a far-fetched derivative function of language and argues that language was not originally a mirror of reflected thought (Udofot, 1998, p. 57).

The later Wittgenstein corroborates this position in his argument that the meaning of a word is in its use. He argues thus: "One cannot guess how a word functions." One has to look at its use and learn from that. But the difficulty is removing the prejudice that stands in the way of doing this. It is not a stupid prejudice" (Wittgenstein, 1993p.209). Wittgenstein blames the "copy theory" orientation for the process of language learning. Thus he writes:

One thinks that learning language consists in giving names to objects, viz; to human beings, to shapes, to colours, to pains, to moods, to numbers, etc. To repeat-naming is something like attaching a label to a thing. One can say that this is preparatory use of a word. But what is it a preparation for? (Wittgenstein, 1993 p.13).

Wittgenstein believes that words prepare the speaker to do things. But to really understand the use of a word in a given language demands a proper understanding of the language. Wittgenstein (1993) argues that "the inability of the ordinary person and even the typical mathematician to give a satisfactory definition of the number one or the concept of number is equated with a lack of understanding of concepts that are foundations of the whole structure of arithmetic" (p. 670).

So language is like a game, and the whole of life is the manifestation of that game. To understand language, one must understand how it is used. This means going deep to understand the ontological permutations of the language and its extra-logical components (Quine, 1969, p. 48). It calls for a participant-centered approach. Thus, a proper interpretation demands a presupposition of the intentions of the users without prejudice, especially with respect to the unwritten extra-logical forms. Williard van Orman Quine (1969 p.48) captures the situation vividly in his linguistic permutation of ontology as thus:

begin by picturing us at home in our language, with all its predicates and auxiliary devices. The vocabulary includes "rabbit", "rabbit part", "rabbit stage", "formula", "number", "ox", "cattle"; also the places predicates of identity and difference, and other logical principle. In these terms we can say in so many words, that a formula and that the number, this a rabbit and that a rabbit part, this and that same rabbit, and this and that different parts. In just those words, this network of term and predicate and auxiliary devices is, in relativity jargon, our frame of references, or co-ordinate system.

What contextualism achieves is the restriction of the universal concept of meaning of words within a language to a contextual concept of meaning. It promotes an observational approach to semantics. Such an approach detracts from acquiescence in the semantics of primordial meanings. But the concept of naming is not obviated by contextualism. The only difference is that, whereas nominalism regards words as static primordial names of specific entities, contextualism allows for naming fluidity within various social contexts. If context-based naming

is granted to contextual semantics, it would face the same implication as nominalism. So, with respect to the semantics of the individual, each proposition would be assumed to name two different individuals (the subject and the predicate) and thereafter assert a relation of identity between them on the basis of the copula. As previously demonstrated, this will call into question the concept of the subject's unity as substance.

BEHAVIOURAL CONSTRUCTIVIST APPROACH TO THE SEMANTICS OF THE INDIVIDUAL

Even though Quine understands logical entities as meaningless entities allowed only on pragmatic grounds, his historical approach to meaning assumes the unprejudiced observer-participant approach. This approach sets Quine apart from other contextualists. Restriction to a mere observer approach causes contextualism to fall victim to the semantics of naming. However, using this approach, one can understand both the written and unwritten properties of a given language, because epistemology without context is incomplete. To achieve an adequate understanding of the structure of language, a correct epistemological disposition must be assumed, which is that knowledge is the result of the cooperation of the subject and the object. Thus, with an observer-participant approach, the particulars and use of the language will be understood. The approach appreciates knowledge as a construct based on real experience and language as a behavioural expression of the totality of such a cognitive act. This has implications for the phenomenalism of both empirical knowledge and spiritual knowledge as well, because we cannot go beyond ourselves and our experiences to know how things really are. Spiritualists will even have problems striving to assume knowledge of the nature of reality beyond spiritual phenomena. It could be painful anyway. But it is difficult to assume otherwise.

So, we construct our physics, our mathematics, and our religion from the stimulation of our senses. In the same way, we construct the individuals in our propositions with their predicates. So, if one wants to find meaning for the relation of the individual to its predicate, the person has to do so in the activity of cognitive construction. Language is a report about the cognitive construction of facts, not a label for objects. To properly locate the meaning of language, one must query human cognitive acts. Semantics, like epistemology, must become observation-participant. This is because we suddenly discover that we are identically human and that we share some identical traits of perception, and this is confirmed in our language. We equally confirm that our experiences are consistent. Hence, we fall back on induction because the world is what is revealed to us in our science. In this way, it becomes easy to differentiate between reality and imagination or false perception. This cognitive attitude is appropriately classified as behaviorist. But a construct results from this cognitive behaviour, so we shall refer to it as *behavioural constructivism*.

In behavioural constructivism, we study speech in speaking, knowledge in knowing, classes in classification, and numbers in numbering. The museum's and the mortuary's attitudes toward language are untenable because there is more to language than mere references. Language is a by-product of the cognitive process and a medium of cognitive socialization. It is different from seeking to ascertain the context of the use of the words, as in the new Wittgenstein (1993). It has more to do with being both a participant and an observer.

It is in this sense that it could be recommended that philosophers avail themselves of the findings of cognitive science in order to facilitate their project. In the behavioural constructivist sense, truth is contextualised by the language expressing our constructive process. So, truth becomes a

sociological feature of our language. Therefore, truth could be defined in this sociological sense as "the correspondence of a statement and its referent, to the foundational linguistic (sociological) permutation of ontology, coordinately in a recursive structure" (Akpan, 2005, p. 73). This analysis leads to the conclusion that knowledge is the result of the subject and object working together.

The behavioural constructivist approach to mathematical foundations could be seen as a continuation of constructivism in mathematics philosophy. However, the linguist component and the fact that concepts are constructs properly understood in conceptualization distinguish behavioural constructivism from Hilbert's complicated idealism. Hence, to discover the ontology of an entity in behavioural constructivism, one must investigate the cognitive linguistic moments involved in the expression of the ontology. It is expected that the entity will emerge as a cognitive construct as a result of this experience.

Again, from the standpoint of behavioural constructivism, the concept of class could be studied by investigating the processes of classification and predication within the process of predication. That upsets the old order, prompting the question of whether both the subject and predicate refer to different instances of the individual with the identity relation. For an individual to be said to possess a predicate, it must be observed to possess some basic features of a member of a given class. Observation is not enough; the epistemologist must also presuppose the processes according to which a class is possible. All such presuppositions are presumed in the semantics of propositions. What is presumed is the cognitive act of the subject over the stimuli in the senses.

The same thing is applicable to the question of what the knowledge of the world would have been like without human beings. That question is as meaningless as asking what I would have been like without my current parents. There will be no me. Knowledge is consistent with human existence, and it is the root of error to ask what knowledge would be like for beings other than humans. So it is unknown whether there would have been knowledge of atoms, trees, or rivers if humans did not exist. Knowledge is an experience-based human construct.

There is an intrinsic error in set theory, a kind of category mistake. Set theory is often conducted as though its objective is the classification of elements into sets by the definition of conditions for classification. This tradition spans from Cantor's development of class for analysis to the contemporary set theory of Zermelo-Frankel. But set theory is actually supposed to be the study of the concept of class, not an exercise in classification but an investigation of classification as a process. All set theories conducted as analyses of the concept of class have been consistent. But surprisingly, mathematicians would not accept such set theories, thereby causing the theorists concerned to erroneously interpret their theories as theories of classification, or classes, as they may call them. An example of this kind of set theory is Dedekind's. But within behavioural constructivism, set theory is understood as the study of the concept of class. Hence, instead of seeking to carry out model classifications, the concept of class should be understood in the process of classification.

CONCLUSION

Set theory, predication, characterization, classification, proposition, etc., all refer to the constructive behaviour of the cognitive agent upon experience. They are all exercises in judgment, and their study is the study of judgement and the process of judgement in human experience. For the linguistic expression of this process to receive proper semantic analysis, it

must presuppose the cognitive process that is presumed in the expression but unstated. The individual in the proposition is a construct of cognitive judgement based on experience. So, its structure of relation in the proposition is not its structure of existence, because its existence is in the history of cognitive construction, and its meaning can only be properly referenced from there.

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WORK-LIFE AND CAREGIVERS' PRODUCTIVITY IN PUBLIC PRESCHOOLS IN RIVERS STATE

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DOI: **10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00005.8**

ABSTRACT

The productivity of caregivers is the reason for children development and learning in school, the dearth of motivation of caregivers is suicidal to the overall performance of the caregiver in the school. Observation reveals that despite the efforts of government in ensuring that caregivers are motivated, it seems there is still more to do on the part of education stakeholders in ensuring that caregivers become productive in Rivers State. This study therefore investigated Work-life and caregivers' productivity in public preschool in Rivers State. The correlational Research design was adopted. Two purposes were posed, two research questions were raised and answered and two hypotheses were tested in the study. 6,572 subjects (6000 caregivers and 572 head-teachers) found in 572 Public Preschool in Rivers State constitute the population for the study out of which 708 subjects (649 caregivers and 59 head-teacher) representing approximately 10.78% of the entire population was sampled for the study using Stratified Sampling Technique. Study employed the correlational research design. The research instruments used for data collection are the researcher-developed checklist and a questionnaire. Reliability index of 0.73 was determined through a test-retest method which was used to adjudge the instruments reliable. The instrument was administered to Caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State. Mean and Standard Deviation was used to answer the research questions, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The finding revealed that there is a significant relationship between professional development and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State, there is a significant relationship between work load and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State.

KEYWORDS: *Work-Life, Productivity, Caregivers.*

INTRODUCTION

School productivity invariably refers to the results that a school system is achieving for a given level of inputs. Sometimes, the general belief is that productivity can be increased by increasing the labour supply, increasing the hour worked and the wages. Greater

productivity however, does not come from spending more time working harder, but from working harder and smarter. The bottom line therefore, is that productivity is concerned mainly with the maximization of output. That being the case, productivity is defined in terms of the goal satisfaction which is measured by the relationship between services rendered to clients (children) and the broad objectives of education. Why Herath and Rosli, (2013) think that productivity may mean different things to different people depending on the perspective from which one approaches it, the focus of productivity in education is centered mainly on the output of the caregivers in terms of their ability to increase the learning achievement of preschool children through an effective classroom interaction and management. To ensure caregivers do their assigned job, there is need to have a strong supervisory team to check on all that they do.

The effectiveness of caregivers refers to the input of caregivers on the job they do. Caregivers' job productivity manifests in many ways. Such ways are; use of appropriate method in teaching; this is where the caregiver chooses a more appropriate way of achieving the objectives slated for the lesson. Use of appropriate instructional materials; the caregiver uses instructional materials that will assist him/her achieve the lesson objectives and help the child to assimilate what has been taught taking cognizance of the age of children, mental ability, instructional objectives to be achieved and method of instruction amongst others as prerequisites for selecting instructional materials for teaching. When the caregiver does this, it shows that the caregivers know the job and do the job.

Another component of caregivers' job productivity is improvisation of instructional materials; this is where the caregiver uses local materials to procure instructional to achieve the same objective when the appropriate is not available. It shows creativity and productive nature of the caregiver. Record keeping is one of the ways to show performance in school. This is because proper record keeping is essential and it is used for several purposes in the school. A caregiver who keeps records has helped the school secure her data base which will be used for administrative purposes and counseling. Other areas of assessing the productivity of caregivers in the preschool centres include: Adequate lesson preparation, good mastery of subject matter, proper presentation of lesson, and proper assessment of learners. The input of a caregiver in the work place could be marred or fostered by quite a number of factors. In the work place, caregivers' job productivity is influenced by all they could see around them both human and materials. Hence, the work-life offered a caregiver could foster the productivity at work or assist in its decline.

Work-life is the condition of service offered to a worker upon appointment as a staff of an organization. This work condition can either improve the work-life of the staff or reduce staff's productivity. Anand (2018) posited that work-life is a term that encompasses all circumstances that affect labour in the place of work. This includes but not limited to job hours, physical aspects, legal right and responsibilities of the organization and work load. In the early years' environment, the caregivers had enormous work to do in developing the child who totally depends on them for help at their developing stage. Saka, and Haruna (2013) argue that clean environment, staffroom, friendly policies, balances between work and leisure are the basic condition for teachers' effectiveness.

It is no doubt that absenteeism, and poor retention others are signs of a demotivated caregiver. However, these negative outcomes do not occur in a vacuum; as many factors could contribute to it including poor teachers' motivation. The productivity of the caregiver is hinged on the extent

to which the professional development, remuneration, and workload amongst others, are made available for the physical and mental health of caregivers. Non-existence of the afore-mentioned factors in the work place increase caregivers' stress which could further inform, low productivity (De-Grip & Pleijers, 2019).

Caregivers' professional development includes all forms of training given to caregivers in preschools to improve their skills, knowledge, and competence on the job they profess. In addition, their technical-know-how is being enhanced by this process. These professional development includes seminars, conferences, workshops, mentoring and other forms of training that will help caregivers' career. In an attempt to group professional development, Obasi (2003) and Ohiri (2003) grouped this training method into two kinds: on the job training which is conducted by supervisors or senior employer who is responsible for instructing the employees and pre-service training. Caregivers also engage in further professional training and development courses especially as it relates to current trends in Early Childhood Education. In the words of Ekebem (2017), professional development fascinates the job performance and the entire effectiveness of caregivers on their job. Regular exposure to courses and mentorship by older and experienced colleagues helps in no small measure in enhancing caregivers' productivity. Staff development will make any caregiver in the public sector to continue in the teaching profession because the caregiver is properly treated. This act makes caregivers to stay on their job and impart positively with high level of productivity. In this way, the job is not boring to caregivers as they are exposed and disposed to myriads of delivery patterns both in instructional methods and materials which is quite productive. As this process continues and being reviewed time after time caregivers become motivated to put in more efforts in developing the child in their custody. No teacher will quit such opportunity. Hence, the issue of leaping from one job to another will not surface with the presence of this kind of satisfaction obtained through professional development offered caregivers. For continual positive job performance, caregivers are encouraged to attend seminars in order to boost their professional status and practice efficiently.

Work load is another factor that contributes to the productivity of caregivers. This is the amount of work a caregiver is made to carry out with a given period of time. Since caregivers deal with preschool children, workload is the maximum number of children a caregiver is made to attend to as they work. The quest of inculcating the requisite value in children leaves caregivers with enormous workload. As posited by Perlito et. al. (2021) workload breaks down the productivity of teachers in the classroom. The assertion of Perlito could be dragged further by saying that the enormous class activities which the caregiver handled if not shared or reduced could bring about low performance and attainment of set goals in the preschool centres. In many public preschool centres today, caregivers take care of children by themselves alone. A class of fifteen children should have a caregiver as enshrined in the National Policy on Education but what is observed is the reverse of it. Caregivers struggle with too many children together with the enormous workload. They end up being stressed or even collapsing. This negative practice is mostly observed in most public schools across the nation. Too much workload drives away caregivers from doing their job productively (Arvidsson et. al. 2019). The ones that manage to stay turn ill every now and then due to stress emanating from workload. Workload actually becomes a burden to caregivers when the number of pupils and lessons to meet up with becomes enormous. The overwhelming effect of these activities can emanate to stress and further health hazards to the caregiver. Proffering solution to caregivers' workload in the preschool, Idde (2013) opined that

recruiting more caregivers will reduce the work load on surviving teachers. As discussed above, the productivity of caregivers in schools does not just emerge. It is a result of certain factors which must be deliberately planned and implemented for the school objectives to be achieved. Against this background, the study seeks to examine the relationship between work-life and caregivers' productivity in public preschool in Rivers State.

Statement of the Problem

The indices that show the effectiveness of a task is the product derived from that task. Productivity is highly expected in all sphere of human endeavor. As the input that is observed as a result of diligence on the part of caregivers, productivity heralds the quality of a staff in an establishment. Caregivers in the Early Childhood Education Centres are saddled with the responsibility of developing preschoolers are expected to be productive. The effect of caregivers' efficiency is observed in the life and growth of the preschoolers. To meet up with this high demand from the society and the school, the caregivers must show high level of productivity. Be it as it may, caregivers' productivity has been a thing of concern to many in the society especially to those with the academics. The quest for increased productivity makes government to organize training for caregivers. However, it has been notice overtime that caregivers struggle to carry out duties in the preschool centres and this could have resulted to the attendant low productivity on their part. However, this menace could be tied to many factors; chief amongst them is work-life. Work-life which manifests in professional training and workload is viable enough to foster job productivity of caregivers, while its absence can bring about low productivity. Based on this problem, the researcher seeks to investigate if work-life enhances the productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State.

Purpose of the Study

The study sought to:

1. Examine the relationship between professional development and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State.
2. Investigate the relationship between work load and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were posed and answered in this study:

1. What is the relationship between professional development and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State?
2. What is the relationship between work load and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses are formulated and tested in this study:

1. There is no significant relationship between professional development and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State.
2. Significant relationship does not exist between work load and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State.

Methodology

6,572 subjects (6000 caregivers and 572 head-teachers) found in 572 Public Preschool in Rivers State constitutes the population for the study out of which 708 subjects (649 caregivers and 59 head-teacher) representing approximately 10.78% of the entire population was sampled for the study using Stratified Sampling Technique. Study employed the correlational research design. The research instruments used for data collection are the researcher-developed checklist and a questionnaire. The checklist is titled: Caregivers Productivity Checklist (CPC). It has 10 items which was measured on Four Point Scale of Strongly Agree (SA)⁴, Agree (A)³, Disagree (D)², Strongly Disagree (SD)¹, while the questionnaire is titled “Work-life and Caregivers’ Productivity Questionnaire (WCPQ). Reliability index of 0.73 was determined through a test-retest method which was used to adjudge the instruments reliable. The instrument was administered to Caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State. Mean and Standard Deviation was used to answer the research questions, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Result Presentation

Answering Research Questions

Research Question 1: What is the Relationship between Professional Development and Productivity of Caregivers in Public Preschool Centres in Rivers State?

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY OF CAREGIVERS IN PUBLIC PRESCHOOL CENTRES

S/N	ITEM	\bar{X}	SD	REMARK
1.	Conference attendance improve caregivers knowledge on the job	2.77	.974	Agree
2.	Conference attendance helped me gather information on lesson delivery	2.67	1.027	Agree
3.	Pre-school centres organizes workshops for caregivers	2.52	.897	Agree
4.	I improve on my instructional strategies after attending conference	2.89	.838	Agree
5.	Seminars on current trends in teaching helps caregivers to teach	2.61	.942	Agree
Grand Mean (\bar{X})		2.69		Agree

*Criterion Mean 2.50

Table 1 presents the summary of descriptive statistics on the relationship between professional development and productivity of caregivers in public preschool centres in Rivers State with a Grand Mean of 2.69. The data analyzed shows that the five items on the table were accepted between the mean of 2.89 and 2.52.

Research Question 2: What is the Relationship between Work load and Productivity of Caregivers in Public Preschool Centres in Rivers State?

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WORK LOAD AND PRODUCTIVITY OF CAREGIVERS IN PUBLIC PRESCHOOL CENTRES

S/N	ITEM	\bar{X}	SD	REMARK
6.	Moderate work is given to caregivers	2.57	.916	Agree
7.	I am not overloaded with other responsibilities outside teaching	2.32	.997	Disagree
8.	I am assisted by an assistant employed in my class	2.43	.797	Disagree
9.	I close the school when stipulated	2.99	.839	Agree
10.	I teach only few domains of skill development in children each day	2.81	.987	Agree
Grand Mean (\bar{X})		2.70		Agree

***Criterion Mean 2.50**

Table 2 presents the summary of descriptive statistics on the relationship between work load and productivity of caregivers in public preschool centres in Rivers State with a Grand Mean of 2.70. The data analyzed shows that four items between the mean of 2.99 and 2.57 were accepted. While items with the mean of 2.42 to 2.43 were rejected.

Testing of Research Hypotheses

H_{01} : There is no Significant Relationship between Professional Development and Productivity of Caregivers in Public Preschool Centres in Rivers State.

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF PEARSON PRODUCT MOMENT CORRELATION (PPMC) ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY OF CAREGIVERS IN PUBLIC PRESCHOOL CENTRES

Variables	N	\bar{X}	SD	r	p-value	Decision
Professional Development		13.46	1.897			
Productivity of Caregivers	708			.940	.000	Rejected
		13.32	1.818			

***Significant $p < 0.05$**

The result in Table 3. Reveals the summary of Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) on the relationship between professional development and productivity of caregivers in public preschool centres in Rivers State. The result demonstrates a positive and strong relationship between the two variables with a correlation coefficient value of ($r = .940$). A further interpretation indicates that there is a significant relationship between professional development and productivity of caregivers in public preschool centres in Rivers State as [$p = .000$] ($p < 0.05$). The null hypothesis one which states that there is no significant relationship between professional development and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State was rejected and the inverse hypothesis upheld. Hence, there is significant relationship between professional development and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State.

H₀₂: There is no Significant Relationship between Work load and Productivity of Caregivers in Public Preschool in Rivers State.

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF PEARSON PRODUCT MOMENT CORRELATION (PPMC) ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WORK LOAD AND PRODUCTIVITY OF CAREGIVERS IN PUBLIC PRESCHOOL

Variables	N	\bar{X}	SD	r	p-value	Decision
Work Load		13.52	1.763			
Productivity of Caregivers	708	13.32	1.818	.738	.000	Rejected

***Significant $p < 0.05$**

The result in Table 4 reveals the summary of Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) on the relationship between work load and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State. The result demonstrates a positive and high relationship between the two variables with a correlation coefficient value of ($r = .738$). A further interpretation indicates that there is a significant relationship between work load and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State as [$p = .000$] ($p < 0.05$). The null hypothesis five which states that there is no significant relationship between work load and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State was rejected and the inverse hypothesis upheld. Hence, there is significant relationship between work load and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State.

Summary of Findings

Based on the data analyzed, the following were the findings of the study:

1. There is significant and positive relationship between professional development and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State.
2. There is significant and positive relationship between work load and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State.

Discussion

The result on table 1 reveals that there is significant relationship between professional development and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State. This finding is in agreement with an earlier finding of Ekebem (2017) who saw that Cooperating head teachers as mentors, aid the development of other young caregivers in the system. The issue of professional development is key to the productivity of members of staff in any work environment. The performance of caregivers alike is influenced by the extent to which they are exposed to new trends in their area of expertise. Anand (2018) agreed with this study by saying that mentoring which is a professional development technique for caregivers enables the less experienced or newly employed practicing caregivers to get acquainted and adapted to the work environment and job specifications.

Result in table 2 showed a strong and significant relationship between work load and productivity of caregivers in public preschool in Rivers State. This finding agrees with that of

Perlito et. al. (2021) who found that workload breaks down the productivity of teachers in the classroom. It could be deduced from the above assertion that the enormous class activities which the caregiver handled if not shared or reduced could bring about low performance and attainment of set goals in the preschool. The workload of caregivers includes all the activities the caregiver engages in which includes but not limited to marking of pupil's notes, writing of lesson plan, sourcing and procurement of instructional materials amongst other things. These line of activities by the caregiver could actually become weighty when the number of pupils and lessons to meet up with becomes enormous for only that caregiver to handle. Consequently, the performance of caregivers could be improved and effective when the work load is such that is minimal. The attainment of a balance work activities will make the caregiver carry out those activities seamlessly without breaking down or having fatigue.

CONCLUSION

The study investigated the relationship between work-life and caregivers' productivity in public preschool centres in Rivers State. The job productivity of caregivers is salient for the objectives and the development of preschoolers to be attained. The productivity of caregivers is not attained in a vacuum, but through the various condition offered the caregivers which is termed work life. Work life for caregivers manifest in professional development, work social environment, remuneration, regular promotion, work load and working materials. It is the of caregivers' employees to provide a possible work life to enable positive outcomes from caregivers. The findings of the study revealed that work life relate significantly to the caregivers' productivity. This implies that work life significantly influences caregivers' job performance.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Educational stakeholders such as SUBEB amongst others should improve on caregivers' professional development to aid their job productivity at the preschool centres.
2. Head teachers should re-arrange the work activities and work load in the preschool centres for caregivers to have less work and balance.

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THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH CHINA SEA TO INTERNATIONAL GEOPOLITICS

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DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00006.X

ABSTRACT

The South China Sea, at first glance, seems like any other part of an ocean enclosed by a cluster of Islands and straits and covering a certain area. However, the geostrategic and economic importance associated with the ocean is tremendous and manifold. From busiest maritime trade ways to sea beds full of unlimited resources, this piece of Pacific Ocean is the power beaming with unlimited potential of geostrategic and economic supremacy for anyone having the power to dominate it. It is upon such background that this paper carefully evaluates the strategic importance of the South China Sea. The paper look at the brief history of the South Sea, Natural Resources endowed in the Sea, Territorial Claims among the countries, and the political, economic and military/Defence strategic importance of the Sea. The paper concluded that, the present of natural Resources and the high volume of trade in goods and services transported across the Sea make it an important and most busiest water way in the world, therefore, conflict over it among Asian countries and the world super powers is inevitable. This is because, whoever control the sea, will automatically have a significant influence and control over the world politically, economically andmilitarily.

KEYWORDS: *Geopolitics, Territorial, tremendous, geostrategic, supremacy, endowed.*

INTRODUCTION

South China Sea is known as one of the most significant and dangerous cluster of Islands in the contemporary world. With China's unflinching militarization, six countries laying claims to the maritime territory and most significantly, Japan's and United States' aggressive confrontational attitude towards China in the area this part of the world has captured world attention as a

dangerous nuclear flashpoints of the world. In the contemporary scenario, the South China Sea debacle has gained even more prominence owing to the active engagement of the two global super powers in the region. United States of America and the People's Republic of China are at loggers head in terms of tackling the crisis and with every passing day, the confrontational undertone is becoming even more apparent. Today, China is pursuing an active militarization of the artificial islands that the country created itself. On the other hand, United States of America has been engaged in undertaking a hedging strategy in order to counter the Chinese military might as well as balance the power equilibrium in the region.

The South China Sea, at first glance, seems like any other part of an ocean enclosed by a cluster of Islands and straits and covering a certain area of the sea. However, the geostrategic and economic importance associated with the ocean is tremendous and manifold. From busiest maritime trade ways to sea beds full of unlimited resources, this piece of Pacific Ocean is beaming with unlimited potential of geo-strategic and economic supremacy for anyone having the power to dominate it. It is upon such background that this paper carefully evaluates the strategic importance of the South China Sea. The paper looks at the conceptual clarification, the brief history of the South China Sea, natural resources deposit in the sea, territorial claims among the countries, and the political, economic and military strategic importance of the sea.

Conceptual Clarification

Geopolitics

Geopolitics is the study of the effects of Earth's geography (human and physical) on politics and international relations. While geopolitics usually refers to countries and relations between them, it may also focus on two other kinds of states: *de facto* independent states with limited international recognition and relations between sub-national geopolitical entities, such as the federated states that make up a federation, confederation, or a quasi-federal system.¹

The struggle over the control of geographical entities with an international and global dimension, and the use of such geographical entities for political advantage. Geopolitics is a framework that we can use to understand the complex world around us. Global politics, or “getting what you want in the world” involves thinking and acting geographically. But what does that mean? Geopolitics explains how countries, businesses, terrorist groups, etc. try to reach their political goals by controlling geographic features of the world. We call these features geographical entities.²

Geographical entities are the places, regions, territories, scales, and networks that make up the world. Geopolitics looks at a particular use of power: how countries and other groups compete to control these entities within the international community. Controlling these entities is seen to help countries and groups reach their goals. Geopolitics is always looked at with an international and global dimension, meaning that the issues being looked at are connected to the global scale.³

Conflict

A conflict is a struggle and a clash of interest, opinion, or even principles. Conflict will always be found in society; as the basis of conflict may vary to be personal, racial, class, caste, political and international. Conflict may also be emotional, intellectual, and theoretical, in which case academic recognition may, or may not be, a significant motive. Intellectual conflict is a subclass of cultural conflict, a conflict that tends to grow over time due to different cultural values and beliefs.⁴

Conflict in a group often follows a specific course. Routine group interaction is first disrupted by an initial conflict within the group, often caused by internal differences of opinion, disagreements between its members, or scarcity of resources available to the group. At this point, the group is no longer united, and may split into coalitions. This period of conflict escalation in some cases gives way to a conflict resolution stage, after which the group can eventually return to routine group interaction or split.⁵

History of South China

The South China Sea is a marginal sea of western Pacific Ocean. It covers an area of about 3,500,000 km², and is bordered in the north by the coast of South China (hence the name), in the west by the Indochinese Peninsula, in the east by Taiwan's islands and the northwestern Philippines (primarily Luzon, Mindoro, and Palawan), and in the south by Borneo, eastern Sumatra, and the Bangka Belitung Islands (1,400,000 sq mi). It communicates via Taiwan Strait, the East China Sea, the Philippine Sea, the Sulu Sea, the Strait of Malacca, the Singapore Strait, the Karimata and Bangka Straits, and the Java Sea, it is connected to the Pacific Ocean. The South China Sea also includes the Gulf of Thailand and the Gulf of Tonkin. The Natuna Sea is another name for the shallow waters south of the Riau Islands.⁶

Around 45 million years ago, the "Dangerous Ground" rifted away from southern China, creating the South China Sea. Around 30 million years ago, extension culminated in seafloor spreading, which expanded to the southwest and created the V-shaped basin we see today. Around 17 million years ago, the extension came to an end. The significance of tectonic extrusion in creating the basin has been the subject of ongoing debate.⁷ Scholars like [Paul Tapponnier](#) among others have argued that as India collides with Asia it pushes [Indochina](#) to the South East. The relative shear between Indochina and China caused the South China Sea to open.⁸ Those who do not believe Indochina has migrated far from mainland Asia disagree with this assertion. The Red River Fault was active and generating basin formation in the NW South China Sea at least by 37 million years ago, according to marine geophysical research in the Gulf of Tonkin by Peter Clift, which is consistent with extrusion playing a role in the formation of the sea. Since its opening, the South China Sea has served as a storage area for significant sediment deliveries from the Mekong, Red, and Pearl rivers. There are rich oil and gas resources in a number of these deltas.⁹

Geographically and economically, the South China Sea is quite significant. Over US\$3 trillion in annual trade is transported through it by one-third of all maritime ships in the world. Large oil and gas reserves are thought to lurk under the seafloor. It also has productive fisheries, which are essential for the safety of food for many people in Southeast Asia. Multiple nations have competing claims to sovereignty over the South China Sea Islands, which are a collective term for several archipelago clusters of primarily small uninhabited islands, islets (cays and shoals), reefs/atolls, and seamounts numbering in the hundreds. The various names given to the sea and islands reflect these claims as well. These claims are also reflected in the variety of names used for the islands and the sea as can be seen in the Map below.¹⁰

Fig1: Map of South China Sea



Source: Google Map Data, 2022.

Natural Resources

With an estimated total of 4.5 km³ (28 billion barrels), the area has proven oil reserves of about 1.2 km³ (7.7 billion barrels). An estimated 7,500 km³ of natural gas reserves are available (266 trillion cubic feet). The entire estimated oil reserves were revised upward to 11 billion barrels in a 2013 assessment by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. China started drilling for oil in waters that it disputes with Vietnam in 2014. Officials from Vietnam assert that the Vanguard Bank region is a part of their nation's 200-mile exclusive economic zone. China, however, contests this assertion.¹¹

According to research done by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the Philippines, this body of water is particularly significant to the ecosystem because it is home to one-third of the world's marine biodiversity. However, the region's fish stocks are in decline, and nations are using fishing bans to bolster their claims to sovereignty. Vietnamese and Philippine fishing fleets violated Indonesian territorial waters, and as a result, Indonesian officials seized and sank the offending ships. When China collected methane from hydrates in the South China Sea, it stated in May 2017 that it had made a breakthrough in the mining of methane clathrates.¹²

Territorial Claims

Over the South China Sea, a number of nations have staked rival territorial claims. These disputes have been identified as Asia's most dangerous potential flashpoint for conflict. The People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (ROC, also known as Taiwan), each claiming nearly the entire body as their own, draw the line between their claims along what is known as the "nine-dash line," which overlaps with nearly all other nations in the area. Competing claims include:

- Indonesia, Vietnam,¹³ China, and Taiwan over waters NE of the Natuna Islands
- The Philippines, China, and Taiwan over Scarborough Shoal.

- Vietnam, China, and Taiwan over waters west of the Spratly Islands. Some or all of the islands themselves are also disputed between Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia, and the Philippines.
- The Paracel Islands are disputed between China, Taiwan and Vietnam.
- Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam over areas in the Gulf of Thailand.
- Singapore and Malaysia along the Strait of Johore and the Strait of Singapore.

Both China and Vietnam have vigorously defended their claims. Before 1974, South Vietnam and China (under successive regimes) each had a portion of the Paracel Islands under their sovereignty. After a brief war in 1974 that claimed the lives of 18 Chinese and 53 Vietnamese, China has been in charge of Paracel ever since. In March 1988, just south of Chigua Reef, the Spratly Islands were the scene of a naval battle in which nearly 70 Vietnamese sailors perished. Conflicts between naval vessels are often reported by disputing claimants.¹⁴ China expressed its stance in following words:

Chinese activities in the South China Sea date back over 2000 years ago with China being the first country to discover, name, explore and exploit the resources of the South China Sea islands and the first to continuously exercise sovereign powers over them.¹⁵

It has been a priority for Malaysia and ASEAN in general to prevent armed conflict from breaking out over territorial disputes in the South China Sea. In order to cooperatively develop the territory and equitably divide the revenues without resolving the problem of sovereignty over the area, joint development authorities have been established in areas of overlapping claims. Particularly in the Gulf of Thailand, this is true. In general, China has favored bilateral negotiations to settle conflicting claims,¹⁶ while some ASEAN nations favor multilateral negotiations, they feel they are at a disadvantage in bilateral discussions with the much larger China and that since so many nations have territorial claims, only multilateral negotiations can successfully settle the conflicting claims.¹⁷

The International Court of Justice resolved the conflicting claims that Singapore and Malaysia had to Pedra Branca or Pulau Batu Putih, including the adjacent Middle Rocks, in 2008 by granting Pedra Branca/Pulau Batu Putih to Singapore and the Middle Rocks to Malaysia. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urged China to settle the territorial issue in July 2010. China's response was to demand that the US not become involved. This happened at a time when the two nations were conducting naval drills as a show of force to the opposing side, raising tensions in the area.

On August 18, the US Department of Defense issued a statement opposing the use of force to settle the conflict and criticizing China's provocative behavior. On July 22, 2011, the Chinese Navy allegedly made contact with one of India's amphibious assault ships, the INS Airavat, which was on a friendly visit to Vietnam at the time, on an open radio channel 45 nautical miles (83 km) from the Vietnamese coast in the disputed South China Sea and claimed the ship was entering Chinese waters. According to the Indian Navy spokeswoman, INS Airavat continued on her intended course because no ships or aircraft could be seen from the ship. The Indian Navy went on to say that "the INS Airavat was not involved in any conflict. India supports the right of passage and freedom of navigation in international waterways, including the South China Sea, in conformity with established norms of international law. All people should adhere to these values."¹⁸

India's state-run explorer, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), announced in September 2011 that its overseas investment arm, ONGC Videsh Limited, had signed a three-year agreement with Petro-Vietnam for developing long-term cooperation in the oil sector and that it had accepted Vietnam's offer of exploration in certain specified blocks in the South China Sea. This was shortly after China and Vietnam had signed an agreement seeking to contain a dispute over the South China Sea. Jiang Yu, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, protested in response. "The Chinese have reservations, but we are going by what the Vietnamese authorities have told us and have conveyed this to the Chinese," the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India's spokesperson said in response." The Indo-Vietnamese deal was also denounced by the Chinese state-run newspaper *Global Times*.¹⁹

Under the Lee Teng-hui administration, Taiwan declared all of the South China Sea islands to be its own in 1999. Taiwan asserts its claim to the whole seabed, land, and waterways of the Paracels and Spratlys. Vietnam and Taiwan had a falling out over Taiwan's anti-Vietnamese military drills in 2012 and 2013. China built an oil rig close to the Paracel Islands in May 2014, which resulted in many collisions between Vietnamese and Chinese ships. Retired Chinese admiral Luo Yuan suggested in December 2018 that sinking one or two US Navy aircraft carriers to lower US morale could ease tensions with the US in the South China Sea. Dai Xu, a senior colonel in the People's Liberation Army Air Force and a Chinese pundit, stated that China's navy might crash US Navy ships in the South China Sea in December 2018.²⁰

The US has maintained its view that American Navy boats have consistently and would continue to sail through the South China Sea without interference, despite the fact that it is not a signatory to UNCLOS. Sometimes US warships have approached Chinese-controlled islands (such the Paracel Islands) within the 12 nautical mile limit, angering China. When the US Chief of Naval Operations visited China in the beginning of 2019, he and his Chinese counterpart negotiated the terms of engagement for any encounters between Chinese and American warships on the high seas.²¹

The 36th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit took place virtually on June 26, 2020. The Chairman's Statement was made public by Vietnam in its capacity as Summit Chairman. According to the Statement, the 1982 UNCLOS establishes the legal framework within which all activity in the oceans and seas must be conducted. It provides the basis for assessing marine entitlements, sovereign rights, jurisdiction, and legitimate interests over maritime zones.²²

The Strategic Importance of South China Sea to International Geo-politics

Understanding the geopolitical significance of Asia, which has given rise to Chinese preeminence and enabled its ascent to contemporary significant political power on the global arena, is crucial to comprehending the South China Sea dispute and its relevance. The UK and the USA have historically been the two countries that have contributed most to the global economic balance of power; but, in recent years, this balance has shifted east, primarily due to China's and other emerging nations' growing urbanization. This change has led China to seek control over sea lines of communication, assure national prosperity, maintain economic growth, and maintain its position as a leading nation; the South China Sea plays a significant role in this.²³

The South China Sea consists of over 200 tiny islands, reefs, shoals, atolls and sandbanks grouped in to 3 archipelagos the Spratlys, the Paracels and the Pratas Macclesfield Bank and Scarborough Shoal. This has strategic significance mostly because of its physical location, which is one of the busiest and most strategic shipping channels in the entire globe. Over the islands and water-ways of the South China Sea, the Strait of Malacca, the Sunda Strait, and the Lombok Strait carry almost \$5 trillion worth of global trade. The most essential energy channels for East Asian nations to transit gas and oil from the Persian Gulf are also covered. As a result, the South China Sea is of geopolitical and geostrategic significance to China and other East Asian nations, as well as to the USA, whose \$1.2 trillion in annual trade passes through the region.²⁴

In addition, it has proved oil and gas reserves, so the sovereignty of the disputed islands involves legal rights to exploit its resources. From a strategic perspective, the geographical significance is that whoever has dominance over it, dominates the future of East Asia.²⁵ According to Bill Hayton, a renowned International Relations theorist, states that;

The South China Sea is a crucial link in the 'global commons', connecting the Pacific to the Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf and Europe. Right now, along with the East China Sea, it is the most contested piece of sea in the world and one of the main reasons for the current anxiety over China's intentions.²⁶

In 2010, in reaction to China's escalating assertiveness, the US proclaimed its freedom of navigation in the South China Sea to be a national interest. In order to strengthen their strategic position in relation to issues in the South China Sea, Vietnam and the Philippines seek to strengthen their alliance and relationship with the US in 2012. As a result, the US has a significant impact on how conflicts are resolved. In their conflict with China in the South China Sea, Vietnam and the Philippines have also tried to establish a "strategic alliance" with Japan.²⁷

China is very likely to keep upsetting local stability in order to widen its own sphere of influence. Through several allies, relationships, and trade, the USA has a direct tie to the region, and this will logically continue. China will continue to create a maritime force in the region as the most dominant player among states due to the strategic importance of the area. With China essentially claiming the majority of the region as its own waters, it remains perfectly conceivable that any Chinese strategy may have as its long-term objective the ability to prevent US or western warships from accessing the South China Sea.²⁸

Economic Significance of South China Sea

The economic benefits and importance linked with the South China Sea has been evident since day one. As discussed earlier, this region contains some of the most significant shipping lanes of the world which are indispensable for the smooth flow of global trade. The main lane of shipping spreading between the Pacific and Indian Ocean ports is carried out through the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea. During this trading, oil and mineral resources are shipped towards north whereas food and manufactured goods move towards the south. These maritime lanes are the jugular veins of international flow of capital and goods and therefore, the economic significance of the South China Sea is self-evident.²⁹

However, the discussion regarding the economic value of this region is not restricted to its strategic location rather there are other avenues of fiscal significance as well. South China Sea is a source of untamed and unexplored natural resources embedded in its seabed. There is a wide variety of resources that the legitimate sovereign state will have every right to explore and

exploit. One of those boundless resources is the abundance of marine life. South China Sea is full of fishery of all sorts and kinds. Major kinds of sea fauna include various species of tuna, mackerel, croaker, anchovy, shrimp as well as shellfish. This collection of sea food is the main source of marine animal protein to the region of Southeast Asia.³⁰

Researches show that the region encompassing South China Sea holds about a total of one third of the entire globe's biodiversity. Moreover, around 10% of world's fishery resource is also present in South China Sea. The local dense population of South East Asia is a thriving market for the marine exports of South China Sea. Along with the abundant marine life, the heavy fished sea also has extensive runoff of nutrient-laden waters. A more prominent source of capital from the South China Sea is the abundance of natural resources. Initial researches suggest large reserves of natural gas as well as oil lying on the seabed of the Sea. At present, areas north of Borneo, east of the Malay Peninsula, and northwest of Palawan are the main locations of these rich sources of hydrocarbon production. According to a research conducted by the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, there are about 213 billion barrels of oil reserves estimated to be present in the South China Sea region. This estimated bulk is equivalent to about 80% of the total oil resources present in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Moreover, there are a total of 266 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves that are estimated to be available for excavation in the base of the sea. Along with these rare and pricy sources of hydrocarbon production, the sea also contains an abundant amount of Rare Earth Metals. These metals are very useful when it comes to the production of goods like hybrid cars, flat screen TVs, and smart phones.³¹

Significance of South China Sea on Military/Defence

The maritime area of South China Sea is the center of massive militarization as well as military alliance maneuvering campaigns on part of its major stakeholders. The reason behind such high level defense spending on this region by the nations of the world, especially China, is the intention of China to revert the encroachment of USA into its own territorial backyard. US claims the South China Sea, especially it's strategically goldmine Spratly Islands lie within the maritime vicinity of International waters. Moreover, the maritime lanes of South China Sea serve as a significant artery for the military of the nation.³²

This is because the Seventh Fleet of the United States has a constant routine to transit between the Pacific and Indian Oceans at regular intervals. These regular visits require maritime security for the troops to carry on smoothly. Along with this, the region also acts as a strong military base for China in case of a Total War with the enemies. In case there is a direct military confrontation between the United States and China, the significance of South China Sea is undeniable. This fact has been further illustrated with the help of a recent article by Gregory Poling in which the writer explains the various means through which this region can act as a military base for the Chinese government against American onslaught as well as provide strong strategic ground for counter strike. He says:

The islands have considerable military value for Beijing, contrary to some conventional wisdom that has written off the value of these facilities in a conflict.³³

He argues that in a time of peace, these islands provide the United States with much needed coercive leverage. On the other hand, if, unfortunately, war ensues, these strategic points to rescue assist Chinese government in ways more than just being cannon fodder. These islands have a massive role to play in providing firepower, situational awareness, and logistical

information to the Chinese government. The location of these islands is ideal for Beijing to install anti-ship and anti-air missiles in order to make sure that the naval fleet of the enemy, either US or any other regional force, can be stopped from entering the region.

Moreover, the location of the South China Sea and its cluster of strategically placed islands have the ability to keep the enemy at bay, for the size of some of the facilities makes firepower assault a very difficult task. Some of these islands like Mischief and Subi Reefs are so enormous that along with very high level long-range conventional precision strike requirements, US Navy would need an unrealistic amount of firepower to undertake a successive assault and complete neutralization of the military bases in the islands. Last but not the least, the renowned Spratly outposts of China in the South China Sea serves as the main frontier of China's rising ballistic missile submarine bastion. Therefore, in perspective of the defense dynamic, the significance of South China Sea also increases manifold.

CONCLUSION

This paper has critically make an in-depth analysis of the geopolitical strategy and importance of the South China Sea. The paper carefully evaluated the history and development of the sea, while identifying the claims and counter claims of the sea among the Asian nations including the USA. This is as a result of the presence of natural resources in the as well as the economic importance to the world through volumes of trade that is been shipped across the sea. The paper equally identified the military and defence importance of the area to the world powers which is very significant to the balance of power of the parties involved. It is clear therefore that the presence of natural resources and the volume of trade and commerce transported by ships across the sea makes it an important and busiest waterway in the world therefore, conflict over it among the world super powers is inevitable, this is because whoever control the sea, will automatically control the world politically and economically.

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A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF PORT HARCOURT-BASED RADIO STATIONS' NEWS FRAMES ON RIVERS STATE GOVERNMENT'S URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAMME

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DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00007.1

ABSTRACT

The power of narratives to shape public policy is supported in a variety of academic literature. In the mass media, the angles to these narratives are called frames. By framing issues in specific ways, an entity can identify underlying patterns and shape public opinion in a certain direction. Using four research objectives as a template, this study analysed Port Harcourt radio news frames (Nigeria Info 92.3 FM and Rhythm 93.7 FM) on the Rivers State government's Urban Renewal Programme. While the theoretical foundation of the study hinged on agenda setting, gatekeeping, and framing theories, the study relied on secondary data from the news bulletins of the selected radio stations. The population of the study consisted of 255 news items, which also served as the sample size, following the census sampling technique. The findings of the study revealed that though Nigeria Info 92.3FM covered the programme more than Rhythm 93.7 FM, a significant percentage of the time (114 times, or 52.5%), the programme was framed positively in the bulletins of the two radio stations, using two major frames, "development" and "politics," and given prominence (49.8% of headlines and 80% of story length, measuring 16 seconds and above). In addition to the above, the quality of coverage was significantly high (72.1%), ranging from the mode of coverage to varying aspects of the programme reported. The study recommended that privately owned radio stations should do more coverage of government policies and programmes beyond the news platform and, at the same time, frame their stories in such a way to offer interpretation and context to the citizenry while holding the government and policy actors accountable.

KEYWORDS: *News Frames, Urban Renewal, Framing Theory, Rivers State Government, Governor Wike, News Slant.*

INTRODUCTION

Urban Renewal is an economic development tool used by local governments to economically revitalise areas of "blight" through public investments that stimulate private development. Campbell (2019) defines urban renewal as a relatively comprehensive community redevelopment programme through which a particular city seeks to refashion and rebuild the physical structures of a particular segment of the city in order to enable it cope with many problems confronting it. Urban renewal is a programme of land [redevelopment](#) often used to address [urban decay](#) in cities. It involves the clearing out of blighted areas in inner cities to [clear out slums](#) and create

opportunities for higher class housing, businesses, and more. A primary purpose of urban renewal is to restore economic viability to a given area by attracting external private and public investment and by encouraging business start-ups and survival (Alonge & Wadinga, 2020; UNDP, 2020; Olaoluwa, 2018; Njoku & Okoro, 2014). This renewal process involves a wide range of activities which may include demolishing or tearing down old or run-down buildings, constructing new, up-to-date housing, or adding new urban amenities like dual carriage ways and overhead bridges.

At the beginning, the term was used to connote the correction of urban decay as well as slum clearance and the rescuing of both the fabrics and functions of the Central Business District of cities (CBD). Generally, urban renewal involves the renewal of the decayed parts of an urban centre on behalf of, and with the tacit co-operation of the people who live and work there. It is the totality of all public and private actions which are embarked upon to give the urban area the required face-lift or rehabilitation (World Bank, 2020). It is also a deliberate effort to change the urban environment through planning and large scale adjustment of the existing city areas to present and future requirements of urban living and work. Its aim is the overall prevention of the spread of slums and blight through the rehabilitation and conservation of deteriorated areas.

Over the years in Nigeria, the federal, states as well as local governments have made concerted efforts to improve the quality of life (QOL) of the residents of cities and metropolitan centres through urban renewal programmes. The provision of social services, massive provision of urban infrastructure, improvement of the aesthetic level of the environment, provision of recreational facilities, health and related programmes, coupled with the heightening of the awareness of self-actualization outfits, have pre-eminently positive implications in bolstering and bettering the quality of life of urban dwellers. Nigeria, at present, is a typical theatre of urban transformation (Olukoya, 2012). However, due to elitist orientation of policies, the poor bear the brunt of development and their welfare short-changed at the altar of political and economic opportunism. With Nigeria's democratic experiment, it is envisaged that since the poor constitute the majority of the democratic social capital and expectedly the pillar of governance, their interest should count first in the planning and execution of development programmes. In Nigeria, most attempts at bringing about city and urban renewal and re-planning entails untold hardship for the people as houses are demolished, businesses (mostly of the poor people) terminated or disrupted and families made homeless. Neither compensation nor all-embracing resettlement alternatives are made available to the inhabitants before bulldozers move in to destroy their houses and businesses (Michael, Olamiju & Popoola, 2017; Apolola, 2016; Chigbu, 2012).

At inception, the urban renewal programme of Governor Nyesom Wike's administration in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, was conceived to provide a social boost to the city. The construction of overhead bridges (flyovers) in different areas in Port Harcourt was part of the urban renewal programme. Such overhead bridges included those at: Rumuogba (1&2) flyovers, Rebisi flyover, Okoro-nu-Odo flyover, etc. Other projects by the administration included the Mother and Child Hospital, Construction of roads leading to Ogoni, Etche, etc., as well as roads within the city and outskirts of Port Harcourt.

Evidently, experiences of past renewal programmes had brought about many positive consequences among which were better public health, well and better planned cities, good and aesthetically pleasing environments, solutions to traffic congestions, attraction of tourists and new business investors, reduction of travel times, reduced slum formations, reduced

disorderliness among others (World Bank, 2020). Regeneration or renewal programmes in city centres have also been documented to rebrand these cities by upgrading their identities. In some cases, renewal may result in urban sprawl when city infrastructure begins to include freeways and expressways (UNDESA, 2015). Urban renewal has been seen by proponents as an economic engine and a reform mechanism, and by critics as a mechanism for control. Though it may bring more wealth to communities, it may also edge out its pre-existing residents. Some redevelopment projects have been failures, for instance, the Rivers State monorail train project by former Governor Chibuike Amaechi, aimed at aiding urban transportation in [Port Harcourt](#), Rivers State, was a failure.

The role of the media is to educate, inform, entertain, advertise and publicise, while radio in particular is the most effective way of delivering information in remote corners where having the right knowledge can mean the difference between a harvest and hunger, between feeling confident or humiliated, or even between life and death (Innocent, 2016). Consequent upon this therefore, radio becomes a significant factor in influencing and determining how the populace or citizens of a given geopolitical setting perceive, interpret and respond to government programmes including those related to urban renewal, hence this study. As a mass medium, radio has a significant influence on shaping how Rivers State residents perceive and respond to the Urban Renewal programme of the Governor Nyesom Ezenwo Wike administration in Rivers State. Hence, this study set out to measure how radio packaged their news on the urban renewal programme of the Rivers State government.

Statement of the Problem

Across the globe, people rely on the mass media for information on a several aspects of life, including infrastructural development. They also rely on the mass media to keep abreast of what political actors and governments are doing in their different countries. When citizens are well-informed, they are armed to properly understand the policies of a given administration and to also make their personal inputs in the form of criticism. As it concerns this study, we believe that a lack of appropriate information and awareness on the urban renewal programme as well as infrastructural development and the issues that surround them, could negatively influence how the citizens perceive and respond to the policies of the administration and this could in turn have a significant impact on the overall success of the government.

At present, Port Harcourt City, the capital of Rivers State, Nigeria, is a typical theatre of urban transformation. Across the city there are transformations and reconstructions in different places including flyovers or overhead bridges, roads, hospitals, etc. It is the duty of the media, specifically radio, to report these programmes to adequately create awareness and to inform the people of the development gains in this urban renewal process. In this direction, two foremost privately-owned radio stations in Port Harcourt - *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3 FM* - have been at the forefront of daily reporting news and information on Rivers State government's urban renewal programme. As privately-owned radio stations, radio listeners in the city, specially the educated and upwardly mobile segment (who double as opinion leaders in different spheres), prefer these two radio stations as they believe their reports are not tainted by government influence. This being the case, it follows that the nature of such reports has a cascading effect on how the programme is perceived by the ordinary citizen of the state.

The above notwithstanding, there are no empirical studies on the depth, nature and slant of the radio news on the urban renewal programme on-going in Port Harcourt. In fact, most studies in

this direction only focus on analysis on redevelopment, rehabilitation and code enforcement. The problem of this study therefore is, how do Port Harcourt-based radio stations frame Rivers State government's Urban Renewal Programme in their news bulletins?

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study is to content-analyse Port Harcourt radio stations' news frames on Wike's urban renewal programme. The specific objectives are to:

1. Ascertain the frequency of appearance of Rivers State government's urban renewal programme in the news bulletins of *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* between March and August, 2022
2. Determine the prominence given to Rivers State government's urban renewal programme on *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* news bulletins between March and August, 2022
3. Ascertain the quality of coverage of Rivers State government's urban renewal programme on *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* news bulletins between March and August, 2022
4. Determine the slant and frames given to Rivers State government's urban renewal programme on *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* news bulletins between March and August, 2022

Theoretical Framework

Framing Theory

The framing theory was propounded by Erving Goffman in 1974 in his book, *Framing analysis: An essay on the organization of experience*. In its simplest form, framing is used to explain how the mass media promote a particular definition of an issue through selection, emphasis, exclusion, and elaboration (Devereux, 2013). Müller (2017) also defines framing as "Selecting perceived reality and making them more salient in a communicating text while Crow & Lawlor (2016) had earlier said it is "The central organising idea for content that supplies context and suggests what the issue is, using selection, emphasis, exclusion, and elaboration.

The basis of the framing theory is that the media focus attention on certain events and then place them within a field of meaning. The framing process includes factors such as the way a message is delivered, noticing angles addressed, confidence of the speaker, word choice, tone of voice and overall delivery of the message, which all have important effects on how the message is interpreted. Frames are therefore abstractions that work to organise or structure message meaning (Innocent, 2017). One key use of frames occurs in news selection and presentation by the mass media. This selection and presentation is thought to influence the perception of the news by the audience, so in this way, it could be construed as a form of second level agenda-setting – media not only tell the audience what to think about (agenda-setting), but also how to think about it (framing). In sum, framing is a media effects theory largely used to analyse how the mass media filter and slant information and, thus, influence the public's perception and reaction to such information (De Vreese, 2007). In media studies, the framing theory offers critical frameworks to examine messages, observe patterns and identify themes, investigate how frames are constructed and analyse the underlying meanings of these frames.

Agenda Setting Theory

The agenda setting theory was formally developed by Max McCombs and Donald Shaw in a study on the 1972. The theory discusses the role the media play in placing issues on public agenda. According to the agenda-setting hypothesis, the media influence public opinion by emphasising certain issues over others. The amount of media attention, or the media salience, devoted to certain issues influences the degree of public concern for these issues (McCombs & Shaw, 1972 as cited in Defleur (2010). The roots of this approach according to Defleur (2010), can be found in Lippman's (1922) argument that the world around us is too complicated and out of reach, and that consequently, we must rely on the media to understand it.

The agenda-setting theory began with an explanation of how the mass media exercise influence on changing patterns of political behaviour during elections in the United States of America's presidential election of 1968. One of the key aspects of agenda-setting theory is the ability of the media to highlight certain topics or aspects of issues and put them into the stream of public discourse. By calling attention to some issues over others, the news media form the public's opinion about the most important issues. This theory posits that the mass media possess the ability to set the public agenda especially in matters of opinions or attitude. With such influence, the media audiences tend to form their own opinion or focus on those issues that are considered as worthy of inclusion on their mental agendas (Bohensky and Leitch, 2014). Specifically, Carmin *et al.* (2015) opines that the process of agenda setting occurs via: (1) The quantity or frequency of reporting; (2) Prominence given to the reports – through headline display, pictures and layout in newspapers, magazines, film, graphics, or timing on radio and television. (3) The degree of conflict generated in the reports; and (4) Cumulative media-specific effects overtime.

Port Harcourt City, Rivers State

Port Harcourt is the capital city of Rivers State. It is the [fifth-largest city](#) in [Nigeria](#) after [Lagos](#), [Kano](#), [Ibadan](#) and [Benin City](#) and lies along the [Bonny River](#), located in the [Niger Delta](#). As of 2016, the Port Harcourt [urban area](#) had an estimated population of 1,865,000 inhabitants, up from 1,382,592 as of 2006. The urban area (Port Harcourt metropolis) is made up of the Port Harcourt City Local government area and parts of [Obio-Akpor](#) and [Eleme](#) (Chinedu, 2011).

The area that became Port Harcourt in 1912 was before that time, part of fishing settlements (fishing ports) also called Borikiri in the Okrika language and the farmlands of the Diobu village group of the [Ikwerre](#) ethnic nationality. The [colonial administration of Nigeria](#) created the port to export coal from the collieries of [Enugu](#) located 243 kilometres (151 miles) north of Port Harcourt, to which it was linked by a railway called the Eastern Line, also built by the [British](#) (Chinedu, 2011).

Port Harcourt is a major industrial centre as it has a large number of [multinational](#) firms as well as other industrial concerns, particularly business related to the [petroleum](#) industry. It is the chief oil-refining city in Nigeria and has two main [oil refineries](#) located at Eleme (Ogbonna, Amangabara & Ekere, 2007). The Trans-Amadi Industrial Estate, 4 miles (6km) is a 2,500-acre (1,000-hectare) site where tyres, aluminum products, glass bottles and paper, are manufactured. The town also manufactures steel structural products, corrugated tin, paints, plastics, enamelware, wood and metal furniture, cement, concrete products, and several other goods. Rivers State is one of the wealthiest [states in Nigeria](#) in terms of gross domestic product and foreign exchange revenue from the oil industry, crude oil being its principal export earner (Ogbonna, Amangabara & Ekere, 2007).

The residents of Port Harcourt comprise of people from the different local government areas of Rivers State as well as those from other states and countries. The different Local Government Areas have different languages but the English Language and Pidgin are the dominant languages of communication among the diverse residents of the city. The occupation of residents of Port Harcourt varies as the people work as teachers, traders, private businessmen, civil servants, company workers, craftsmen, fishing, etc. Port Harcourt is the site of boatbuilding and fishing industries and has fish-freezing facilities (Chinedu, 2011). The Rivers State Ministry of Urban Development is entrusted with the task of reviewing and preparing physical development, [urban renewal](#) and transportation plans. The ministry is also in charge of urban reorientation and enforcement, regional rural planning, land provision and the approval of building plans.

2.1.2 Rhythm 93.7FM and Nigeria Info 92.3FM

Rhythm 93.7 FM is a commercial [radio station](#) located in the [Old GRA](#) neighbourhood of [Port Harcourt](#). It is owned by the *Silverbird* Group, a Nigerian [multinational real estate, mass media and entertainment company](#), with headquarters in [Lagos, Nigeria](#). The *Silverbird* Communications comprises of *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Silverbird Television*. [Rhythm 93.7 FM, Lagos](#), was established in 1997 while *Silverbird Television* commenced transmission in 2003. In 2002, [Rhythm 93.7 FM, Port Harcourt](#), was established (Amadi & Sowoolu, 2010), and branded as a “less talk, more music” radio. The station broadcasts on an [urban contemporary](#) radio format; its news appeals to the educated segment while its music component attracts youths, thereby making it the preferred choice of most listeners in the city.

Nigeria Info 92.3 FM is a media arm of outlet of AIMS Group in Nigeria owned by Amin Ibrahim Moussalli, a Lebanese business man based in Nigeria. In addition to *Nigeria Info 92.3 FM*, the group also operates *Wazobia FM* and *Cool FM* (Innocent and Okezie, 2022) and these stations are among the leading radio stations in Nigeria with a reach of over 15 million listeners across Rivers state and southern Nigeria (Innocent and Okezie, 2022). *Nigeria Info FM* which brands itself as the ‘number one [talk radio](#) brand in [Nigeria](#)’ began its broadcast on November 30, 2012 in Abuja. Specifically, *Nigeria Info 92.3 FM*, which refers to itself as the News, Talk and Sports radio station broadcasts local and international news with a blend of talk and sports shows, while addressing current affairs and topical issues in Nigeria. The station has different flagship news programmes such as *Morning Crossfire*, *Hard Facts*, *Midday Dialogue*, *Evening Drive*, *Extra Time* (sports team), etc., and maintains social media presence on *Facebook*, *Instagram*, *Youtube* and *Twitter*, with huge followership.

Urban Renewal in Nigeria

Urban renewal can be said to be the process where an urban neighbourhood or area is improved, rehabilitated or redeveloped. It is a common phrase among urban planners, land use experts and politicians whose dreams and aspiration are usually targeted at seeing that the scarce land resource of an urban area is maximally utilised (Alonge, & Wadinga, 2020). An urban area generally grows in all facets of its features over time and accompanying this growth is the deterioration or degeneration of basic amenities and infrastructure and this development triggers off the need for improvement, rehabilitation, redevelopment or renewal of the amenities and infrastructure to meet the yearning socio-political and economic demands, tastes and fashion and changing culture of the people.

The origin of urban renewal programmes can be traced to the great depressions of the 1930s (Olaoluwa, 2018) where there was obvious dissatisfaction with the housing conditions in Britain. During this period, unprecedented skyscrapers were built in most British/English cities to replace obsolete residential structures. However, UNDP (2020) traces the origin of urban renewal programmes to the United States of America's 1937 Housing Act which made provision for slum clearance and the replacement of dilapidated houses with subsidized public housing which have modern facilities. In Nigeria, the first attempt at urban renewal was in Lagos in 1955 as an aftermath of the outbreak of cholera and bubonic plague in 1929 (Olaoluwa, 2018). Other Nigerian towns and cities such as Ibadan, Calabar, Makurdi and soon followed. The World Bank Community-based urban development programme has also executed a number of slum upgrading programmes/schemes in states such as Bauchi, Jigawa, Ondo, Ebonyi and Akwa Ibom. According to Michael, Olamiju & Popoola (2017), this is in addition to the National Urban Renewal Programme ongoing in three Nigerian cities, Badiya (Lagos State), Aba (Abia State) and Kurna Asabe (Kano State).

Historically, urban and social segregation policy in Nigeria dates back to the colonial dispensation- Colonial Europe Reservations Policy of 1902, the Township Ordinance of 1917, the Nigerian Town and Country Planning Ordinance of 1946, and was later followed by the National Housing of 1972, the National Housing Policy of 1991 and the Millennium Development Goals adopted by Nigeria (Njoku & Okoro, 2014). At independence, cities that served as seat of administration across different levels of government, necessarily, had to witness some expansion as a hallmark of governance. Three factors have contributed to urban renewal in Nigeria. They are creation of new sets of states through territorial disaggregation, election of new parties and set of elites into government, and finally, the need to embark on major environmental and infrastructural development, such as road, rail construction, drainage, airport and markets (UNDESA, 2015). However, as we observed earlier, very often, these developments bring along with them some negative consequences such as loss of homes by the poor (who are usually neither compensated nor rehabilitated), loss of jobs, inconveniences associated with increased distance between the new found home and the place of work, increased cost of transportation and travelling time for school children, displacement of menial workers, loss of socioeconomic ties by the poor, outright loss of livelihood by some of the 'most poor' families (Olaoluwa, 2018). Apart from when new cities are created as an aspect of modernisation and 'national front office' to disguise national poverty, such as Nigeria experienced in the mid-70s with FESTAC 77, and movement of the Federal Capital to Abuja in the early 90s, most other attempts at bringing about city and urban renewal and re-planning entails untold hardship for the poor (Olukoya, 2012). One case in point was the displacement of people at Maroko and Lekki in Lagos in 1992. Agreed these lands might have been acquired by government, but most inhabitants of Maroko and Lekki still had to acquire these lands from the traditional land owners, having paid substantial amounts for the land (Michael, Olamiju & Popoola, 2017).

Urbanisation in a Developing Economy

The bursting rate of urbanisation has been one of the major issues/challenges which many national and local government authorities in developing nations/economies have to grapple with. Developing countries face greater urbanisation challenges than developed countries as the latter urbanised at a comparatively leisure pace unlike the former (Dimuna and Omatsone, 2010). Urbanisation does not only cause transformation of towns and cities, but also depopulates rural settings at the same time through rural-urban migration of the economically active

population(Alonge, &Wadinga, 2020). Urbanisation all over the globe manifests not only in terms of extension of the urban environment in territorial coverage but also in population. During the 1999 World Habitat Day, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) noted that Africa and other developing countries would be the most challenged in urban revolution process,noting that the fastest population growth would take place in Africaand lead to over-population, congestion, pollution, inadequate housing/shelter, squalour underdevelopment, and increasing incidence of poverty and crime (Jiboye, 2011). The picture is grim for Nigeriawith a population growth rate of 5.8 per cent and urban population of 62.66 million people (i.e. about 43 percent of the national population). This urban population has been projected to be more than 60 percent of the national figure by 2025 (UNDP (2020). One can only imagine the scenario by 2025 when already Nigerian urban centres are characterized by a degrading state of the physical environment(Jiboye, 2011).

Radio Broadcasting

Advances in technology have given people more ways to access an increasing amount of information;however, radio still plays a vital role in today’s world. Radio is more than just announcers, news and songs;it is about companionship and the emotional connection with the listener (Lawrence, 2012). Radio broadcasts provide real-time information, and some that broadcast 24 hours a day, can provide the most recent updates to listeners. Radio has the ability to reach across borders and can become a valuable source of information where reliable news is scarce(Sugunadevi& Divya, 2018). Radio has proved its worth in times of emergency such as when access to the mobile network is down or phone lines are cut. Even when there is no electricity, most radio sets can be battery operated or have the ability to be handcranked (Sugunadevi& Divya, 2018). Radio is also a social medium, fostering participation and engagement, in people’s own home languages. In the recent Covid-19 pandemic where social-distancing measures hindered physical interaction, individuals engaged in meaningful community participation by calling into radio stations to have their say, while also listening to fellow community members. This way, radio has the widest geographical reach and the greatest audiences compared with the Internet, television and newspapers. People can listen to radio anytime, anywhere(Lawrence, 2012). Despite the fact that radio broadcasting sometimes puts both journalists and the stations they work for at risk, they continue to exist because there is a listenership that values their news and information. Radio continues to be a widely used medium for reporting both local and international news (Innocent, 2022).

News Framing

Goffman (1974) as cited in Müller (2017) defines a frame as “the principles of organization which govern events – at least social ones – and our subjective involvement in them.” This “schemata of interpretation” helps people to “locate, perceive, identify, and label” everyday events (p. 21). Journalists use frames (to) organize strips of the everyday world, a strip being an arbitrary slice or cut from the stream of ongoing activity (Adekola& Lamond,2018; Müller, 2017).

News is anything but a true reflection of reality(Owuamalam, 2017; Uwakwe,2010; Esterson, 2004) but rather a frame or window on reality that seeks to or can only reflect part of this reality.Frames are used to select as well as present news, and this selection is based on news valueswhich are general guidelines or criteria that determine how much prominence a media outlet gives a **news** story (Ndimele and Innocent, 2016; Uwakwe, 2010).Also known as news

criteria or news factors, news values explain why a story interests its audience and how editors and other journalists decide that one piece of information is news while another is not. According to Owen (2020), the eight typical news values are: impact, conflict, timeliness, unexpected, prominence, currency, proximity, human interest, oddity, and positivity (feel-good tabloid stories). News values and frames therefore mesh because the mere selection of a story as news confers a frame of 'importance' to such a story. However, these frames can be influenced by several factors including ownership and ideology and these are subsequently transmitted in large doses to the audience who ultimately make the choice of how they perceive the issues in the news based on this influence. The import of this therefore is that the media are significant contributors to the formation of public opinion in society (Innocent, 2018; Nisbet 2009).

Materials and Methods

The design for the study was content analysis of 255 news bulletins of *Rhythm 93.7FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3FM*, between March and August, 2022. The population of the study therefore is 255 (123 covered by *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and 132 covered by *Nigeria Info 92.3FM*). As a result of the study population, census sampling technique was adopted to select the study sample which is 255. The content categories were project type, public complaints, community issues, development and necessity reasons, politics and economy while the units of analysis were headlines, kickers, riders, leads, and body of the stories. The code sheet with an inter-coder reliability score of 1.0 (arrived at using Holsti's formula), was used to collect data which were in turn analysed using the Constant Comparative Technique (CCT) with 4-step process.

Results and Findings

Objective 1: Ascertain the frequency of appearance of Rivers State government's urban renewal programme in the news bulletin of *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* between March and August 2022

In terms of frequency, Rivers State government's Urban Renewal Programme was reported more by *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* (132 times or 51.8%) while *Rhythm 93.7FM* covered it 123 times (48.2%).

Objective 2: Determine the prominence given to Rivers State government's urban renewal programme on *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* news bulletins

Two indices were employed to measure prominence – position of stories on the programme in the news bulletins of the two radio stations, as well as the length of the stories on the programme (measured in seconds) in the news bulletins of the stations. The data generated (Table 1) showed that stories on the programme appeared as news headlines 49.8% of the time for the period of study. In terms of length, 103 items or 40.4% of news items on the programme on *Rhythm 93.7FM* were a minimum of 16 seconds and above while for *Nigeria Info 92.3FM*, the average length was (16 seconds and above for 104 items; 40.8%).

TABLE 1: POSITION OF STORIES IN NEWS BULLETINS

Story type	Rhythm 93.7 FM	Nigeria Info 92.3FM	Total	Percentage
News headline	62	65	127	49.8
Other stories	36	37	73	28.6
News titbits	26	29	55	21.5

Total	123	132	255	100
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Objective 3: Ascertain the quality of coverage of Rivers State government's urban renewal programme on *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* news bulletins

This objective was measured using the following indices: news type on the urban renewal programme, selected topics on the programme covered and other factors related to the programme as covered by the radio stations. For index 1, data (Table 2) showed that for the period of study, radio stories on the programme were mainly straight news (72.1%). For index 2, the most reported topic on the urban renewal programme for the study period was 'award of contracts' (36.8%; Table 3) while for the third index, the two most 'other related factors' reported by the stations (Table 4) were project type (43.5%) and public reaction to the projects (30.5%).

TABLE 2: NEWS TYPE ON RIVERS STATE GOVERNMENT'S URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAMME

News category	Rhythm 93.7 FM	Nigeria Info 92.3FM	Total	Percentage
Straight news	91	93	184	72.1
Soft news	32	39	71	27.8
Total	123	132	255	100

TABLE 3: SELECTED REPORTED TOPICS ON RIVERS STATE GOVERNMENT'S URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAMME

Category	Rhythm 93.7 FM	Nigeria Info 92.3FM	Total	Percentage
Contract awards	45	49	94	36.8
Project flag-off	23	38	61	23.9
Project commissioning	16	25	41	16
Announcements	39	20	59	23.1
Total	123	132	255	100

TABLE 4: OTHER FACTORS ADDRESSED IN NEWS ON THE URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAMME

Various issues	Rhythm 93.7 FM	Nigeria Info 92.3FM	Total	Percentage
Public reactions	43	35	78	30.5
Project type	48	63	111	43.5
Government reaction to public complaints	21	27	48	18.8
Community issues	11	7	18	7
Total	123	132	255	100

Objective 4: Determine the slant and frames given to Rivers State government's urban renewal programme on *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* news bulletins

Slant was measured in terms of story direction. The data on this revealed that 73 items (*Nigeria Info, 92.3FM*) and 61 items (*Rhythm 93.7FM*) were positive in tone. That gave a total of 134 items or 52.5% of the sample. However, 104 stories (40.8%) were neutral, implying a seemingly detached stance from the radio concerning the programme. Only 6.7% (17 items) of the 255 stories were negative. A total of 13 different frames were found in the news items on the urban renewal programme (Table 5). The three most used frames were ‘development’ (16%), ‘politics’ (14.5%) as well as ‘action’ and ‘economy’ (12.1% each).

TABLE 5: FRAMES USED FOR URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAMMES ON RADIO NEWS BULLETINS

News frame	Rhythm 93.7 FM	Nigeria Info 92.3FM	Total	Percentage
Necessity frame	11	14	25	9.8
Development frame	19	22	41	16
Political frame	16	21	37	14.5
Challenge frame	5	2	7	2.7
Response frame	5	3	8	3.1
Emphasis frame	14	11	25	9.8
Action frame	17	14	31	12.1
Conflict frame	1	2	3	1.1
Attack frame	7	6	13	5
Economic frame	16	15	31	12.1
Health and safety frame	5	13	18	7
Public opinion frames	7	9	16	6.2
Total	123	132	255	100

Discussion of Findings

Objective 1: Ascertain the frequency of appearance of Rivers State government’s urban renewal programme in the news bulletin of *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* between March and August 2022

The study data indicated that the stations surveyed had a significantly high frequency of coverage for the urban renewal programme. However, though the radio stations analysed are both privately-owned, the data showed *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* had a marginally higher frequency of coverage of the programme in its news bulletins for the period of study. The high frequency of coverage is an indication that the nature and impact of the urban renewal programme of the state government made stories about it newsworthy. Media selection of such news on urban renewal typified the gatekeeping function of the media in which radio journalists considered news on the programme to hold significant value for residents of Port Harcourt. This finding echoes those of Defleur(2010) that the gatekeeping function of the media underlines their role in agenda setting which dovetails into influencing public opinion by shaping public agenda. Following this argument therefore, we can assume that the mass media in Nigeria give adequate attention to matters of public good. This finding is in consonance with those of Adekola&Lamond(2018) who had contended that in terms of environmental emergencies, such as flooding in Nigeria, the mass media provide adequate information and interpretation to aid public awareness and response to these emergencies. However, this assumption is at variance with those of Gever and

Ezeah (2020) that the Nigerian media did not provide adequate information on COVID-19 when it was first reported in China and when it finally got to Nigeria. Other studies (Okpara, 2022; Eberueche, 2021) also recorded similar findings and therefore corroborate the above finding.

Objective 2: Determine the prominence given to Rivers State government's urban renewal programme on *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* news bulletins

As noted earlier, two indices were employed to measure prominence – position of stories on the programme on the news bulletins of the two radio stations, as well as the length of the stories on the programme (measured in seconds). The data generated (Table 1) showed that stories on the programme appeared as news headlines 49.8% of the time for the period of study. In terms of length, 103 items or 40.4% of news items on the programme on *Rhythm* were a minimum of 16 seconds and above while for *Nigeria Info*, the average length was (16 seconds and above for 104 items (40.8%). Again, *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* gave more prominence to news on the programme than *Rhythm 93.7 FM*. This also applied to length of the stories in the bulletins. However, taken together, analysed data indicate that both stations gave adequate prominence to stories and issues relating to the urban renewal programme. 81.2% of the time, stories on the programme appeared as headlines in the news bulletins for the period of the study. This finding accords with those of Owen (2020) and Innocent (2022) that the importance accorded to news stories is measured by their appearance as major headlines in news bulletins. This finding is also significant because as Ifejika and Ayanda (2007) opine, media placement of news items in bulletins influence audience perception of the importance those items.

Objective 3: Ascertain the quality of coverage of Rivers State government's urban renewal programme on *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* news bulletins

Three benchmarks were used to measure quality of coverage. They are news type on the programme, selected topics on the programme covered as well as other factors related to the programme as reported by the radio stations. The findings indicate that the urban renewal programme was given quality and in-depth coverage in the news bulletins of the radio stations surveyed. First, the stories on the programme appeared mostly as straight news (72.1%) in both *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* and *Rhythm 93.7 FM*. This is statistically significant because the straight news style accords status to a news item and ensures that opinion leaders would expose themselves to these news items. In addition to this, some human interest angles to the programme were presented as soft news on news and current affairs programmes of the stations. This mixed method approach ensured that the urban renewal programme was covered in such a way that all segments of the Rivers State audience encountered the reports and discussions on radio.

For selected topics on the programme covered, analysed data indicated quality coverage. This is because different aspects of the urban renewal programme were adequately reported in the news. Some examples of headlines include: 'Governor Wike commissions Okoro-nu-Odu flyover', 'Governor Wike inaugurates road projects in Tombia, Rivers State', 'Governor Wike promises to deliver quality projects in Rivers State', 'Wike awards N27.6 billion contract for the construction of the Trans-Kalabari and Saakpenwa-Bori-Kono road projects', 'Rivers State Government approves contract to build 6th flyover in Port Harcourt', etc. Other factors related to the urban renewal programme such as project type, public reactions to the programme, government response to public complaints as well as community-related issues were adequately reported in a factual, comprehensible, relevant manner. These findings agree with those of Nyong,

Adesina & Elasha (2007) and Ukonu, Akpan & Anorue (2012), they vary with those of Gever and Ezeah (2020) that in reporting critical social issues the mass media, as exemplified in their reports on the COVID-19 pandemic, do not provide reports that touched on the various angles and issues relating to the core issue being reported.

Objective 4: Determine the slant and frames given to Rivers State government's urban renewal programme on *Rhythm 93.7 FM* and *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* news bulletins

Analysed data indicated that despite not being government-owned, the two radio stations surveyed had slanted a significant number of their news items on the urban renewal programme towards positive and favourable tones. Such favourable tone is underlined by the use of words and phrases such as 'which will guarantee ...', '... to ease mobility', '... in the bid to promote good road network', etc. A consistent framing of the news in favour of the government for the period of study would seemingly indicate an editorial endorsement of the programme, a result of some form of inducement or fear of a backlash from the government (Innocent, 2018). In terms of the frames used in presenting news on the programme, 13 frames were used in all, with 'development' the most used (16%) and 'conflict' the least used at 1.1%. However, the most used theme, 'development' varied from the Rivers State Government's selling points for the programme, such as 'necessity', 'political achievement', 'action', 'economy' and 'public good'. However, by framing the urban renewal programme as development-oriented and downplaying the conflicts and complaints attached to it by a significant percentage of the citizenry, the radio stations surveyed showed a positive slant in their news bulletins towards the urban renewal programme.

The above findings here have left a question yet to be answered and that is, what specific reason among the three we identified informed the favourable stance of the radio stations we surveyed towards the Rivers State urban renewal programme? In the literature (Devitt & O'Neill, 2017; Udoakah, 2014), it is believed that when it comes to reporting the government, the privately-owned media (radio) are relatively more objective and non-partisan than the government-owned. So, using this as a background and going by the pedigree of the surveyed stations as fearless, factual and balanced in reportage (Eghosa, 2013; Nwagbara, 2010), we can safely conclude that the urban renewal programme enjoyed editorial endorsement by radio, strictly on merit. Again, this finding agrees with those of Odoemelam, Okorom and Okwudiogor (2016) that privately-owned broadcast media always endorse government programmes and policies if such are deemed and proven to be in the interest of the people.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the data analysed and consequent findings, we conclude that despite being privately owned and with a pedigree for combative and non-compromise journalism, *Nigeria Info 92.3FM* and *Rhythm 93.7 FM* adequately reported and framed the Rivers State government's Urban Renewal Programme ongoing in Port Harcourt City and Obio-Akpor Local Government Areas of the State, in their news bulletins for the period of study. It is recommended that privately-owned radio stations should do more coverage of government policies and programmes beyond the news platform and at the same time frame their stories in such a way to hold the government accountable to the citizenry.

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UNIQUENESS OF THE HUMAN PERSON: ITS IMPLICATION ON POLITICS, ECONOMY, EDUCATION AND RELIGION

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DOI: [10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00008.3](https://doi.org/10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00008.3)

ABSTRACT

The beauty of nature lies in uniqueness. Every created thing in the universe wears this cloak of uniqueness. In creation, the creator never creates two things with the same mould. This is to say that after creating a single entity the creator destroys the mould. No two things are of the same nature with another, even those in the same family or of the same species. Coming to the human family, the same uniqueness is applicable. No two human beings are the same, even between identical twins there are still always that marks of identification. This shows that every human being is meant to act himself, for he has no replica. Every human person has a unique content and container, meaning that any form of competition and comparison in one's life is stifles creativity and innovation. Hence, this work is out to liberate humanity from the aged long monster of squeezing individuals into a single mould. It will do a critical analysis and exposition on the power of uniqueness via creativity and innovation in politics, economy, education and religion. Hence, the clarion call "Give me chance to act myself, do not squeeze me in the same mould, I have no replica!"

KEYWORDS: *Freedom, Individuality, Competition, Comparison, Uniqueness, Politics, Economy, Education, Religion, Human Person.*

INTRODUCTION

That every natural phenomenon wears uniqueness is a core truth on this planet earth. Uniqueness means that your legs can't fit in any other man's shoe neither will theirs' in your own. All that you do must wear your imprint if you are to prosper and dominate on earth. Have you not ask yourself the question on the reasons why whenever you are seeking for an official document you are required to thumb print? The answer is that your thumb print shows only 'you' in the entire universe. No other person can forge your thumb print, for it is you only! When you understand this truth, you will stop copying others; neither will you jealous any person again. Understand this mystery in creation and practice it; you will definitely see wealth finding expression in you.

According to Linda Zagzebski (2001) the human person has the following definition that characterizes his personhood as follows: (1) an individual substance of rational nature (Boethius), (2) a self-conscious being (Locke), (3) a being with the capacity to act for end (Kant), (4) a being with the capacity to act for another (Kant), (5) an incommunicable unique subject (Wojtyla).

There is creative and innovative power inside every human being. This power is called “The Magic Power” in man. This is because what one produces at anytime he starts believing in himself must definitely become a wonder to oneself and to the world. On the other hands anytime one tries to imitate others, what you are doing is nothing but suppressing this magic power in you and invariably you will end-up in a mess. Please, don’t imitate, live your style for you cannot be overused.

Hence according to Kant, persons are thought to have a special kind of value, often called “dignity,” which makes them both infinitely valuable and irreplaceably valuable (Linda Zagzebski:2001). You are created to be unique so as to become a blessing to the world. Also making a unique contribution to humanity is the reason of your being singled out (being unique) and endowed with the magic power of creativity and innovation. If one continues to imitate, he will end up an imitation! Lack of creativity and innovation in any of the four spheres of life which include politics, economy, education and religion is as a result of not understanding the nomenclature of uniqueness in nature. Get this truth that in imitation is poverty and in uniqueness is wealth.

Attributes of Human Uniqueness

Uniqueness is freedom. No creative work is possible outside freedom. Freedom, therefore, is the liberty to reason and take decision. No man whose power of reasoning and making decision is in the hands of another man is at peace and no creative work is possible outside a peaceful environment. This calls for the believe in the proverb that says, “You can take a horse to the stream but you can’t force it to drink water.”

If you really want to be creative and innovative take control of your mind and will. The world will definitely like to decide your life for you through their maxims and ideologies, but refuse to dance to their music even when it has already entered into your subconscious mind. There is an inner peaceful rhythm of music inside you with a gentle voice directing you on your personal path to tread, only this you will dance. Hence, according to John Stuart Mill (1976:p75), liberty is the protection of an individual against the tyranny of the majority.

Outside freedom is mediocrity and photocopied life. This idea of trying to compare and compete has led to all form of poverty in the world--- financial, psychological, academic, spiritual and moral poverty. Tell me a man who has singled himself out irrespective of how negative the world will view his action who did not emerge as a star. Bill gate refused the education system of his time and he founded the Microsoft Empire, thus the richest man in the world. Thomas Edison followed just his intuition and electric bulb emerged. Robert kiyosaki refused the MBA system of financial education and he became the world-renowned financial instructor with his Rich Dad Company. Plato refused the Athenian system of political education and he was the founder of the first university in Europe: De academy. Aristotle refused his master’s idea (Plato) and he emerged the founder of his own university ---De Lyceum. Defy the status quo and you will

create history that will move the world to a better ground. Hence, the following attributes are evidence of your uniqueness:

Perception: According to Vocabulary.com, Perception may be defined as one's mental arrangement through which one sees the world. In other words, perception is one's individual world. Yes, your mind or mental world is unique to you. The way you see things around you is personal to you. This personal arrangement of your mind is as a result of your purpose—what you are created or called to do on earth. For this reason, you cannot see the world or what is happening around you the same as the other person, neither will the other person see the world same as you do. Therefore, live your style. After God created you, he broke your mould, that is the reason you have no sameness with any person. Until you get this core truth insatiability will be your second name!

Potentiality: According to Aristotle, each thing possesses a power to become (Stumpf 1994 p.93). This he called power of creativity which is unique to each individual. You cannot share it with any other person. No one can do exactly what you can do. On this matter, there is an inherent mark or seal in each person's creative art which cannot be duplicated. For this reason, no one can copy you. The word "copy" is only applicable in artificial things and not in natural things. No work of art can be copied. For instance, no two persons on earth can have the same handwriting. Every of my work is masterpiece, meaning, it speaks of me alone and no other. Therefore, look for what is yours for it cannot be duplicated. Live your style, God broke your mould after your creation!

Sensation: According to James Linder et al (2021), sensation occurs when environmental stimuli cause sensory receptors in the eyes, ears, skin, tongue, and nose, to respond and create a neurological impulse in the brain. In simple terms, sensation can be defined as what the sensory organs do. Sensation can also be defined as emotional feeling in man. No two people feel the same way for a particular thing or on a particular event. For instance, what you desire and are ready to buy with your last kobo is what I cannot accept to take even offered free of charge. The food you called your favourite may be my worst. The place you are striving to go, the house you are dying to build; the work you are crying to have; are what the other can't agree to have as a free offer! My question is: why these differences? The simple answer is: "nature is unique."

The kind of friends you want to be around with, the kind of jokes, films, sports, you want to be entertained with; all wears your uniqueness. This is a mystery you cannot explain. With the Stoics' Philosophy, "Just follow nature for you cannot unravel the mystery behind human uniqueness." Follow nature, for according to Stoics, nature is reasonable. For this reason, don't force yourself to be someone else, neither will you force someone else to be you, just live your style!

Will

According to Wikipedia.org, Will within philosophy, is a faculty of the mind. Will is important as one of the parts of the mind. It is the seat of decision making. Willingness is the act of taking decision over a particular thing. On this area the creator made man the master. Even God cannot interfere in man's right of taking decision, for this is man's area of master-ship over other created things. If you force someone to take decision outside his/her free will, wait for revolution sooner or later. This is because you interfered in his/her dignity. A little child may comply to

your decision against his/her will because you have power over him/her but wait, with time he/she will take over his/her personality.

It may also be possible that you may lure one into taking a decision because of his ignorance on the matter but wait, soon the veil of ignorance will be removed and he will run home to take his place. Man's 'Freewill' is the most sensitive and important area you shouldn't tamper with, for it is the 'man in man.' Every man has this place (Freewill) as his private zone. The 'Freewill' of man is sacrosanct to him. Man! Learn to self-guard this area and let no man take leadership over it neither will you for any reason sell it to anybody. Man! Also try your best not to force your 'Will' on another person.

Don't Imitate

Every being is unique in all its fashion. Never in anyway try to copy, compete or compare with anybody; for trying that is playing the game of fools (Okoroafor J. 2021). You have no replica, for the creator destroyed your mould after creating you! The joy of living lays in being you; anything outside this is an error.

The word "imitate" is the root word for imitation. Whenever you live on the platform of imitating others you turn to be imitation. How will you feel if someone addresses you with the name "imitation"? Probably that place will turn into a wrestling ground immediately. But the truth of the matter is that all through history many have lived on this act of imitating one another. You were created unique; until you vow not to imitate, you cannot amount to anything in life. Remember that imitation means fake, this is to say that one who imitates all through his life is fake. The verb "imitate" is the cause of poverty among men because the abode of wealth lies in uniqueness.

Every individual person is a mobile wealth because inside him is wealth untold. When you continue to imitate others, the truth of the matter is that you will forget yourself and the potentials you carry within. For instance, as a potential discoverer and developer, if I do not write and teach from the uniqueness of my being, the wealth I carry within cannot be released to the world and no new knowledge will be given to the world for the improvement of humanity.

As I have earlier said, the cause of poverty in the world is because men have sold themselves to the slavery of imitating one another. In the act of imitating you can't release anything to the world. I said it again, "Inside you is wealth unlimited. If you want to be rich do not imitate but look inside of you, for you carry a commodity that has no competitor." In the world of imitation there is no innovation and invention, no technology, no science, no theories and no virgin ideas, hence, the world of politics, economy, education and religion will culminate into bitter world. To imitate is an error! To remove this error from your life you must accept the truth of your uniqueness and live by them.

Be Unique

The influences of competition and comparison have occupied every geographical space in our world today for human population has increased and there is no place you will not be caught up with the negative influence of competition and comparison. Although, every geographical space has been occupied by the increase in human population but there is a space you own that can never be occupied by any other except you and who you allowed to come in. That space is your mental world. In your mental world (space) only you is the master. There is no space for another person unless you create it for him/her. To be candid, majority of people have sold their birth

right to others. They no more have right to their mental world but rather every Tom, Dicks and Harry has taken their executive seat there. This is a situation where one's mind (seat of reasoning) and will (seat of decision making) are in other peoples' control. Know it, if you are not in control of your mental world, you will not amount to anything in this life!

Your mental world (seat of reasoning and decision making) are the only region in the world where you are the president. Never give anyone a space in this area! There has never been any great man in history who dares to allow a space for anyone in his mental world. One may say, "If I did not, it will be a sign of arrogance; people will say, 'I am not humble.'" No! Humility is not allowing another person to rule your power of reasoning and decision making, rather if you do; you reduce yourself to the state of a beast of burden and become an object of clowning. My advice is, "Listen to people's advice, but be the one to take decision on whether to implement it or not, having taken your time to weigh them." You are a man when you have the capacity to reason on an issue and take decision freely. Are you aware that on this area (reasoning and decision making) even God refused to rule you. He knows that if He does, you won't amount to anything in this world. Hence, understand this so as to be the master of your mind and will

You must understand that you are called to be unique, for you have no replica. Know it that the creator structured your being in such a way that only you know yourself better. No one knows you except you! The question then is: Why allowing others to reason and make decision for you? This is madness of the highest order, though, that is the life of many of us. Please, be unique, for in uniqueness (individuality) lies productivity in politics, economy, education and religion (Okoroafor J, 2016).

Human Uniqueness: Implication on Politics, Economy, Education and Religion

Having known the indispensable nature of uniqueness on human personality (creativity and innovation), Let us x-ray its implication on the four cardinal points of human existence namely: politics, education, economy, and religion.

Politics

Starting from the credo of civilization there has been a problem in getting to understand the real meaning of the world "politic." According to Plato, politics is the act of leadership, the act of ruling the state (George H & Thomas L, 1973). Many have taken it as the act of ruling the state literally. Politics is more than that. Getting to the real meaning, it is the act of guiding the human personality. For according to Thomas M & Peter M. (1984) politics encompasses the way human beings in the aggregate govern themselves. It is the act of the individual person helping himself and others to manifest their innate power of uniqueness (creativity and innovation) which will in turn gear towards having a good and great society.

With this real definition of politics one should be pre-occupied in trying to get the best out of himself and not trying to manipulate other in order to find his ways through or in the bid of trying to rule over them. Every action that should be done in leadership must be done with the view of helping yourself and other to develop their creative and innovative power within.

Therefore, in trying to develop yourself and other one should shun any act of comparison and competition. Get it known that your life is masterpiece, it belong to you alone and cannot be compared with that of another. Your life has no replica, take control of it. Never allow others to rule your life for you, you can only give them freedom to give suggestion and after that take time to sieve and pick the ones that will help you build your life. Only you is in a better position to

pick the right suggestion; for you know yourself better than any other person. On the other hand, don't try to force your suggestion on other. Give your suggestion to others concerning a better ways to live, but after that have your peace and allow them the freedom to act themselves. According to John Stuart Mill, in freedom humane and moral persons are formed! In freedom is creativity and innovation, which in turn leads to individual and state development! In freedom is individuality (Mukherjee S. & Ramaswamy S. (2007)!

Lack of understanding of the truth of freedom (allowing individual space) has crippled our society today. Every act of leadership today is just manipulation (competition and comparison). In the bid to impress, one manipulates himself and those under him. In the government of the day which is called democracy, majority takes the lead whether their opinion is right or wrong. For John Stuart Mill, space to weight individual opinion must be created in any society, for there is no sameness in nature. Our government should understand that leadership means, first, to understand human nature which lays in uniqueness and make laws to accommodate freedom of this individuality. Our laws should bear this emblem: "Please, live your style and allow others to also live theirs."

Economy

Economy, putting it in its real definition, is the product of human resource. Making it clearer, it is the outcome of human creativity and innovation. The engine house of every nation's economy is the human person. Once the monster of competition and comparison comes into his mind, the end result is stagnation which will definitely crumble the economy.

Your coming into the world is for a purpose that only you can accomplish. The creative and innovative power of accomplishing your purpose on earth; only you have it. There is no exchange of this power, you can't borrow it from another person neither will another from you, then why competition and comparison. In the bid of playing this game of fools (competition and comparison) you are sapping yourself energy for accomplishment.

Looking at the faces of the world's economy, especially among African countries; you will see the outcome of competition and comparison in the form of abject poverty, sickness, nakedness, unemployment, lack of shelter and even untimely death. This is as a result of trying to get all at the expense of another person. Hence, you will see embezzlement of public funds, fraudulent activities and stealing in all sectors of the economy. People see any position they are holding as a means to enrich their personal pockets. This is in the bid to be able to come out and be a winner at this game of fools (competition and comparison). Please, get it right, the universe is not a field of competition and comparison but a land of more than enough. You are called into a life of selflessness, sharing and blessing others. We live in a world of one cosmic law; whatever good you did to another person must definitely return back to you so also the evil you did. Therefore, look inside your being and discover what you have and bless the world's economy with them.

As you enter into any business endeavour, give it your style; spice it to wear your uniqueness and stop watching your neighbour to see what you will borrow from him. If you follow your style, I bet you, you will definitely add your name at the Guinness Book of Records. In your writing works, songs, leadership, graphic arts etc, watch inside you and you will find any colour you want your enterprise to wear, beautify it with it and see it storm the world. Nature is unique, it abhors imitation and photocopy, please, be unique and live your style.

Education

Education is gotten from the Latin word, “educari” meaning “to unveil.” This means that education is a process of unfolding the creative and innovative power in each individual person. In ancient Igbo education system, I see this act of unveiling individual creative and innovative mind in real practice. Here, there is nothing like employee and employer, we have only master and an apprentice. Once the apprentice has finish learning, he establishes his own and becomes a master and start training others. Here, everyone helps in the economic growth of the society. Also in this ancient Igbo educational system, there is nothing like uniform educational method like we have it in western education system. Here, each individual education takes a different form according one’s area of interest. Ancient Igbo education system is rich in its structurization and outcome. Here, there is no competition and comparison, passion and making contribution are the only driving force behind one moving to his area of specialization. Fagothey (1959.p.433) definition of education as any process of training the physical , mental, and moral power of a human being to render him fit for the duty of life, really aligned well to the role of education in the development of the society.

On the area of modern day western education, contrary is the case, everybody is forced to follow one pattern of education system which was structured to have competition and comparison as its running system. It was meant to raise men and women who will end up as employees. So in this education system it would be “who will carry first and be the one to be employed.” Hence, in this education system jobseeker are created instead of job creators and many will eventually end-up being jobless.

Knowing fully well that each individual is unique the question is: “Why structuring the same educational method to accommodate all? Another question is: “Why testing them with the same standardized method? For this reason, what we see embedded in the mind of these children is that “the world is an arena of competition and comparison.

Permit me my teachers and my education policy formulator to ask you these questions:

1. How do you know who is intelligent among your students for men are unique in their areas of callings and you are using the same standardized test to grade them? This kind of measurement is like one judging a fish by its ability to climb a tree.
2. How do you get to know each individual area of creativity and innovation when you are using one method to teach all your students?

These two questions cannot be answered for they run parallel with human nature. Human nature abhors competition and comparison and you are using the method of competition and comparison to unveil what is unique, how can it work? You cannot put a square peg on a round hole.

Let the system of education be structured to accommodate each individual personality. This will end unemployment which breeds poverty and ushers in an era of creativity and innovation that breeds wealth unlimited. For sample of educational method that accommodates individual differences, I refer our parents, teachers and education policy makers to my book “Igbo buagburunka” (Igbo: a royal family of creativity and innovation). Borrow a leaf from old Igbo system of education before the coming of the colonial masters for it is very rich in discovering and developing of human creative and innovative power.

Religion

To start with, what is religion?

1. According to Merriam Webster Dictionary, religion is an interest, a belief, or an activity that is very important to a person or group of persons.
2. It is the service and worship of God or supernatural.

Synergizing the two definitions we can have something like this: Religion is an interest, belief or activity in the service of God or supernatural that is very important to a person or group of persons. This definition depicts interest or belief in service which shows that religion is enshrine in service which means selfless activities. This means that the definition of religion and its activities abhor competition and comparison which were the bedrock of selfishness.

Taking a look at the so called religions and their activities in the world today; one will notice that competition and comparison are its bedrock. To ascertain this, John Stuart Mill (1963) has this to Say “Religion stifles individuality and development. Muslims and Christians have being in endless war for centuries now, hence, killing innocent citizens. Why this war? To know who is more powerful to take over the government of the world! See game of foolishness!

Within the Christian community, the battle is even fiercer. It is, “which denomination is the best and will have the highest number of population.” Among people of the same denomination, the battle is: “who will be eating the lion share from the money exploited from the weak and ignorant members.” These battles are as a result of competition and comparison that our Christianity has been coloured with. The founder of Christianity, Jesus Christ told His followers to abhor any form of competition and comparison. He even went to the extent of telling them not to practice it even in their personal dealings with each other, but they refused to the extent of bringing it into the body of Christ (the church). “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand knows what your right hand is doing. That thine alms may be in secret and thy father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly (Matthew 6:3-4).” Today in the gathering of Christians contrary is the case. In all their gathering, it is an arena of who is better than the other financially. Take for instance, their master said: “Give in secret but they said: no, give openly.” Their master said: “If you give openly you have received your reward and they said: “Give openly it is better to take your reward now, hence they started to be awarding all kinds of tittles in the church.” Every Sunday worship you notice this competition and comparison market, where the poor will go home in shame and tears because the rich will be displaying their wealth and flaging their pride to the shame of the poor. In the bid to join this market of displaying money in the church called “market of who will give this amount of money, let him come out” the poor will go and soil his hands.

You hear Ministers of God at the pulpits preaching against cultism and ritual money, but occult people use their churches as an arena for catching new members without them knowing because of their greed for money and not listening to the teaching of Jesus on the method of giving in secret who knows the uniqueness of the human person. The reason behind the display of money in churches by those who are not in any way close to God is to get the interest of the members of Christ flock to join them. When they display that millions in your church and you call them all sorts of names to flag their egos, your members get intimidated and they will later go and meet them to show them the way. Get wisdom child of God!

The question is, “How are we going to get money to build and maintain our church if not by playing on the selfish nature of man (competition and comparison)! The answer is: your master

knows that in uniqueness lies the power to build. Open to your members the reality of uniqueness and let them give in freedom without grudges and their products of creativity and innovation will manifest. Don't think you know more than Jesus the founder of your religion, you mere man! He knows man and his selfish ambition! Since you have been using this method which progress have you made that is more than that of the Apostles of Jesus Christ. Have you planted more churches and evangelized more than Apostle Paul. Be careful, you are breeding selfishness which is what you are called to stop! Be spiritual and follow your master's instruction and that money you are chasing around in shame will start chasing you in honour. You have made your members not to give and work for God according to the creative and innovative power He blessed them with. Change your style and follow your Master's (Jesus Christ) instruction and you will see that in uniqueness lies wealth unlimited. Finally, help the members of your congregation to live their style by preaching and practising selflessness from the pulpit which breeds joy, happiness, peace, health and wealth in the world and not manipulation with cover of selflessness which breeds all manner of evil that will end in death

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I dare you to task yourself to do that thing that has been welling up in you without trying to imitate another. Experiment all alone and watch for result! Your outcome will marvel you! For instance, do you have the passion to write, don't copy from other people's work (plagiarism), write from the virgin inspiration in your mind and you will give out new knowledge to the world. It may seem hard at the beginning but with time writing will become your hobby. I am talking from experience! Sometime it may seem that it is not working but stick to be independent which brings out your uniqueness, with time your splendour will show. Finally, in imitating you stifle creativity and innovation but in being unique you give birth to history! Manifesting our creativity and innovation calls for the collective efforts of individuals and the government which in turn will change the face of the world's politics, economy, education and religion. Finally, we are to remember that this can only work when each individual understands how unique he/she is and live by it. Be unique and our nation; our world will wear the cloak of beauty and elegance!

Recommendations

To make sure that both the old and young people deposit their creativity and innovation to our nations, I, therefore, make these clarion calls to our government:

- Let government see to it that the resources from the crude oil that African soil was blessed with be geared towards helping the youths to manifest their creativity to the world via opening institutes for potential discovery and development. Here, after their graduation the government will equip them financially to be self-employed in their different area of expertise.
- Let the government see to the harnessing of the hydro powers of our great oceans in Africa so that power generation will be enough to meet up with the technological expertise of our human resource.
- Let the government continue setting great standards for our universities on the area of entrepreneurial studies. This will set our graduates up as employers of labour rather than poor employees in foreign countries.

- Let the government manifest on the area of health sector of our nations by exposing our human resource to modern technologies in the developed world. This will help our children to showcase their glory to the marvels of the world.
- Let the government pitch their tent on the area of current space technology! This is an age of information and our children should not be found wanting here! They carry all that is needed to flourish here! Let foreign expertise be employed to come with respect to educate our people on this global trend.
- Let the government create a means of alleviating the sufferings of our local men and women who still use crude method of faming through mechanize farming for it is a means of boasting the creativity and innovation potentials of our people which lies in uniqueness.

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FACTORS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OF FORMING THE CULTURE OF INNOVATIVE ACTIVITY OF THE STUDENTS OF TECHNICAL HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

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DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00009.5

ABSTRACT

In this article, scientific analyzes and foundations of the factors affecting the formation and development of the culture of innovative activity of students and the opportunities created in the educational process are presented.

KEYWORDS: *Innovative Culture, Innovations, Innovative Potential.*

INTRODUCTION

Social awareness is a factor that helps to constantly increase the innovative potential of future specialists of technical family educational institutions. For this, the specialist, in addition to having information about the shortcomings and achievements of his field, needs to know the demands and offers of the society, its strengths and weaknesses, to determine the direction of new innovations, to create new types of products or services, to create a healthy enables the emergence of competitive social sectors, the creation of new innovative techniques and technologies, the improvement of working conditions with innovative elements, and the creation of innovative networks directed towards constant scientific and technological discoveries.

Innovating is looking outside of our current work and coming up with a new idea to help us do our work in a new way. Thus, the goal of innovation is to achieve a result that is more effective and beneficial for the work we are doing, either qualitatively, quantitatively, or both. The effectiveness of a new innovation is evaluated by its rapid and widespread implementation [1].

In technical educational institutions, it is considered appropriate to organize the processes of teaching technical sciences in an innovative way so that students can develop a culture of innovative activity and become specialists who can implement innovations in practice. Students should be able to imagine the location of spatial bodies and their structure, to understand the internal and external structure of technological and energy machines, the constructive sequence of their details, to give cuts and cuts to complex and simple nodes, connections and details, to skillfully perform internal and external connections in details, In order to have knowledge of design of standard and non-standard details, design of machines, mechanisms, units, bricks and details through computer programs, theoretical and practical knowledge of "Engineering and computer graphics" is required. The science of "Theoretical Mechanics" for the static study of the laws of movement of mechanical bodies, kinematic and dynamic analysis, the balance of stationary bodies, checking the stresses of compression, stretching, twisting, and bending of the elements in machines and mechanisms, checking the integrity, priority, and strength limits of the

structures that create them. studying the science of "Resistance of Materials", types of machines and mechanisms, including: the structural and kinematic structure of gear, pneumatic, hydraulic, gear (cylindrical, conical and worm), punch, belt, friction and electric mechanisms, laws of movement, types of kinematic pairs and kinematic properties, calculating the degrees of freedom of mechanisms, learning the methods of kinematic calculation of mechanisms, learning the procedure for applying diagram methods in the "Theory of Machines and Mechanisms" and other technical sciences n developing an innovative culture in educational processes so that students master their knowledge perfectly, acquire practical application skills, participate in the creation of new innovative engineering projects, as well as create new innovations in the fields of production and technical service it is necessary to introduce mechanisms. In this regard, technology is considered as one of the main directions for family educational institutions, and it is the only system for training national personnel as specialists who can meet modern requirements, and this is certainly an innovative educational process.

Of course, in the organization of such an educational process, it is necessary to prepare textbooks, teaching and methodical manuals created by professors-teachers, sets of assignments prepared for the completion of graphic and course work, in the preparation of graduation and qualification theses of students, master's theses. providing instructions and concepts regarding the formation of the culture of innovative activity of students in the implementation is of great importance in achieving our goal.

In the collections of scientific articles and journals published by technical educational institutions, the results of scientific research necessary for the formation of the culture of innovative activity of students are announced, and scientific and practical assistance is provided to students in order to increase their innovative abilities. to develop critical and analytical thinking skills in the search for solutions to science and industry problems, to be able to consciously understand reforms in the social and economic spheres, to improve their spiritual and moral qualities, to develop the desire to make positive changes necessary for the state and society will give. Also, organizing creative meetings of students with industry specialists and scientists in the field of technology, giving them advice in the direction of their field and interests also shows positive results. It should be noted that, together with the scientific and research institutions of the scientific and research institutions of the scientific and research institutions of the production industries, technical service organizations and the Academy of Sciences, the creation of science programs and the organization of educational processes in cooperation with them, the joint implementation of practical and laboratory training gives very positive results.

Providing information about the modern and advanced techniques and technologies of the world to the students of the technical family educational institution, their application and implementation in the educational process will give the expected results. Also, in order to produce mechanics and technologists with innovative potential who can fully meet the requirements of today's production industries and technical service industries, to establish the integration of production industries and service industries with technical educational institutions. , if the educational activities of the students are organized together with the production processes, the technical assignments, graphic works, coursework, graduation qualifications and independent educational assignments given to the students are also focused on the solutions to the production problems, and the students become strong individuals and mature specialists. to establish mutual cooperation between professors and experts in the field, to solve production problems, to create

innovative ideas and to train high-quality personnel, Republican scientific-practical conferences of students in the field of technical education Annually in cooperation with production companies and organizations, organize laboratories to test students' innovative ideas in practice, organize innovation centers in each faculty and department, promote students' innovative ideas and initiatives to universities, families It would be appropriate to introduce permanent incentive mechanisms by the Ministry of Education, cooperating enterprises and organizations, and our state.

As a result of a person's innovative thinking process, it is possible to create a new type of product or service, but if there are no conditions that can turn the spark of the first innovative thoughts that appeared in his mind into a flame, i.e., an innovative environment that allows the development of innovative thought, any new ideas will not be created. It may disappear by itself [2]. Therefore, it is necessary to create an innovative educational environment in technical educational institutions in order to form and develop the culture of innovative activity of students.

Innovative ideas are often the basis for the emergence of new markets, new types of production, creation of new products and services. But in order to form innovative ideas, first of all, it is necessary to go through the stages of identifying problems, collecting data, forming new ideas, evaluating ideas and implementing them. In order to implement this, mutual integration of production enterprises and technical higher education institutions is evaluated [9].

The process of creating innovations and their implementation requires the systematic participation of many individuals and organizations. Academicians, professors, scientific staff, students, managers, investors, industry partners, manufacturing enterprises, etc. can participate in such a process [10]. But the interest of each participant in the implementation of innovative ideas should be fully ensured.

The emergence and implementation of innovations depends on many components, their interconnection and sequence. Innovative abilities of people are constantly formed in the family, social environment, in the process of education and working conditions. But among these stages, the stage that has a great influence on the formation and development of innovative abilities of a person is the educational process [8].

Each person has a unique system of thinking, and the role and importance of higher education institutions in the formation and development of their innovative aspects and capabilities is considered very great [3].

Two directions of creation and development of innovations have been identified, they can exist and be classified as evolutionary or revolutionary [4]. Evolutionary innovation leads to incremental improvements in growth, but requires persistence. Revolutionary innovations are often completely renewed in a short period of time or replace the old with the new. It has innovation characteristics that support industry innovations, reduce existing workloads, improve existing working conditions and work environments, while at the same time revolutionizing the entire industry by creating national innovations in education. 'changes [5].

When various innovations are introduced into the traditional educational process, for example, a more expressive presentation of new material using multimedia tools, more effective teaching methods, or the use of new innovative methods in the educational process, the educational efficiency of students increases to a new level. possible [6]. In this way, applying evolutionary

innovations to the educational process partially improves the existing teaching method and gives students the opportunity to learn subjects better. In practice, inquiry-based, problem-based, cooperative, or small-group learning methods are evolutionary innovations because they change the way students learn. The use of educational technology in the traditional classroom, whether using a projector, video or iPad, is evolutionary because they only change some aspects of learning. But reforms in the field of national education should always be a revolutionary innovation, because they focus on the complete renewal of the education system [7]. An example of such an innovative education system is the online education system, because it has caused systemic changes that fundamentally change the structure, format and methods of teaching and learning. Introducing innovative approaches to education to meet the requirements of modern education, introducing new educational technologies, teaching using unusual or non-traditional methods will develop the culture of innovative activity of students and their future creates an opportunity for them to become innovators in their field.

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WAYS OF REINTERPRITATION OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH THE COMPONENT OF NOMINATING A PERSON ACCORDING TO SOCIAL STATUS AND PROFESSIONAL FEATURES IN ENGLISH

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DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00010.1

ABSTRACT

In modern English phraseology, phraseological units with the components of nomination of a person by social status and nomination of a person by socio-professional characteristics are notable for the fact that they have the strongest level of activity. Phraseological units with these components are interesting because social signals are clearly expressed in semantics. The article discusses the phraseological units with the components of nomination of a person by his social status and socio-professional characteristics in English, the ways of their figurative rethinking (metaphor, hyperbole, irony, euphemism, paraphrase, comparison, oxymoron).

KEYWORDS: *Phraseological Units With The Components Of The Naming Of A Person In Accordance With His Social Status, Level Of Activity, Phraseological Metaphorization, Hyperbolization, Irony, Euphemism, Paraphrase, Comparison, Oxymoron, Figurative Reinterpretation.*

INTRODUCTION

If we look mainly at the history of linguistics in the XIX and XX centuries, we can see in it a consistent development and progress. This is due to the fact that new areas have emerged in it and are on the path of consistent development. The interrelationship of language and its constituent language units began to be studied in depth. In this article, we focus on the analysis of the phraseological layer and its components. In this layer of language, the use of words describing events, objects, social and professional characteristics of a person, etc., existing in nature and society, is well known.

In modern English phraseology, the naming a person according to social status and professional characteristics are noteworthy in that the phraseological units with such components have the strongest level of activity. Phraseological units with this component are interesting from the point of view that semantics has a brightly expressed social allusion. One of the reasons why the specific image of this group of phraseological units is so important is that the sociolinguistic category finds its clear expression in them.

It is well known that language is not only a reflection of the reality around us, but also an important means of communication between members of society. Language is an abstract phenomenon by nature, and its existence can only be demonstrated in verbal communication. Therefore, the characteristic of language as an object of study emerges with the realization of

speech. Speech, on the other hand, occurs in a variety of ways. In general, scientists are conducting a lot of scientific research in order to reveal the language and its essence.

It is no exaggeration to say that most of such research belong to the field of phraseology, which plays an important role in linguistics. In modern linguistics, there is no clear solution to the question of defining and interpreting phraseological units as linguistic units. Theoretically, no agreement has yet been reached on the nature of linguistic facts and the size, composition, meaning, boundaries of phraseological units.

The issue of phraseological units is also interpreted differently by different scholars. For example, F. de Saussure said, “Language has such ready-made compounds that their character of corresponding to common usage derives from their meaning and syntactic properties. ... According to tradition, such compounds are used as ready-made materials”. [5]

N. Shansky in his work "Phraseology of the modern Russian language" gives the following definition: [6] The linguist argues that the main feature of phraseological units is that they are re-reflected in our minds as a readymade material, i.e., phraseological units do not appear in the process of communication, but are brought into communication in a ready-made product.

According to A. V. Kunin, phraseological units are fixed compounds with a full or partial portable meaning. [1] Such a meaning is a phraseological meaning. [7]

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY. It is well known, that phraseological units are a combination of words and are considered to be separate units of language. According to the structure they are equal to the phrase or sentence including figuratively structured or partially semantically re-formed, fixed word combinations [9]

It is also worth noting that the phraseological unit with above-mentioned component is characterized by the social signification of semantics, as it reflects the class differences of society. Within the phraseological units, which represent the social-class affiliation of a person, the naming of a person on the basis of social status and professional characteristics can be divided into two groups:

- 1) phraseological units describing the higher social status;
- 2) phraseological units describing the lower social status.

For example, “**fine lady**” (**назокатли, олийнасаб хоним**) is related to the first group in English.

-“*The perfect woman, you see, was a worker; not an idler; not a fine lady...”.* (Биласанми, меҳнаткаш аёл мукаммал аёлдир; бекорчи эмас; **назокатли аёл** эмас....)[8]

Phraseological units expressing higher social status: -the **silkstocking gentry** - бойлар, бой одамлар: (пул халталар); **lady of quality** - coll. **эътиборли хоним, зодагон аёл** [8].

The following phraseological units are related to the second group: “*one of the **Nature’s gentlemen** - a person of humble origin but with noble instincts and consideration for others, ironically, an uncultivated person with outrageously bad manners* [10]; (*келиб чиқиши оддий, бироқ бошқалар назарида юқори табақа вакили ва эътиборли, ҳаддан таиқари ёмон хулқли маданиятсиз шахс*)”; In turn, the phraseological unit denoting the material condition is clearly distinguished from the group of phraseological units describing the social hierarchy:

1) **Rich** – for example, *to live like a lord (king, prince)- to live splendidly having the best of everything*: *шоҳлардек яшаиш, егани олдида емагани кетида*.

“He held forth about his plans, next day: was going for a trip round the world; intended **to live like a lord** in London, Paris and New York”. [2] (*У режалари борасида мулоҳазага толди, кейинги кун: дунё бўйлаб саёҳатга чиқмоқчи эди; Нью Йорк, Париж ва Лондонда қироллардай яшамоқчи эди*);

2) **poor** – for example *beggars must be no choosers (beggars can't be choosers! - people in need cannot be concerned about quality but must accept what they are given* [2] (*муҳтож одамлар берилган нарсани қабул қилади, сифатлими сифатсизми, танлаш имкониятига эга эмаслар*);

In English, naming the person by position is a strong social aspect of the component phraseological unit that carries information about social construction, the royal government, describes different social groups, reflects antagonistic relationships between classes, social inequality.

Some phraseological units are dedicated to describe “gentleman” (**жентельмен**). For example, *-It is not a gay coat that makes a gentleman, it takes 3 generations to make a gentleman* [3] (*инсонни олийжаноб қиладиган нарса либоси эмас, бир олийжаноб инсонни шакллантириш учун уч авлод ўтади*): -“He remembered his uncle’s saying that it took 3 generations to make a gentleman: it was a companion proverb to the silk purse and sow’s ear.” [3] (*У амакисининг, бир олийжаноб инсонни шакллантириш учун уч авлод ўтади деган ҳикматли сўзларини эслади: бу ипак ҳамёнга ўйилган ва қулоққа қуйилган мақол эди*).

In addition, there are phraseological units that indicate the absence of terms of profession or activity within the English phraseological units. For example,

gentleman of the inkpot – *корреспондент (мухбир), газетчик (газетачи); the lord of the harvest* - *ҳосил эгаси бўлган фермер, бош ўроқчи; knight of the cleaver* –*қассоб(joke); knight of the whip* – (joke)*аравакаш; queen of the dripping pan* - *ошпаз; lady’s maid* - *оқсоч*.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS. In this article we would like to discuss about the naming a person according to social status and profession - ways of figurative interpretation in a component phraseological unit. It is worth noting that phraseology in general, including emotional expressive phrasal verbs, as well as words of such a character are linguistic phenomenon created for the expressive, figurative, emotional expressive expression of thought. [9]

Studies show that naming a person according to their social status and profession is a subject to phraseological reinterpretation in a variety of ways, indicating that they have a rich semantic potential. Metaphor, hyperbole, irony, euphemism, paraphrase, comparison, oxymoron are such tools. [4] Phraseological metaphorization is one of the most common ways of renaming a person according to his or her social status and occupation in English.

Phraseological metaphors can take many forms. First of all, simple. According to the similarity of the situation- *among the blind, one-eyed man is king; a king among man - a man who has more importance, ability or power than all or most others in the same group*; (*бир хил вазиятдаги гуруҳ ичида бошқаларга қараганда кўпроқ қобилиятга, қудратга, муҳимроқ аҳамиятга эга шахс - одамлар орасида қирол*); (*кўрмаганнинг кўргани қурисин*);

In this phraseological unit there is a concretization of the portable meaning in the component "a king", which is reflected in its definition: **king** - *one who in a certain sphere or class has supremacy or preeminence compared to that of a king*. [10];

Among the phraseological units, there are also the most varied, and sometimes difficult to identify types of similarity, phraseological units constructed using complex metaphors. As a rule, the phraseological unit that embodies this national feature is, for example, in English the old lady of Threadneedle street - the Bank of England (*Англия Банки*);[10]

The phraseological unit built into the hyperbole achieves the emotional-expressive nature of the semantics through the obvious hyperbolization of real situations: for example, we see in the following phraseological unit that mispronunciation does not mean "killing" literary English, "to murder King's English". In the following phraseological unit, human behavior is manifested in hyperbolization: **death merchant** in English - *курол-ярог ишлаб чиқарувчи*. [10]

Naming a person according to social status and profession - a number of phraseological units with a component paraphrasis, which indicate the concretization of the nominal meaning of naming a person by social status: in English **the king of the beasts-uep, the king of metals-олтин**. [10]

Many phraseological units with a component of naming a person according to their social status are noteworthy for their euphemistic character. Naming a person according to his social status and profession of a euphemistic character - a component phraseological unit means different qualities of a person. For example, in English **the knight of fortune**- *авантюрист, осонлик билан эришилган рицарлик, the Knight of Rueful Countenance*- *маъюс кўринишли рицар*.

A number of phraseological units with a **knight**-component of euphemistic character represent the professional activity of the person, for example, **knight (brother, man, son) of the spigot** – *тракторчи* (joke) [10].

Some phraseological units with such a component are built on ironic (intermittent) reinterpretation:

In English: **to dine with duke Humphrey** - (*овқатланмаслик, оч қолмоқ, очликдан силласи қуримоқ*); **a fine lady** - 1) *назокатли, олийнасаб аёл*. 2) *кесатиқ, ўзини олийнасаб қилиб кўрсатишига уринадиган аёл*. [1] **A fine gentleman** - *мода кетидан қувувчи олийнасаб эркак; кўчма маънода. олифта* [1].

Terms like **lady** or **gentleman**" are used in the phraseological unit in the same sense as "lady, gentleman", but absorbs the nuance of negative emotional evaluation. Phraseological comparison is constructed on the basis of the reinterpretation of the above-mentioned components, which participate as an intensifier of the understood action:

In English **to work like a slave (a galley slave, a horse, a nawy, nigger)** - *тинкаси қуригунча ишламоқ* [1]; **state: happy as a king** - *беҳад бахтли, чексиз бахтиёр* [1]. Such types of comparisons can serve as both intensifiers of action and character.

In English, naming the person by position – in the component phraseological unit, the state of oxymoron is rare:

Hamlet without the prince of Denmark - *something lacking an essential part, a performance without the chief actor or a proceeding without the central figure* (*асосий қисмсиз, бош*

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PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES TO FORMATION OF LIFE SAFETY COMPETENCE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN PRACTICAL ACTIVITI

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DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00011.3

ABSTRACT

This article highlights the pedagogical factors for ensuring the life safety of students with disabilities, mastering the science of "Life Safety" in the educational process, the ability to apply existing competencies in personal and practical activities, an emergency situation of a person of nature, as well as an adequate approach to natural phenomena, issues of individual, state and public life protecting students from the negative consequences of emergencies are analyzed in the context of combating informational ideas and propaganda, which are seen as a serious threat to their security.

KEYWORDS: *Student With Disabilities, Life Safety, Educational Process, Motivational Factors, Educational Process, Technogenic, Emergency Situations, Pedagogical And Psychological Mechanism, Inclusive Education, Integration, Safe Behavior, Educational And Material Base.*

INTRODUCTION

In every society where the human factor is glorified, the mechanism of social protection rises to the level of state policy and all factors of its implementation are aligned with the principles of humanism. Organization of the practical activities of children (students) with mental and physical disabilities is one of the important issues, and creating an effective educational environment in the process of professional training and personal development (taking into account age, gender and individual characteristics) to form their readiness for a safe life is one of the demands of the time remains.

From this point of view, it is necessary to scientifically research the factors and sources of the formation of individual typological characteristics to increase the motivation of disabled children (students) for practical activities, to encourage them, to develop their skills and qualifications, to alleviate the deficiencies of cognitive activity.

Creating a healthy educational environment for children (students) with disabilities, developing relevant knowledge, skills and competencies for training in certain fields and professions is an important social necessity in forming their readiness for a safe life.

In our society, the educational-rehabilitation environment of inclusive education is organizationally, methodologically and technologically adapted to the special needs of students with disabilities, and creates conditions for the development of professional education programs, health protection, and independent activities. The goal of this program is to further strengthen the information and socio-cultural space of the inclusive educational institution.

This environment is the basis for full or partial compensation (compensation) of the limited life activities of students with disabilities, allowing them to act as competitive professionals in the labor market.

It is advisable to implement the educational process in the vocational training of students with disabilities based on the following:

- Creation of conditions for the development of the potential abilities of the individual (taking into account the general laws and specific characteristics of the development of the personality of students with disabilities with physical and mental disabilities);
- Creation of a barrier-free learning environment (differentiated and individually oriented approaches to students with disabilities);
- Ensuring health protection of students with disabilities;
- Creating conditions for theoretical and practical training of future specialists in the field of therapeutic physical education in combination with therapeutic-entertainment training and therapeutic exercise complex (medical, physical and psychological training);
- Development of optimal methods of supporting the development of vocational rehabilitation of students with disabilities;
- Ensuring self-employment of students with disabilities in a socialized environment (in classrooms, limiting isolated employment);
- Special design of classrooms for students with disabilities, creation of sanitary and hygienic conditions, organization of treatment and rehabilitation;
- Psychological support for students with disabilities, socio-legal advice, practical help in finding a job, solving social, household and socio-cultural issues related to the educational process;
- Adaptation of students with disabilities to social life and work activities, as well as strengthening pedagogical and psychological work on self-awareness.

Directing students with disabilities to practical activities requires the creation of a specialized material and technical base, including vocational training for visually impaired students, and should be held in well-equipped classrooms with visual aids (models, embossed tablets and tables), stands, technical equipment . Devices connected to the social network are also required to be compatible with their disease characteristics (personal computers, sound recording devices, CD players).

Also, every student with disabilities should be provided with specially individualized electronic publications of all resources of professional and interdisciplinary cycles. It is very important that the library fund of the educational institution is provided with basic and additional educational literature at all levels, as well as official, reference-bibliographic and periodical publications.

This will create an opportunity for students with disabilities to quickly exchange information with local, regional and regional educational institutions

The educational process aimed at solving the problems of inclusive education is distinguished by the degree of determination of the goal of implementation of important issues related to the age characteristics of students with disabilities, their level of preparation and professional development skills.

It should be emphasized that today in our society, it is appropriate to train the main and special parts of the educational cycles in order to effectively implement the inclusive education system and to form the professional skills of students with disabilities based on the needs of the modern state and society, as well as the requirements of the market economy.

We think that it is necessary to pay attention to the following:

- History (must be filled with the lives and works of historical figures that provide internal motivation and educate human will);
- The foundations of spirituality (understanding human value as the highest value and aligning it with the factors directed to the conscious activity of forming oneself as a person);
- Psychology (enriched with human will, its inherent qualities, foundations of conscious activity, motivational training and practical training);
- Physical culture (filled with sources of conscious training and stimulation of the human body).
- Life safety (filled with socio-pedagogical and psychological factors of human self-preservation);
- Information security (aimed at blocking negative sources due to the psychological impact of information attacks and threats, as well as the negative impact on consciousness and activity).

Also, the following issues are prioritized in the organization of practice processes for students with disabilities:

- First of all, training and production practice should be conducted in school laboratories and production organizations, which are directed to the full formation of professional skills and qualifications of students with disabilities, and are provided with modern, innovative technological equipment specially individualized for mastering practical competencies;
- Secondly, it is compared to the training of students with disabilities based on the coordinated program developed with the educational institution and the partner organization within the PTIK framework;
- Thirdly, implementation of the concept of unobstructed movement in terms of "convenient time" and "convenient space" without affecting the practice process, health and mental state of students with disabilities, taking into account aspects of physical fatigue;
- Fourthly, students with disabilities should be directed to activities that strengthen their health and provide professional motivation based on their wishes and desires, as well as their interests and abilities;
- Fifth, the organization of internship for students with disabilities, providing them with a program and conditions that allow to evaluate their skills, knowledge, practical experience and acquired professional competences;

-Sixthly, as a necessary component of the practical process of students with disabilities, the formation of the competence of endurance, critical self-evaluation and self-control, as well as the correct evaluation of successes and failures in the activity;

-Seventh, the full implementation of programs aimed at ensuring the process of socialization of students with disabilities with others during practice, and the formation of a healthy social and psychological environment for the formation of adequate behavior in the team.

It is necessary to include the "Life Safety" course as a special subject in the educational process in order to form the methodology of formation of life activity safety competence of students with disabilities in practice-oriented activities.

The integration and introduction of the pedagogical and psychological potential of general professional subjects, which allows updating and enriching the knowledge and skills of students with disabilities, their individual opportunities in the field of life safety, in the "Life Safety" course helps to have a holistic perception of life activities. Also, looking at self-preservation and the environment as a conscious type of activity, integration with society is formed, and the process of social adaptation moves to a conscious type of activity.

From this point of view, it is necessary to develop the safety features of the aspects of professional and social adaptation, coordinating the knowledge, skills and qualifications of the "Life safety" subject in terms of the life course and type of activity of students with disabilities.

It is necessary to pay attention to the following:

- Integrating the "Life Safety" course for students with disabilities into the content of the educational system based on the characteristics of disabilities, which enables them to achieve modern educational goals;

- Introduction of special educational-methodological complexes based on the characteristics of disabilities in the process of vocational training of students with disabilities;

- Aligning the quality of professional training with the needs of the times within the framework of the measures implemented to protect the health of students with disabilities in all educational institutions;

- To determine the psychological factors of the mechanism of self-blocking in their behavior as an effective basis for the formation of the readiness of students with disabilities for a safe life;

- Development of self-motivation and motivation skills to independently increase the level of preparation for a safe life of students with disabilities.

Pedagogically implemented activities in the formation of the readiness of students with disabilities for a safe life:

- Firstly, to identify previously existing (basic) knowledge in the field of life safety;

- Secondly, to identify the structural and functional systems of perception of the environment in students with disabilities, and to analyze their changes;

- Thirdly, determining the role of the field of professional knowledge in managing and organizing the life safety of students with disabilities;

- Fourthly, to develop certain methods of protecting students with disabilities from negative factors in the course of life, as well as to support their social adaptation in society;

- Fifthly, to develop the concept of safe behavior in students with disabilities;
- Sixth, formation of disabled students' readiness for a safe life based on pedagogical and psychological factors;
- Seventh, to provide students with disabilities with a source of knowledge that prioritizes issues of personal safety and health.

As a result of mastering the subject "Life safety", students with disabilities should master the following competencies and be able to apply them in their personal and practical activities:

- Ensuring the stability of economic objects and appropriate approach to man-made emergency situations and natural phenomena;
- In the context of the fight against informational ideas and propaganda, which are considered as a serious threat to the security of the state and society, to develop the skills of forecasting the development of events and assessing their consequences;
- To understand the main types and consequences of risks that may occur in personal and professional activities or in everyday life, and to reduce their possible impact;
- To follow and promote the rules of life safety in work activities;
- Organization and implementation of measures to protect students with disabilities from the negative effects of emergency situations;
- To take preventive measures (on the basis of promotion and propaganda) in order to reduce the level and consequences of risks that students with disabilities may encounter in professional activities and in everyday life.

According to V.P. Ermakov, compensation processes in a person have gradual stages of development and are characterized by the uniqueness of the systematic structure of their functions[1].

From this point of view, a person goes through formation processes at different stages of ontogenesis. Applying a differentiated approach in the educational process, taking into account the age and individual characteristics of students with disabilities, makes it possible to cover or correct identified deficiencies in personality development.

We think it is appropriate to base this scientific hypothesis with the opinion of B.K. Tuonogov. According to his point of view, due to differentiated classes, perception, thinking, memory, speech activation, completeness of reproductive activity, adequacy of concepts, processes of knowledge of the surrounding world are improved in students with disabilities [6].

In conclusion, based on the above considerations, we put forward the scientific hypothesis that the integration of students with disabilities in the "Life Safety" course with professional subjects is a necessary condition for their social adjustment, and we propose the mechanism shown in the following picture:

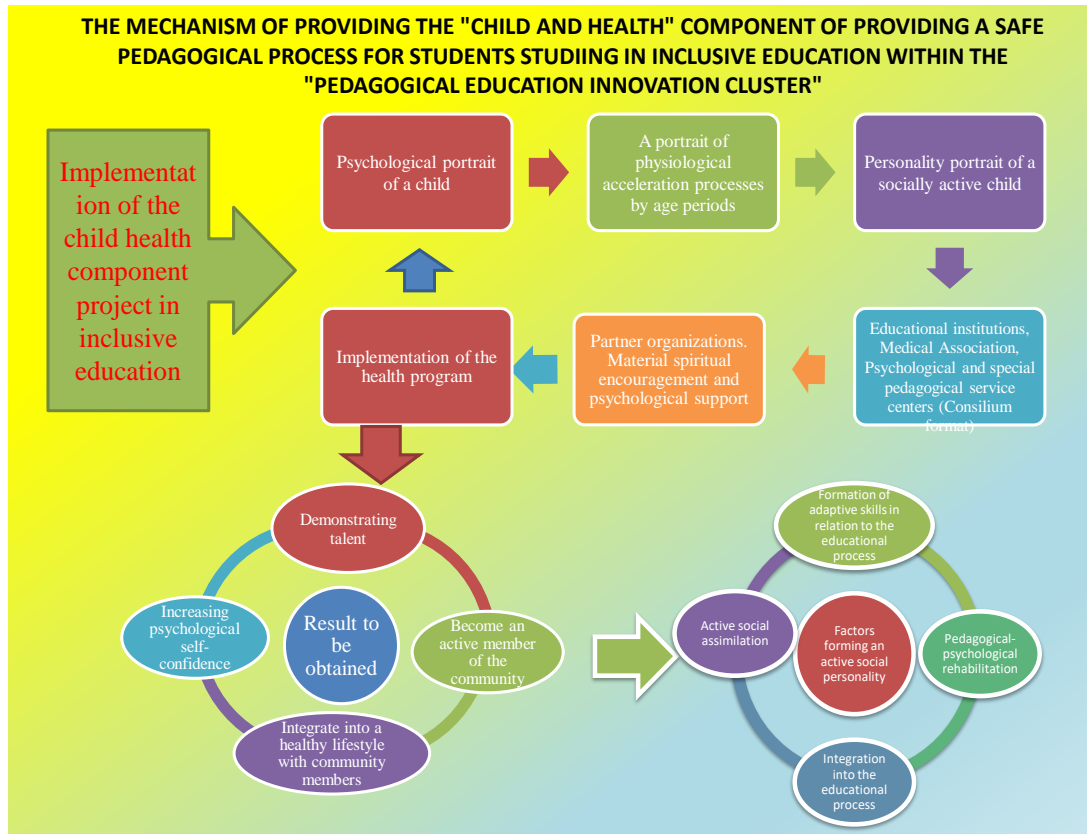


Figure 1: A component mechanism of ensuring a safe pedagogical process for students studying in inclusive education

To develop the motivation to encourage students to lead a safe life in the environment of inclusive education, to create a healthy lifestyle for students with disabilities, and to encourage them to become the most active members of society, to ensure the safety of their personal life, to use pedagogical and psychological methods, to form personal and practical-professional competence, and organization of life safety based on the goals and tasks of inclusive education, determines the result of practical activities.

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PHONETIC RHYTHMIC EXERCISES IN WORKING ON SPEECH SOUNDS

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DOI: **10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00012.5**

ABSTRACT

This article looks at the developments of approximate exercises on the use of phonetic rhythm in teaching children with hearing impairments the oral pronunciation of speech sounds.

KEYWORDS: *Chirchik State Pedagogical University, Phonetic Rhythm Training Development, Research, Phonetic Rhythm, Surdopedagogy, Methodology , Correction, Postanovka, Automation, Hand, Foot, Movement,, Attention, Auditory Perception, Motorics, Music, Rhythm, Movement, Sound, Speech Breathing, Speech-Movemen.*

INTRODUCTION

Presently, by the independent researcher of Chirchik State Pedagogical University 13.00.02-Specialization in the theory and methodology of education and training, to obtain the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in pedagogic sciences, "From phonetic rhythmicity in the development of speech of special needs elementary school students" use (in the case of students with hearing impairment and speech impairment)" is being continued. The effectiveness of the phonetic rhythmic technology proposed by the researcher is recognized among practicing deaf pedagogues. You can see this in many articles of the researcher.

Children's actions accompanying the pronunciation of sounds and syllables in phonetic rhythmic training are characterized by three main elements: **tension, intensity, time.**

When we pronounce certain sounds, the muscles involved in their pronunciation tense or relax. The characteristics of these movements also depend on the level of participation of muscles in the movement. In the description of the actions performed along with the pronunciation of speech sounds, tension is defined by the terms: "tense", "a little tense", "relaxed".

Intensity determines the dynamics of speech, that is, the movements in the articulatory apparatus that occur when pronouncing this or that sound. When describing actions, intensity is determined by the following terms: "strong", "weak".

Time determines the speed at which we perform a certain action. It is represented by duration or brevity. When describing actions, the terms "long", "short", "extended" are used.

From the very beginning of phonetic rhythmic training, children should be taught to consciously organize their movements when performing exercises accompanying the pronunciation of vowels and syllables.

These movement exercises related to the pronunciation of vowels and consonants and syllables begin with three basic initial positions.

The legs are together, the arms are bent at the level of the chest, the elbows are down. This case is common to almost all sounds except i, k, l, r.

1. Stand with legs together, arms bent at the elbows and raised to shoulder level, elbows apart. From such D.h., i, k, l are common for sounds.
2. Legs together, hands stretched forward at chest level. This is for the r sound.

It should be noted that if the child has nasal pronunciation of vowels, then the exercises should be performed together with vowels and consonants, for example, pa, po, etc.

APPROXIMATE TRAINING WORKS ON PHONETIC RHYTHMIC METHODOLOGY

Second training

Topic: Working on the pronunciation of T, P sounds.

Purpose: To develop auditory perception of hearing impaired children; to enrich the visual and auditory imagination; Activate sound functions; Activation of the speech process; formation of pronunciation and rhythmic tone of speech based on kinesthetic sensations.

Lesson 2 Group training

- 1. Educational goal:** formation of T, P sounds, formation of syllables with vowels, teaching oral pronunciation.
- 2. Educational goal:** to cultivate a sense of respect for the person of the deaf pedagogue. Cultivating vigilance in following instructions.
- 3. Corrective purpose:** Development of auditory perception of hearing impaired children; enriching the visual and auditory imagination; activation of sound pronunciation and speech process; formation of pronunciation and rhythmic tone of speech based on kinesthetic sensations; Formation and development of a separate "isolation" pronunciation of the sound T, forming a syllable with p and t. to confuse the pronunciation of syllables such as pa-po-pu and ot-ut-at-it. Formation of diaphragmatic breathing skills. Formation of speech intonation.

Course of training:

I. Organizational part: Greeting. "Let's share a good mood" game.

II. Formation of diaphragmatic breathing skills.

Children stand in a circle, putting their hands on the diaphragm area (to control inhalation and exhalation). Breathing in through the nose, exhaling through the mouth.

III. Remember the sound of A¹

Description of the training.

- a) D.h. Take a deep breath, spread your arms to the sides, and at the same time pronounce for a long time: pa___.
- b) At the same time, jump up with the hands spread to the upper sides and say: pa.
- c) At the same time, jump up and say: pa.

The exercise is repeated several times.

A sharp blow forward with the fists: pa spread the arms gently to the sides: pa __.

Short and long pronunciation is done in one exhalation.

The exercise is repeated several times.

IV. Voice development

Description of the training.

a) The hands are bent at the waist level, the fingers are born as mush. Light blow with fists at waist level: pa. Strong shaking of the fists above: pá.

b) Extend your arms to the sides and raise them up. Pronounce the syllable pá by starting with a low voice and increasing the power of the voice as the hands are raised. The highest position of the hands corresponds to the loudest voice.

The exercise is repeated several times.

Teacher. Listen to my pronunciation. Repeat.

The teacher turns his back to the students and says the syllables. Pupils repeat them with and without movement.

Reminder.

The teacher gives instructions when necessary. In most cases, one type of work is transferred to another without instructions, only by imitation

V. T sound

Teacher. Sit down.

Pupils sit on the floor "on a bench or on a chair".

Description of the training.

a) Hands are bent at chest level. Spreading them on the upper sides, then bringing them close to the mouth with a gentle movement: a__t__.

Repeated several times.

b) D.h.1. sharp downward movements (like punches) with the right and left hand clenched into a fist with simultaneous pronunciation of ta, ta syllables.

t__a__.

Repeated several times.

c) Extend the straight left arm slightly forward. With your right hand, gently stroke your left arm from shoulder to palm:o__t__.

It is repeated several times in a soft, loving voice.

g) With the right hand, gently rub the left hand from the shoulder to the palm: father

Repeated several times.

VI. Intonation

Description of the training.

a) With the right hand, gently rub the left hand from the shoulder to the palm: father

Put your hands down, say at a normal pace without movement: father

b) Hands are bent at chest level. Spread the arms to the sides with a quick movement. In a joyful voice: father!

c) Hands are bent at chest level, elbows are slightly raised to the sides. Do the action that expresses the question: father?

g) Hands spread to the sides. Disturbed expression in voice: father...

d) Change the pronunciation of the words and repeat the exercise: Father, Father with different intonation.

e) Teacher. Listen to my pronunciation. Repeat.

Differentiation by listening to the parent word pronounced with different intonation.

The teacher turns his back to the students and speaks into the microphone. Pupils repeat the word with the given intonation, pronunciation accompanied by appropriate movements.

VII. Work on logical emphasis:

Teacher:	Teacher:	Pupil:
That's father.	Where is?	That's father.
Where is father?	There is.	Who is?
That's father?	Who is?	Father.

(gestures are used when necessary)

Third training.

Topic: Work on the K sound

Purpose: To develop auditory perception of hearing impaired children; to enrich the visual and auditory imagination; Activate sound functions; Activation of the speech process; formation of pronunciation and rhythmic tone of speech based on kinesthetic sensations.

Lesson 2 Group training

1. Educational goal: to form the K sound, to form a syllable with it, to teach oral pronunciation.

2. Educational goal: to cultivate a sense of respect for the person of the deaf pedagogue. Cultivating vigilance in following instructions.

3. Correctional goal: Development of auditory perception of children with hearing impairment; enriching the visual and auditory imagination; activation of sound pronunciation and speech process; formation of pronunciation and rhythmic tone of speech based on kinesthetic sensations; Forming and developing a separate "isolation" pronunciation of the K sound, confusing the pronunciation of the syllable with the K sound. Formation of diaphragmatic breathing skills. Development of speech intonation. Voice development. Distinguish between K and T sounds.

Course of training:

I. Organizational part: Greeting. "Let's share a good mood" game.

II. Formation of diaphragmatic breathing skills.

Children stand in a circle, putting their hands on the diaphragm area (to control inhalation and exhalation). Breathing in through the nose, exhaling through the mouth.

III. K sound

Pronouncing the syllables ka, ka with a sudden strong movement, press the right and left elbows to the body at the same time.

The movement is tense, strong, short. Repeat the syllable several times.

Press the right and left elbows to the body at the same time with a sharp and strong movement, pronouncing the joints a-ak.

The movement is tense, strong, short. Repeat the syllable several times.

IV. Differentiation of K-T sounds

Description of the training.

a) Movement to the sound s will lead to movement to the sound a. (The actions are described above).

b) Dip on the right leg: tá.

Alternately change the pronunciation of the syllables tá — s__a, which are pronounced in conjunction with actions.

c) Stand on the right leg , simultaneously throw the right hand to the side with a gesture : táM, then point to yourself with the index finger of the right hand: cáM.

Pronunciation of syllables and words is repeated several times along with movements.

V. Intonation

Description of the training.

a) Gently rub the left hand with the right hand from the shoulder to the palm: aka

Put your hands down, say at a normal pace without movement: bro

b) Hands are bent at chest level. Spread the arms to the sides with a quick movement. In a joyful voice: brother!

c) Hands are bent at chest level, elbows are slightly raised to the sides. Do the action that expresses the question: brother?

g) Hands spread to the sides. Disturbed expression in the voice: bro...

d) Change the pronunciation of the words and repeat the exercise: aka, Aka, Ota, Ota with different intonation.

e) Teacher. Listen to my pronunciation. Repeat.

Distinguish by listening the word aka pronounced with different intonation.

The teacher turns his back to the students and speaks into the microphone. Pupils repeat the word with the given intonation, pronunciation accompanied by appropriate movements.

VI. Work on logical emphasis:

Teacher:	Teacher:	Pupil:
That's brother	Where is?	That is brother.
That's father	Where is?	That is father.
Where is brother?	That's	Who?
Where is father?	That's	Who?
Brother is there	Who is?	Brother.
Father is there	Who is?	Father.

(gestures are used when necessary)

VII. Work on the rhythm.

Teacher. Turn in a circle with each other's backs.

Description of the training.

monosyllabic rhythm - and words to this rhythm.

Step on the right foot: top.

Step on the left foot : top.

Applause left and right: hop-hop.

b) alternate clapping with kicking: top - hop, top - hop.

VIII. Completion of the lesson: Encouragement

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THE ROLE OF ASTRONOMY COURSE LABORATORY TRAINING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH COMPETENCE OF STUDENTS

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DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00014.9

ABSTRACT

The article reveals some possibilities of astronomical education in the development of students, shows the place of astronomical education in the system of training graduates of pedagogic institutions of higher education and schools of general secondary education.

KEYWORDS: *Astronomy, Competence, Research, Laboratory, Cosmos, Astrophysics, Method, Scientific, Physics.*

INTRODUCTION

M. Mamadazimov states that "Astronomy classes serve to familiarize young people with unconventional, creative thinking".[1]. At the same time, he writes: "The formation and development of astronomical ideas among students is a long process that should begin at senior preschool age (on the basis of available books for children on astronomy) and continue throughout the entire time of schooling" [2]. The main task of astronomy, according to M. Mamadazimov, is to give students "a holistic view of the structure and evolution of the Universe, to reveal to them the astronomical picture of the world of the 20th century." [3].

"The course of astronomy, writes E.K. Strout, is called upon to contribute to the formation of a modern scientific picture of the world, revealing the development of ideas about the structure of the Universe as one of the most important aspects of the long and difficult path of humankind's knowledge of the surrounding nature and its place in it".

It should be emphasized that "the discipline "Astronomy" is one of the main disciplines in the training of teachers in the specialty 60111700 – Physics and Astronomy". So, "the purpose of the discipline is the assimilation by students of scientific knowledge in the sections of astronomy, mastering the skills in conducting the simplest astronomical observations, theoretical and experimental methods of astronomical research, the formation of a modern astronomical picture of the world as part of the natural-scientific picture of the world, the development of cognitive needs". In the section "Requirements for the level of mastering the content of the discipline" it is said that "a student who has studied the discipline "Astronomy" must possess knowledge of fundamental phenomena and effects in the field of astronomy, know and be able to use knowledge in general astronomy, possess experimental, theoretical and computer methods of astronomical observations, to know the current state, theoretical work, results of observations and experiments in the field of astronomy".

When studying astronomy, there is an acquaintance with celestial objects very distant from the observer, in addition, there is a development of unusual methods of cognition for the study of such characteristics of celestial bodies, which students often meet in classes in other disciplines.

Astronomy occupies a special place among the most ancient sciences. "The sky, especially the night one, strewn with stars, constantly attracts millions of eyes with its beauty, it is fraught with many tasks and mysteries that affect the main questions of the universe, the resolution of which is not indifferent to all inquisitive mankind, and it becomes clear that high interest in astronomy, which we observe in all people from ancient times to the present day ". I. Kant expressed his attitude to the "heaven" in a poetic-sounding statement: "Two things always fill the soul with new and stronger surprise and reverence, the more often and longer we think about them - this is the starry sky above me and the moral law in me ».

The extremely high interest in astronomy covers the widest audience from scientific astronomers, physicists, chemists, etc. to the widest range of non-specialists in this field of knowledge, which was noted by M. Mamadazimov, I. Sattarov, S. Nuriddinov, Sh. Egamberdiev, B. Akhmedov, O. Burkhonov and others. With such an attitude towards astronomy, one can speak of a serious interest in science, which is a powerful incentive for the development of students.

It should be emphasized that astronomy is one of the main worldview sciences, it has a special role in completing the natural and mathematical education of students in both schools and pedagogical universities.

It is astronomy, like no other subject, that can best cope with the task, since:

- Contains components that systematize, consolidate and deepen mathematical, physical, chemical, geographical, environmental and other knowledge;
- Creates the necessary conditions for the development of creative thinking, demonstrates the enormous possibilities of cognition;
- Makes it possible to study states of matter different from earthly conditions (enormous pressures, masses, sizes, densities, superhigh temperatures, space vacuum, etc.);
- Allows you to illustrate many sections of modern natural science, lays the foundation for the formation of a scientific picture of the world;
- Is the science that can be a link between the natural sciences and the humanities;
- Contributes to the environmental education of students, serves to preserve the ecological balance on Earth, considering the issue of the relationship between Man and the Cosmos;
- Contributes to the development of cognitive interests of students

Astronomical education at school is part of the general education in physics at the basic and specialized levels. The study of astronomy in most secondary schools is limited to the consideration of certain issues within the framework of the physics course. And only if the school is interested in giving students the necessary training in this field of knowledge, then astronomy is studied as an independent discipline in special schools, specialized and specialized classes, as a subject of choice at the expense of hours of the school component of the curriculum.

Astronomy provides ample opportunities for mastering the content of education in computer science and information technology and other disciplines at the basic and profile levels in solving such an educational problem as the use of information technology in modeling and analyzing astronomical processes and phenomena.

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IMPACT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND OWNERSHIP ON FIRM PERFORMANCE IN THE EMERGING MARKET ECONOMY OF SRI LANKA

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DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00015.0

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study is to examine the impact of corporate governance and ownership on firm performance of listed companies in the emerging market of Sri Lanka. This study is confined to listed companies using a sample of 104 companies in Sri Lanka with 728 firm-year observations during the period of 7 years from 2015 to 2021. The statistical techniques of Pearson's correlation and panel data regression were used to analyse the association between corporate governance, ownership and firm performance. The findings of this study reveal that board size produces a positive impact on firm performance of listed companies in Sri Lanka. As per the fixed effects model, board independence, CEO duality and board diversity, board activity, managerial ownership and institutional ownership have not shown any significant impact on firm performance of listed companies in Sri Lanka. Control variables, firm size and firm age have a negative impact whereas leverage has a positive impact on firm performance of listed firms in Sri Lanka. These findings have implications for managers, policymakers, researchers and investors in general and those in developing countries in particular.

KEYWORDS: *Corporate Governance, Firm Performance, Ownership, JEL Classification: G32.*

INTRODUCTION

Corporate governance (CG) is regarded to have an important implication for a company's growth prospects and overall economic development of the nation. Good CG practices play a vital role in minimising the uncertainty for investors, captivating investment capital and enhancing the value of firms. Though, the way where CG is structured varies among countries, based on economic, social and political framework (Heenetigala, 2007). CG is directed to mitigate the asymmetric information so that the investors can have adequate information in making the investment decision. At the end, it will influence the Firm value.

The significance of good CG practices in firm performance remains one of the more controversial issues in corporate finance. The implementation of good CG in every organisation has been an essential requirement. Good CG practices influence the performance of a firm, and they are also responded positively by external parties (potential investors), which is signified by the improving value of the firm. The purpose of implementing CG practices in Sri Lanka is to provide a system to enhance investors' confidence and support the economic development of the nation.

The relationship between CG practices and firm performance is crucial in devising well-organized corporate management and public regulatory policies (Rouf, 2011). CG is has an imperative role in enhancing the firm performance, and both variables are directly associated in developed countries as well as developing countries (Beiner & Schmid, 2005). But, due to the different conditions of the economic, social and regulatory framework, there are divergences in direction, degree, nature and practices of operation of the relationship among the countries (Ahunwan, 2003). Poor CG will lead to enhancing the possibility of business collapse (Lakshan & Wijekoon, 2012). Based on the previous literature, there is evidence that CG practices influence the improvement of firm performance.

Besides, Sri Lanka is one of the emerging economies striving for economic growth and development. Over the last years, CG concern has been a prominent issue due to recent corporate scandals and globalization on-going-effects, as the national economy incorporates the global economy, and companies strive to achieve global competitiveness after civil-war in 2009. Several multinational corporations collapsed due to inefficient and ineffective CG (Sorensen & Miller, 2017). Sri Lankan corporations also endured corporate failure. Large organisations namely Pramuka savings and development bank, Golden key credit card company, Vimukthi Corporation and Lanka Marine Services Ltd collapsed as a result of poor CG practices (Senarathne & Gunarathne, 2008). Hence, it has become imperative to revisit the existing CG mechanisms to investigate their effect on firm performance and recommend the ways to bring about changes if necessary. In addition, recent government investigations into the poor CG have implicated a number of public and private companies (e.g., Sri Lankan Air Lines, EAP, and Perpetual Treasury). As a result, all public and private entities, as well as the government and the general public, are interested in learning how Sri Lankan businesses adhere to good corporate governance in their operations.

CG practices and their effects on firm performance remain a widely debated area. Over the recent years, empirical studies have exposed a significant influence of diverse CG practices on firm performance and *agency theory* has become a cornerstone of CG. More empirical studies on CG are followed by the theoretical perspective of the agency theory advanced by Fama and Jensen (1983), Fama (1980), and Jensen and Meckling (1976). Particularly, this theory states that because of lower agency costs, a better-governed firm should have a higher valuation. It is supported by many empirical studies. For instance, Gompers, Ishii, and Metrick (2003) portray that better CG is correlated with superior firm valuation as measured by Tobin's Q. According to Brown and Caylor (2009), well-governed U.S. firms have a higher return on equity and return on assets and better Tobin's Q. Nevertheless, Klein, Shapiro and Young (2005) emphasize there is no universal support to identify that good CG enhances firm performance. Hence, investors are still much sceptic about the existence of the association between good CG practices and firm performance. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to examine the impact of CG and ownership on firm performance of listed companies in Sri Lanka.

Literature Review Hypotheses development

Board Size

The importance of the board size is well recognized in CG mechanisms (Cheng, Evans & Nagarajan, 2008). From the resource dependence perspective, a large board will enhance firm performance (Dalton et al. 1999). Lawal (2012) stated that effective deliberation among the directors to make the good decisions are determined by the board size. When monitoring is taken into consideration, the larger board size is more important for monitoring management since the larger members can have more abilities and competency to solving the problem (Chaganti, Mahajan & Sharma, 1985) and gain the advantages from broad range of views as well as outside networks (Peng & Luo, 2000). Furthermore, Jackling and Johl (2009) demonstrate that larger corporate boards improve the effective decisions in a way that ultimately influence firm performance. It is more indispensable in avoiding business failure (Dallas, 2001) whereas Saravanan (2012) demonstrated that a large-sized corporate board is strongly associated with firm performance.

H₁: Board size significantly impacts the firm performance of listed companies.

Board Independence

Board independence has an essential role of overseeing management activities for stockholders, (Tong et al., 2008; Fama, 1980) as well as providing adequate access to essential resources (Chen & Hsu, 2009; Pfeffer & Salancik, 1978) in a firm. These both functions are important in agency theory and resource dependence theory. From an agency perspective, role of control is delegated by the shareholders to management (Jensen & Meckling, 1976). According to this theory, the corporate board is to ensure that managers' behaviour is aligned with the shareholders' goals. Based on the resource dependence theory, independent directors should improve process of decision making independently using their unique expertise. Some extant studies indicated that independent directors are positively associated with firm value (Giraldez & Hurtado, 2014; Aggarwal et al., 2009; Jackling & Johl, 2009). On the contrary, a few studies identified that the independent directors are negatively correlated with corporate performance (Bhagat & Black, 1999; Yermack, 1996), whereas some studies revealed that percentage of outside directors is not related to firm performance (Zabri et al., 2016; Zhang, 2012; De Andres et al., 2005).

H₂: Board independence significantly impacts the firm performance of listed companies.

CEO Duality

CEO duality means that the CEO performs as the chairman of the board at the same company. From the agency perspective, when one person involve in two top roles in the company simultaneously, the issues regarding the interests between management and shareholders will arise (Fama & Jensen, 1983; Jensen & Meckling, 1976). If there is a clear division of roles and responsibilities between CEO and chairman, it will provide an effective system to oversee managers' activities and firm performance (Rechner & Dalton, 1991). Jensen (1993) argued that CEO's dual role will deteriorate the overseeing tasks of the corporate board. According to the agency theory, CEO duality has adverse effects on them (Fama & Jensen, 1983; Jensen & Meckling, 1976). In contrast, stewardship perspective suggests a collaborative association between management and shareholders towards shared goals. This theory stated that CEO duality has a favorable effect, and organizational efficiency increases shareholders' wealth

(Bhagat & Black, 2001; Brickley et al. 1997; Dahya et al., 1996). Extant research identified a positive relationship between CEO duality and firm value (Rechner & Dalton, 1991) whereas few existing studies found that CEO duality is not significantly associated with firm performance (Zhang, 2012; Wan & Ong, 2005; Abdullah, 2004).

H₃: CEO duality significantly impacts the firm performance of listed companies.

Board diversity

Board diversity is recognized as a vital tool that can encourage oversight mechanisms (Gallego-Alvarez et al. 2010). The relationship between board diversity and firm performance is largely debated in the agency theory perspective, which points out the overseeing function of board. Hence, it is vital to enhance the percentage of female members on board that may improve CG, by mitigating agency issues and increasing firm value. According to some empirical evidences (Alazzani et al., 2017; Kyaw et al., 2017; Carter et al., 2010) female directors enhance the performance of a company. Previous studies show that board diversity improves the effectiveness of internal CG by improving the efficiency of monitoring function (Adams & Ferreira, 2009). Thus, it is supportive that board diversity assists in reducing agency issues and would improve firm value by using a well-recognized monitoring system. Most of the previous studies have identified positive association (Terjesen et al., 2016; Isidro & Sobral, 2015), while few studies have documented negative relation (Ahern & Dittmar, 2012; Larcker et al., 2007), some found no linkage between board diversity and performance (Chapple & Humphrey, 2014; Siciliano, 1996), a few studies expose mixed findings (Abdullah et al., 2016). The inconclusive findings may be because of considering different, in time frames for analysis (Campbell & Mi'nguez-Vera, 2008), social and political pressures (Green & Homroy, 2018), institutional settings (Sabatier, 2015), a dearth of consistent measurement of performance (Terjesen et al., 2016) and endogeneity issues (Campbell & Mi'nguez-Vera, 2008).

H₄: Board diversity significantly impacts the firm performance of listed companies.

Board Activity

Board activity plays a crucial role in CG mechanisms. According to resource dependence theory, the time allocated by the corporate board for the meetings can be regarded as a resource to the firm (Lipton & Lorsch, 1992), whereas from agency theory perspectives, enhancing board activity can improve the function of monitoring and control in the corporate board. The findings of prior studies on the association between board meetings and performance are not conclusive. Kanagaretnam et al. (2007) suggested that board meetings assist in carrying out overseeing processes more diligently with the top-executives. Furthermore, frequent board meetings enhance the efficiency of the corporate board and issue reports to the stakeholders for improving the confidence of the stakeholders, reducing information asymmetry issues and improving transparency of a firm (Ajina et al., 2013). Reducing the agency issues and enhancing the confidence of shareholders will enhance performance and reduce volatility of shares (Elbadry et al., 2015; Schwartz-Ziv & Weisbach, 2013). The improved frequency of meetings leads to superior performance (Lipton & Lorsch, 1992). Liang et al. (2013) identified that the board meetings positively influence performance of banks. Karamanou and Vafeas (2005) exposed that board meetings frequency improved the expectation, which improves the decision-making processes in a firm. Brick and Chidambaran (2010) also stated that board activity positively affects the firm value. But, Vafeas (1999) indicated that the various costs that occur with an

increase in frequency of board meetings, for instance, organizing times and expenditures, travel expenses and directors' payments for attending meetings. The expenses negatively influence financial reports and decrease the company' performance. Christensen et al. (2015) exposed that poor performance of companies is followed by wide-ranging board meetings to provide the solution for the issues and improve firms' operations. But, the extant studies exposed that board meetings are not correlated with performance measured by ROA and Tobin's Q (Jackling & Johl, 2009). Mehdi (2007) argued that board meetings have no correlation with economic performance of a firm and the decisions of board are influenced when acquisition is made or change in CEO.

H₅: Board activity significantly impacts the firm performance of listed companies.

Managerial Ownership

Ownership is a significant aspect in determining firm performance (Demsetz & Lehn, 1985). More previous studies show that managerial ownership increases firm value. Brickley et al. (1988) stated that shares owned by managers and directors provide them an incentive to confirm that a company operates well and to oversee managers cautiously. Morck et al. (1988) and Shleifer and Vishny (1997) believe in manipulation of company effects by management to favor themselves. Some researchers found that managerial ownership is endogenously decided (Demsetz & Lehn, 1985; Cho, 1998). Therefore; alignment of goals of managers and shareholders through managerial ownership is assessed to increase firm value. The corporate board directors with higher level of share ownership can increase their gains (Jensen & Meckling, 1976) and, hence, they can have more encouragement to improve performance, the 'incentive alignment effect' (Huang, Hsiao & Lai, 2007; Morck, Shleifer & Vishny, 1988). Extant studies identified that performance of a firm is favorably related to managerial ownership, where enhanced ownership aids to align the shareholders' interests with managers' goals based on the agency theory, and enhance the firm performance (Huang, Hsiao & Lai, 2007; Yermack, 1996; Jensen & Meckling, 1976). But, the strong association will subside with an increase in managerial ownership, the 'entrenchment effect', where managers may conceal the information about their CG practices, and therefore, it is very difficult for shareholders to restrict such managers' activities (Hussainey & Al-Najjar, 2012; McConnell & Servaes, 1990; Morck, Shleifer & Vishny, 1988; Hermalin & Weisbach, 1988). In contrast, Randoy, Down and Jenssen (2003) identified that there is no association between executive ownership and profitability, as opposed to agency theory.

H₆: Managerial ownership significantly impacts the firm performance of listed companies.

Audit committee Size

The audit committee plays a crucial role in enhancing the firm performance by adopting the CG principles. The prior empirical evidences indicated that audit committee has a positive association with ROA and Tobin's Q (Afza & Nazir, 2014; Kyereboah-Coleman, 2007). Obradovich and Gill (2013) identified that audit committee positively impacts the value of USA manufacturing companies when they examine the influence of CG and financial leverage on the value of USA companies. But, Mir and Seboui (2008) identified that audit committee with more auditors may lead to inefficient governance and large-sized audit committee with regular meetings could increase the expenses to companies' budgets which adversely affect their performance. Larger audit committee could mitigate the cooperation among the members. Furthermore, they indicated

that large numbers of auditors in the audit committee may create unwanted discussions and spend more time in making decisions (Lin et al., 2009). The previous studies exposed that the audit committee size is adversely correlated with the earnings quality which is inappropriate to enhancing the numbers of auditors of the audit committee based on performance (Hamdan et al., 2013). Al-Matari et al. (2012) denoted that the audit committee size adversely affects the firms' performance based on Tobin's Q. On other hand, Darko et al. (2016) investigated the influence of CG on performance, and demonstrated that audit committee size has no significant impact on firms' performance whereas Ghabayen (2012) identified that AC size has no association with the performance in terms of ROA. Vafeas and Theodorou (1998) documented that no evidence proved that the structure of board subcommittees significantly influences the performance. But, few researchers identified a weak association between audit committee size and performance of a firm (Menon & Williams, 1994; Pincus et al., 1989).

H₇: Audit committee size significantly impacts the firm performance of listed companies.

Institutional Ownership

Institutional shareholders play an energetic role in overseeing the performance of their investment as well as promoting the good CG. Douma et al. (2006) stated that foreign institutional investors have superior monitoring abilities, resource endowments and capabilities to exert their benefits. Hence, foreign ownership has a strong incentive to monitor management and performance of a firm, and positively influences CG (Ni et al., 2017; Yang & Ren, 2017). Kyereboah-Coleman (2007) suggested that institutional shareholding is a key player to other investors of the potential firm performance which could lead to a rise in demand for shares of the company and enhance the market value in the share market. But McConnell and Servaes (1990; 1995) and Smith (1996) argued that they have an impact on performance. The empirical findings from extant studies on the impact of institutional ownership on performance are inconsistent. Boehmer (2000) and Gorton and Schmid (2000) found a positive association between them. Prowse (1992) and Zoido (1998) identified no systematic association which leaves the subject still open to empirical debates.

H₈: Institutional ownership significantly impacts the firm performance of listed companies.

Research Design

This study is based on the quantitative techniques to collect the panel data so as to ascertain the influence of CG and ownership on firm performance of listed companies.

Sample and Data

Secondary data needed for the study was collected from the audited annual reports of the listed companies in Sri Lanka. This data was used for the present study during the seven years from 2015 to 2021 to measure CG, ownership and firm performance of listed companies in Sri Lanka. The population includes all listed firms in CSE for the period of 2015 to 2021. Hundred and four listed companies are included in the sample which is 33.89% of the total companies listed in the CSE using stratified sampling method.

Variable Definition and Measurement

The present study uses firm performance as dependent variable and CG and ownership as independent variables. Moreover, firm size, firm age and leverage are considered as control variables. Dependent variable is firm performance of this study. The research employs the

quantitative method consisting of the measurement of Tobin's Q (TQ) as indicators for the firm performance. TQ is also used as the proxy for the firm performance. It is calculated as market value of equity plus book value of debt divided by book value of total assets (Isidro & Sobral, 2015). Board size is measured by number of directors on board while board independence denotes the proportion of independent directors on board. CEO duality is assessed by binary variable which equals one when the CEO also serves as board chairman, zero otherwise. Board diversity is evaluated by proportion of female directors on board and board activity implies the number of meetings held per year. Managerial ownership is measured by the proportion of outstanding shares owned by the directors. Audit committee size is assessed by the number of the auditors in audit committee. Institutional ownership is measured as the proportion of the shares held by institutional investors. Firm specific variables namely firm size, leverage and firm age are regarded as control variables in this study. Firm size is assessed by logarithm of total assets of the firm. It is evaluated so as to recognize the possible economies of scale and scope accruing to large companies. Leverage is described based on the long term debt to total assets of the company since high degree of the debts mitigates free cash flow and influences performance (Jensen, 1986). Firm age is another key aspect that influences the firm performance. According to the life-cycle theory, after reaching the growth and maturity stages, a firm moves to decline stage with lower performance and fewer prospects to grow. So, the number of years a company was established on the stock market is used as a control variable in this study.

Model Specification

The study uses the panel regression model with random and fixed effects to test the hypotheses based on the prior literatures. Model tests the association between CG, ownership and TQ of listed firms. It is shown as follows,

$$TQ_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 BSIZE_{it} + \beta_2 BINDE_{it} + \beta_3 CEOD_{it} + \beta_4 BDIV_{it} + \beta_5 BACT_{it} + \beta_6 MOWS_{it} + \beta_7 ACSIZ_{it} + \beta_8 INSOW_{it} + \beta_9 FSIZE_{it} + \beta_{10} FAGE_{it} + \beta_{11} LEVE_{it} + e_i$$

Where: BSIZE- Board size, BIND= Board independence; CEOD= CEO duality; BDIV= Board diversity; BACT= Board activity; MOWS= Managerial ownership; ACSIZ= Audit committee size; INSOW = Institutional ownership; FSIZE = Firm Size; FAGE = Firm Age; LEVE = Leverage; Tobin's Q – TQ; e_i = Error term.

Data Analysis and Discussion

Correlation Matrix

The relationship between CG, ownership and firm performance of listed companies is identified using the Pearson correlation analysis. Table 1 presents the correlation matrix between CG, ownership and firm performance. Table 1 depicts the correlation coefficient between CG variables, ownership and firm performance measured by TQ of listed companies. Board size is positively associated with TQ of the listed firms in Sri Lanka ($r = 0.14$, $p = 0.00 < 0.01$).

Board independence has a statistically insignificant relationship with TQ ($r = -0.04$, $p = 0.18 > 0.05$). Hence there is no significant association between board independent directors and firm performance. But CEO duality is negatively correlated with TQ ($r = -0.07$, $p = 0.03 < 0.05$). In addition, board diversity has a statistically insignificant relationship with TQ ($r = -0.00$, $p = 0.87 > 0.05$). Hence, board diversity has not shown any significant association with firm performance. Furthermore, board activity is not statistically associated with TQ ($r = 0.01$, $p = 0.74 > 0.05$) while audit committee size has not shown any significant relationship with TQ ($r = -0.01$, $p = 0.60 >$

0.05). But, the correlation coefficient of managerial ownership with TQ is -0.07 which is significant at 0.05 levels, representing there is a negative relationship between managerial ownership and TQ of listed firms in Sri Lanka. Moreover, control variables, firm size is positively correlated with TQ ($r= 0.14, p< 0.01$) while firm age is also positively associated with TQ ($r= 0.26, p< 0.01$). But leverage is positively correlated with only TQ ($r= 0.08, p< 0.05$).

TABLE 1: CORRELATION MATRIX FOR CG , OWNERSHIP AND FIRM PERFORMANCE

	BSIZE	BIND	CEOD	BDIV	BACT	MOWS	ACSI	Z	FSIZE	FAGE	LEVE	TQ
BSIZE												
BIND	-0.18											
	(0.00)											
CEOD	-0.02	-0.05										
	(0.56)	(0.12)										
BDIV	0.03	-0.05	0.01									
	(0.41)	(0.13)	(0.70)									
BACT	0.04	0.12	0.03	-0.05								
	(0.25)	(0.00)	(0.38)	(0.15)								
MOW	-0.03	0.06	0.09	-0.00	0.02							
S	(0.41)	(0.10)	(0.00)	(0.80)	(0.54)							
ACSI	0.28	0.04	-0.22	-0.02	0.11	-0.06						
Z	(0.00)	(0.28)	(0.00)	(0.56)	(0.00)	(0.07)						
FSIZE	0.25	-0.03	0.00	0.01	0.15	-0.05	0.16					
	(0.00)	(0.38)	(0.98)	(0.64)	(0.00)	(0.11)	(0.00)					
FAGE	0.07	-0.06	0.11	-0.02	0.046	-0.00	0.04	0.16				
	(0.03)	(0.06)	(0.00)	(0.44)	(0.21)	(0.94)	(0.19)	(0.00)				
LEVE	0.01	-0.04	0.00	-0.03	0.11	-0.02	0.02	-0.01	0.08			
	(0.62)	(0.21)	(0.86)	(0.32)	(0.00)	(0.42)	(0.43)	(0.73)	(0.02)			
TQ	0.14	-0.04	-0.07	-0.00	0.01	-0.07	-0.01	0.144	0.263	0.085		
	(0.00)	(0.18)	(0.03)	(0.87)	(0.74)	(0.04)	(0.60)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.02)		

(Source: Survey data 2021)

Panel data regression Analysis

Table 2 represents the results of panel data regression analysis to examine the impact of CG and ownership on TQ of listed companies in Sri Lanka. According to the Hausman specification test, fixed effects model is better than the random effects model, owing to the fact that the null hypothesis can be rejected, since estimated chi square value is statistically significant.

TABLE 2: REGRESSION COEFFICIENT FOR TOBIN'S

	Fixed effects			Random effects		
	Coefficient	t statistics	Prob.	Coefficient	t statistic	Prob.
Constant	4.698	10.148	0.000	2.401	8.787	0.000

BFSIZE	0.013	1.835	0.046	0.019	3.232	0.001
BIND	-0.127	-1.480	0.139	-0.088	-1.115	0.265
CEOD	-0.045	-1.605	0.108	-0.036	-1.466	0.143
BDIV	0.003	1.136	0.256	0.003	1.246	0.213
BACT	0.006	1.276	0.202	0.007	1.790	0.073
MOWS	0.055	0.781	0.435	0.048	0.779	0.436
ACSIZ	0.043	3.208	0.001	0.031	2.445	0.014
INSOW	-0.047	-0.714	0.475	-0.038	-0.595	0.551
FSIZE	-0.361	-6.540	0.000	-0.173	-5.936	0.000
FAGE	-0.011	-3.248	0.001	0.001	1.545	0.122
LEVE	0.128	2.319	0.020	0.109	2.222	0.026
R-squared	0.7644			0.0748		
Adjusted R-squared	0.7211			0.0619		
F-statistic	17.6334			5.7973		
Prob (F-statistic)	0.0000			0.0000		
Durbin-Watson	1.7299			1.4207		
Chi-Sq. Statistic	104.863698 (0.000)					

As seen in table 2, the results of fixed effects model show that the adjusted R-squared value shows 0.7211 indicating that 72.11% of the observed variability in TQ can be explained by the differences in CG practices such as board size, board independence, CEO duality, board diversity, board activity, managerial ownership and audit committee size as well as control variables of firm size, firm age and leverage. Moreover, the model is fit ($F=17.6334$, $p < 0.01$) and the independent variables are appropriately chosen, combined and exerted. Therefore, the results of the study can be relied upon.

Table 2 indicates that coefficient value of board size stands at 0.013 with t statistics of 1.835 at 0.05 significant levels. It can be stated that board size has a positive impact on TQ. Hence, larger board size will increase the TQ and vice versa. The coefficient value of board independence is -0.127 with t statistics of -1.480 which is not significant at 0.05 levels. Thus, board independence has not produced any significant impact on TQ. The coefficient value of CEO duality is -0.045 with t statistics of -1.605 which is not significant at 0.05 levels. So CEO duality has not shown any significant impact on TQ. The coefficient value of board diversity is 0.003 with t statistics of 1.136 which is not significant at 0.05 levels. Thus, board diversity has no significant impact on TQ.

The coefficient value of board activity stands at 0.006 with t statistics of 1.276 ($p=0.202 > 0.05$) which is not a significant impact on TQ while coefficient value of managerial ownership is 0.055 with t statistics of 0.781 ($p=0.435 > 0.05$). Hence, managerial ownership is not a significant impact on TQ. But, coefficient of audit committee size is 0.043 with t statistics of 3.208 at 0.05 levels. Hence, audit committee has a positive impact on TQ. Institutional ownership has not shown a significant impact on TQ. Control variables, firm size ($\beta=-0.361$, $t=-6.540$, $p < 0.01$) and firm age

($\beta=-0.011$, $t=-3.2481$, $p=0.001 < 0.05$) have a negative impact on TQ while leverage ($\beta=0.128$, $t=2.3190$, $p=0.020 < 0.05$) has a positive impact on TQ.

As per the panel regression analysis, it was found that board size positively impacts Tobin's Q of listed companies in Sri Lanka. Hence H_1 is supported by finding which is collaborated with previous studies (Mishra & Kapil 2018; Zhou et al. 2018; Ezzeddine & Jarboui 2015; Rouf 2011). But, the panel data regression results have not shown any significant influence of board independence, CEO duality and board diversity, board activity, managerial ownership and institutional ownership on TQ. Hence, H_2 , H_3 , H_4 , H_5 , H_6 and H_8 are not supported by findings. But, the finding of the research study is that audit committee has a favourable impact on firm performance of listed companies. It collaborates with previous findings of Rouf (2011), Kyereboah-Coleman (2008). So, H_7 is supported by finding.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The study has investigated the impact of CG and ownership on firm performance of listed firms in Sri Lanka. It is concluded that board size and audit committee size have a positive impact on TQ of listed companies in Sri Lanka. As per the fixed effects model, board independence, CEO duality and board diversity, board activity, managerial ownership and institutional ownership have not shown any significant impact on firm performance of listed companies in Sri Lanka.

Based on the findings of the study, the recommendations are suggested to improve the CG quality and firm performance of listed firms in Sri Lanka. The listed companies should concentrate more on the optimum number of directors on board since the board size and firm performance are positively associated. It is suggested that the board size should be between seven or eight (Jensen, 1993) or ten (Lipton & Lorsch, 1992). Hence, all companies should have the required minimum number of directors on board. The number of the directors in the audit committee should be increased by the organization since the committee is responsible for reviewing the processes to make sure that the firm's internal controls and risk management are adequate, to meet the criteria of the Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. The audit committee should consist of more independent nonexecutive directors. It is of good quality where a member of a recognized professional accounting body occupies as chairman or one member in audit committee. Before attending the meeting, the board of directors should be involved with adequate time and effort to study board papers and request for further information and clarification, and after a meeting they should follow up concerns that arose in the meeting. It should be supplemented by a time allocation for familiarization with business operations, risks and controls.

Limitations and Directions for Future research

The limitation arises from research design utilized in this study as it solely focuses on the firms listed on the CSE. Due to practical reasons, the study overlooked non listed organizations. This research deliberately excludes listed bank, finance and insurance companies, as they are well standardized according to the regulations and their governance structure is significantly different from non-financial firms. Moreover, this study does not consider the perceptions of investors, academics, external auditors, the government and the public. It is vital to comprehend non-listed firms' existing CG mechanisms in Sri Lanka. So, a comparison of the CG of listed and non-listed companies in Sri Lanka could be another area for future research. Future researches should consider board sub committees, CEO performance, CEO skills, CEO tenure, executive salary and

management incentives, staff tenure and staff credentials, since they can be utilized as CG to assess their association with firm performance of listed firms. Future research study can also investigate the associations between CG mechanisms and economic, social and environmental performance in Sri Lankan context. In addition, firms' corporate social responsibility could be studied, as this subject has not been included in this research.

In addition, CG practices can be compared with firm performance before and during the period of Covid 19 pandemic situation. Investigation of external stakeholders' perceptions regarding CG practices in developing nations such as Sri Lanka is one potential area for future research. The future research can take an interdisciplinary approach that includes strategic management, sociology, and political science. Future study could focus on primary data sources to gain an in-depth knowledge of CG in Sri Lankan companies, including board member selection, board responsibilities, board assessments, and board gender and diversity. Future research could also use an interview-based qualitative technique to investigate the factors that influence CG disclosure. This may entail interviewing the firms' top executives. Alternatively, a survey-based approach could be used to investigate this issue on a bigger scale across different nations. A quantitative content analysis, which is a more appropriate method for a relatively huge sample, could be used to examine the CG quality.

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STUDY MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE HANDLED BY ENGINEERING STUDENTS IN SANGLIKOLHAPUR REGION DURING PANDEMIC AND FLOOD

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DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00016.2

ABSTRACT

COVID 19 was challenge to every person in the world. In Maharashtra, Sangali- Kolhapur region was badly affected by high flood situation in second week on August 2019. So people from this area faced two major natural calamities right from August 2019 to January 2021. On this background researchers worked on the Engineering students' academic year and their overall situation by considering various factors. In fact every student was badly affected but researchers tried to limit the survey domain up to engineering students, as it was start of the academic year when faced first Natural calamity of high flood. And only after passing 2-3 months, pandemic was declared. Data is collected by questionnaire.

KEYWORDS: *Flood, Pandemic, Covid19, Mental Health. Ict.*

INTRODUCTION

August's flooding in Sangli and Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra have been historic. River levels washed away all past records many times over. New high flood levels were reached several times at multiple places both in Sangli and Kolhapur. These districts are the delta plains of dominant rivers of the Krishna Basin namely Krishna, Koyna, Warna, Panchaganga, Tarli, Urmodi, Dudhganga and Hiranyakeshi. ^[1] After this historic disturbance lives started to be normal after two to three months and suddenly COVID 19 outbreak emerged and Pandemic was declared. Under such uncertainty students academics were completely broken and affected a lot in many terms. For security purpose and part of bringing down overall transmission of the rapid spread of the virus, social lockdown was declared. It was testing followed by isolation to be

effective which results in reducing infections and spread cases. So along with all other things academic institutes were made vacant and a big halt was declared.

In spite of such major natural calamities, students completed their academic year and handled the challenge of studies in their way. In overall scenario, researcher find this as an interesting to study to know how they faced unexpected conditions and survived during completion towards academic year fulfilment. In the struggling period what was the condition of resources, psychological challenges, getting adjusted to the new era of virtual Education and many more to face.

So to collect all such data Questionnaire was prepared. Questions were manage in such a way as to get major view about scenario depicting struggle for learning in disastrous situation. Students from Sangli Kolhapur region enthusiastically responded to the work and that helped researcher to analyze the professional degree course student's study management skills. Post analysis of primary data collected will be useful in coming years to next generation.

To summarize the research hypothesis, this pandemic has channelized the students to prepare themselves for virtual learning platform with proper use of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies).

LITERATURE REVIEW:-

“Doing What Matters in Times of Stress: An Illustrated Guide” by World Health Organisation, is a stress management guide for coping with adversity. Effective practical tips are provided to help cope with stress. Directed self-help techniques will surely help oneself to feel healthy. The guide can be used alone or with the accompanying audio exercises. This guide is for anyone who experiences stress, wherever they live and whatever their circumstances. [2]

In one research paper authoring Priyadarshini V. they have clearly mentioned that first year students reports more stress and anxiety than final year students. To manage their stress and anxiety level and concentrate more on studies, the institutes must undertake the stress management programme for the new students to cope with. This study also put the focus on to improve physical and mental health of the engineering students, and suggested institutes should plan proper counseling strategy periodically. Students can enhance optimism, boost confidence in students and enable them to cope up with stress and anxiety.[3]

Sanjeev Kumar has authored paper “Stress level and coping strategies of college students”. It is clear from the finding of this study that girls had higher level of stress than boys as the girls have more challenges to follow. When stress affects the brain, with its many nerve connections, the rest of the body feels the impact as well. So it stands to reason that if your body feels better, so does your mind. Exercise and other physical activity produce endorphins-a chemical in the brain that act as natural painkillers-and also improves the ability to sleep, which in turn reduces stress. Meditation, acupuncture, massage therapy, even breathing deeply help students body to produce endorphins.[4]

Richelle V. Adams and Erik Blair have written in “Impact of Time management Behaviors on Undergraduate Engineering Students ‘Performance’” research work that effective time management is associated with greater academic performance and lower levels of anxiety in students. In real life many students find it hard to find a balance between their studies and their day-to-day lives. This article presents the self-reported time management behaviors of undergraduate engineering students using the Time Management Behavior Scale. Correlation analysis, regression analysis. Attempt are done to advice students about aspects of time

management. Association of it with higher grades, and self-identified with specific time management behaviors achieved better grades in the program. Conclusively it was observed that students’ perceived control of time was the reason that correlated significantly with cumulative grade point average.[5]

Kassymova K. Gulzhaina, in the paper “Stress management techniques for students” stated that the research deals with stress and its biological impact in modern world students. It is suggested that stress management techniques, like Japanese finger stress relief techniques and yoga pranayama improves the happiness level of people. The main objectives are to ascertain the extent to which stress affects students’ academic success and health and to suggest some techniques and practices to cope with stress for students. The focus is on method to gather and analyze the relevant data. Questionnaires about stress were randomly distributed to different student groups mostly at three Kazakhstani universities. The results obtained show that students need to be given effective techniques to cope with stress while they are studying. Stress can be minimized through the awareness of a stress management course and practicing physical and mental activities.[6]

Conceptual Framework:-

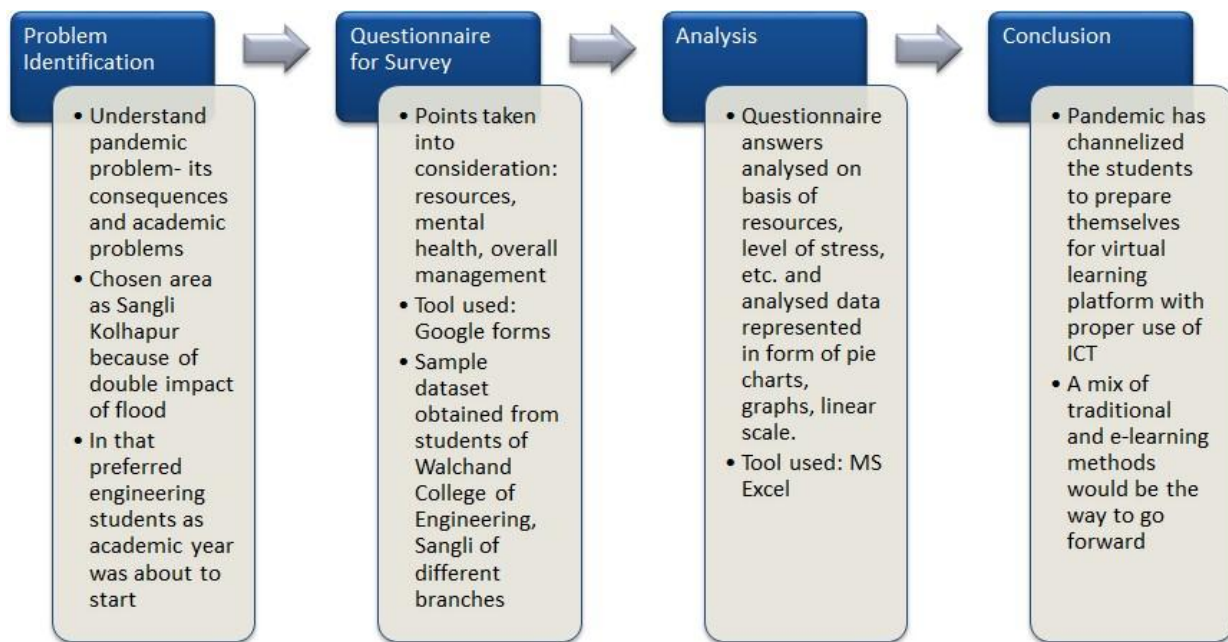


Fig 1:Work Flow

Research Methodology: - The questionnaire is the main instrument for collecting data in survey research. Basically, it is a set of standardized questions, often called items, which follow a fixed scheme in order to collect individual data about one or more specific topics. A questionnaire is a research instrument consisting of a series of questions for the purpose of gathering information from respondents. It can be thought of as a kind of written interview. They can be carried out face to face, by telephone, Email or post. The data collected from such can be both qualitative as well as quantitative in nature.

Questionnaire was prepared in Google form. Summary of the included questions is as follows:

Academics during COVID-19 Pandemic

Note: -Hello reader, if you are a student from Sangli-Kolhapur region please fill this form. This form is designed to collect information regarding the challenges faced by students in their academics during the pandemic as well as during the brief period of floods of August 2019. This data will be used to make a comparative study and suggest ways to deal with the challenges faced by students during online courses. Your input is very valuable!.

TABLE 1: QUESTIONNAIRE DETAILS

Q. No.	Question	Response pattern
1	Name	Descriptive
2	College	Descriptive
3	Year Of Passing	Choice
4	Do/did you live in Hostel	Yes/No/Other
5	During the initial phase of COVID-19, the best way to describe your mental state would be: (you may select multiple options as applicable)	Afraid, Tense, Very Careful, Negligent, Tension free but careful, Apathetic
6	When online classes (and exams) started, did you have the appropriate resources and what was the condition and availability of these resources? (you may select multiple options as applicable)	Did not have appropriate resources. Mobile, Laptop, Internet, Connection issues, Power cut and backup
8	What ways did you use to relax in between online sessions? (you may select multiple options as applicable)	Social Media, Phone calls, Reading books/newspaper, Playing In house games, Internet surfing, Video games
9	What factors (other than studies) that affected your online exams were you worried about?	Electric power cut, internet connectivity, online exams website hanging due to many users using it at the same time, unavailability of resources, exam duration, unfamiliarity with exam pattern
10	On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being not stressed at all and 10 being very stressed, how stressed were you after floods of august 2019 in terms of exams and syllabus (as it needed to be completed in a shorter amount of time)?	Stress scale ranging from 1 to 10
11	On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being not stressed at all and 10 being very stressed, how stressed were you when the online semester was announced for the latter half of 2020 in terms of exams and syllabus?	Stress scale ranging from 1 to 10
12	After the pandemic ends, what mode of learning would you prefer? *	1. Complete Offline (in Campus) lectures and exams 2. Completely Online Lectures and Exams 3. A mix of Online and Offline Lectures and Exams Other

Results: - Analysis of responses and presented in the form of Pie charts

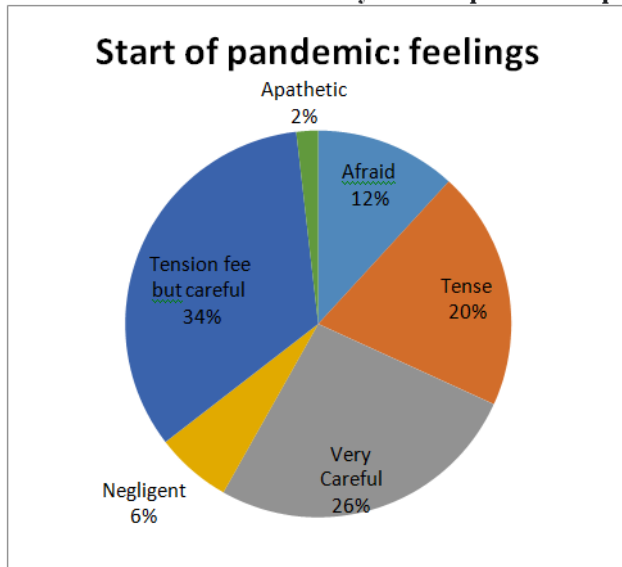


Figure 2: Start of Pandemic: Feelings

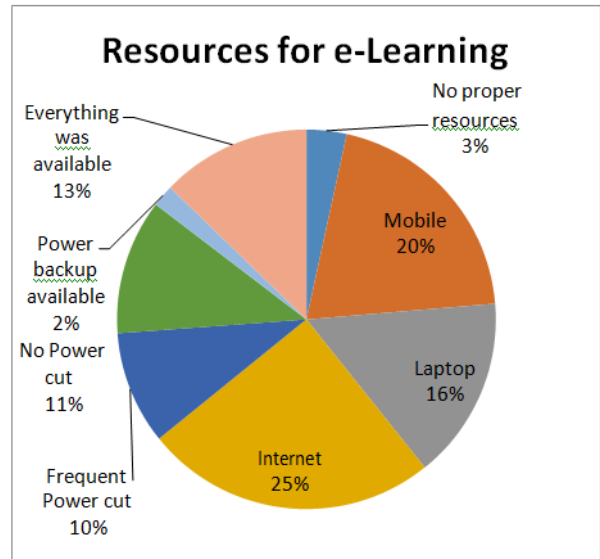


Figure 3: Resource for E-Learning

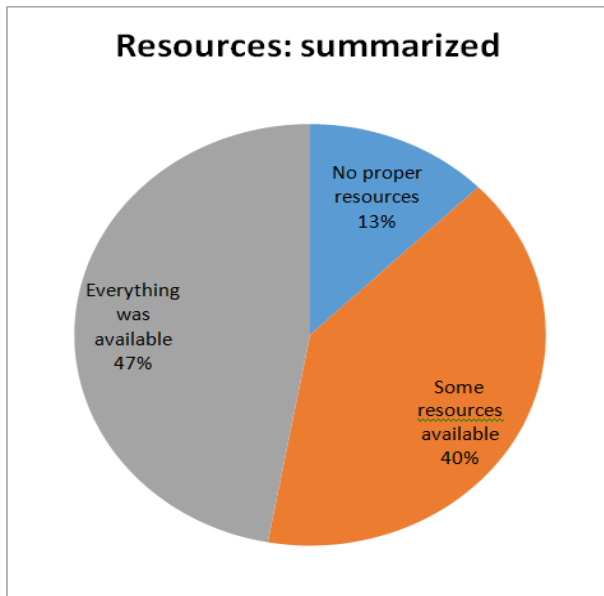


Figure 4: Summary of Resources

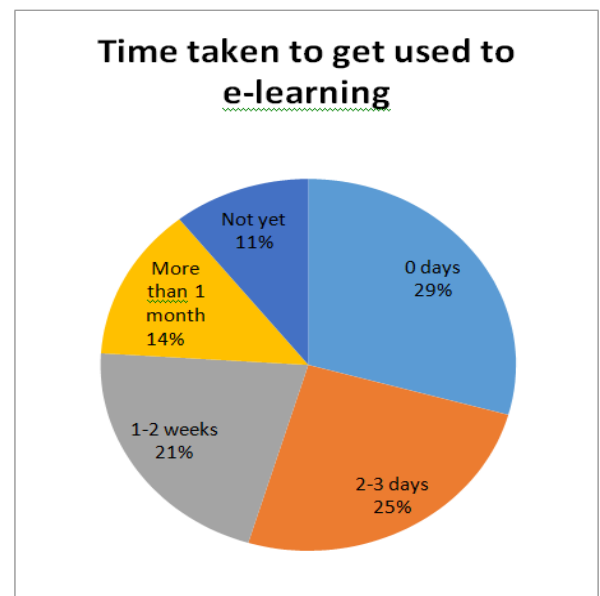


Figure 5: E-Learning Comfort

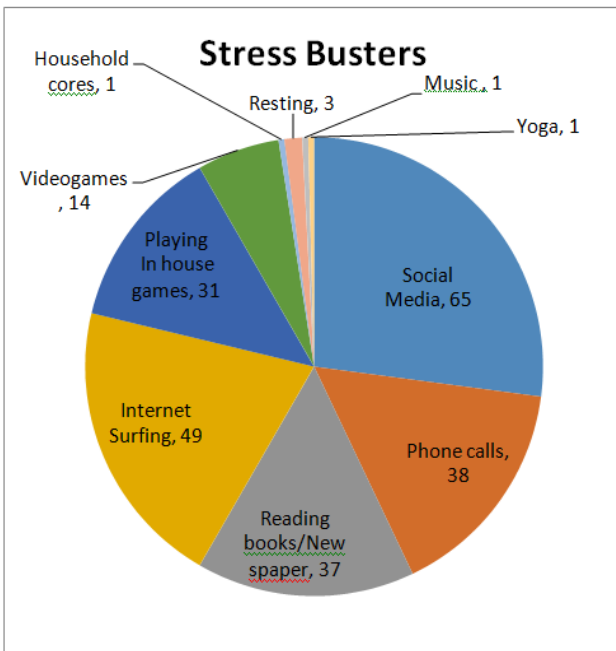


Figure 6: Stress Busters

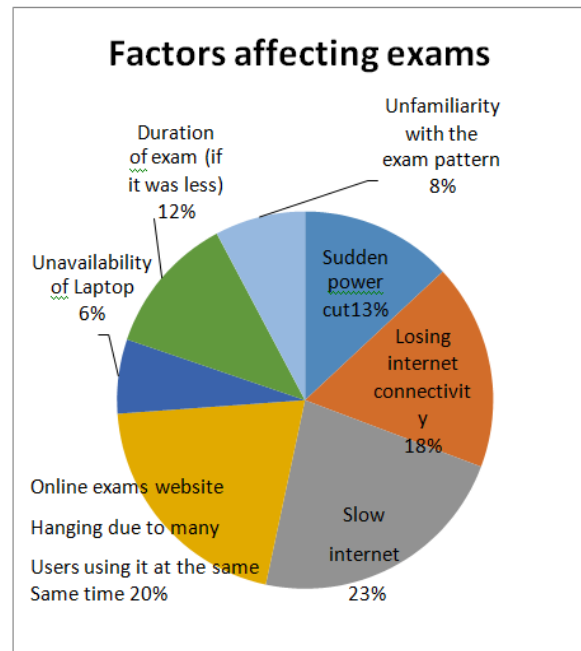


Figure 7: Factors affecting Exams

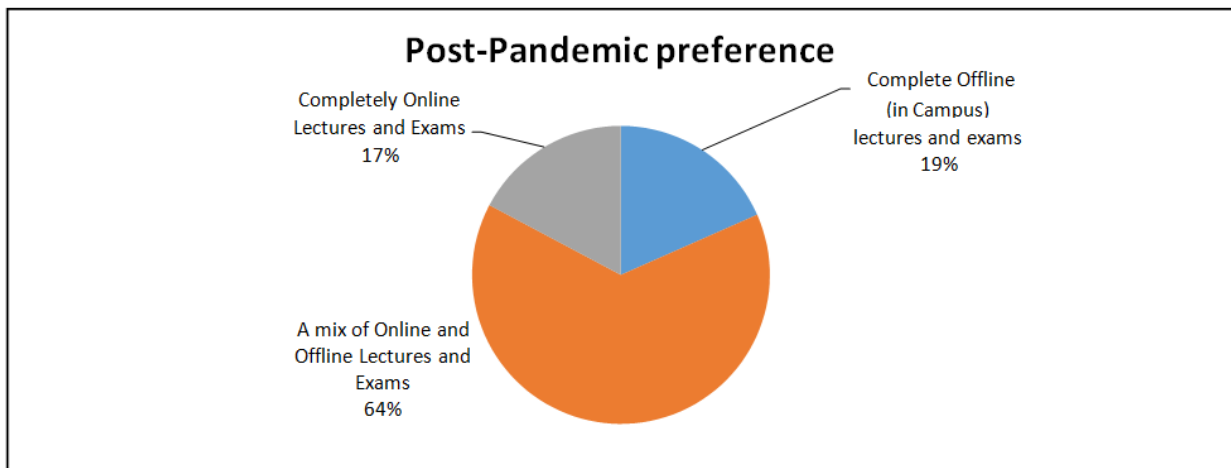


Figure 8: Post Pandemic Preferences

DISCUSSION

Questionnaire was responded by 87 students from different streams and academic year. In the beginning of pandemic majority students were tension free but careful. Many of them were having proper resources and aware about the handling for study purpose. Related to first calamity of flood students were affected only for the duration of 2 weeks, the syllabus was crashed to cover this time. After analyzing the responses, it was found that on an average the stress level experiences by students was 6 on a scale of 1 (no stress) to 10 (very high stress), whereas major number of students mentioned their stress level to be 5. During second situation of pandemic, students were not only affected by missing out time but had to attend lectures and

exams online. Majority of the students responded to have stress level 9 (high stress), but on an average stress level was calculated to be 6 (medium stress).

Comparatively, the second situation caused more stress to a number of students whereas students who had appropriate resources experienced less stress can be inferred from the data collected. Whereas in the first situation, all the students experienced medium level of stress.

After going through two major challenges, most of the students feel comfortable about a mix pattern of online and offline conduction of lecture and exams.

Limitation: - This survey was conducted in specific region which can be extended to other parts also. Likewise many institutional students may be covered but due to constraint its scope is boundary restricted. Along with this many other professional degree course students suffered with trauma need to be analyzed for other purpose.

Future Research: - As mentioned in limitation, in future researchers will try to explore more students from different category and facing different challenges. Post analysis from future work will encourage students to overcome any unexpected hurdle. Such research will definitely motivate students from any field to face any situation with a challenge and as an opportunity.

Conclusion: - This pandemic has channelized and motivated students for virtual learning and effective use of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) in their studies. Along with the technology traditional method is also in demand as it is backbone of education and satisfaction.

Acknowledgment: - Researchers are grateful towards Dr. Suyog Amrutrao sir for encouraging and suggesting new research work related to Pandemic. They would like to thanks for Co-coordinators and complete Pre-Ph.D. course work team, and for providing such opportunity. Also would like to thank you all students who quickly responded to the Questionnaire in a very natural way.

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ISSN: 2249-7137 Vol. 13, Issue 1, January 2023 SJIF 2022 = 8.252

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