

Chinhoyi University of Technology

Annals of social and Behavioural Sciences

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Editorial comment

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Editor in Chief

This issue is born out of many threats to the life of our journal- Annals of Social and Behavioural Sciences (ASBSJ). In any life-threatening environment, it's the survivors who remain to carry on with the vision and dream of stakeholders and sponsors. Our stakeholders' dream has always been to nurse a high impact journal, that will serve as a reliable platform for disseminating transformative research outputs, influencing policy, interrogating existing theoretical trajectories and providing existential pointers to practitioners in whatever sphere of human endeavour. Indeed, call the current issue, 'a survivors' issue'. A lot has happened that militated against our living up to our stakeholders' dreams and aspirations. Frankly speaking, one phenomenon can neither give succor to our restless audience nor justify our moribund existence. It suffices to say a lot of things beyond and not before our control have been threatening our *raison d'être*. Topping our challenges have been the impact of the world-wide health tremors of the Covid-19 pandemic, loss of some of our journal's best brains to other work stations, lethargic and demotivated work rate by some of our volunteer reviewers and lack of a dedicated secretariat for the journal. Cumulatively, these stand out as our major encumbrances and the rolling out of the current issue is testimony of our main sponsor's determination to overcome these ills of the past, learn from them and chart a more reliable future for the journal. We therefore remain deeply grateful to our main sponsor, the Chinhoyi University of Technology's authorities for keeping the fire burning despite a torrent of oddities. The greatness of any player is not measured by the ability to remain great in whatever sport one is, but by the ability to rise from a fall and become great again.

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To our revered stakeholders, we remain alert to your dream and fervently aware of the canons of a good journal, that is, blind review of articles submitted for publication, regularity of issues, quality of articles, frequency of citation of articles from the journal, circulation and allegiance to niche market. We commit ourselves to be always in pursuit of these lofty values. Let no man judge us from our checkered past, as that past only serves to remind us now of the things we should avoid in order to remain on the desired course. We would like to take this opportunity to recognise the sterling contribution made by some of our erstwhile colleagues who left our work station for the call of duty elsewhere, after serving our journal well as reviewers and editorial team members for a considerable period. Your contribution is well appreciated. You helped in laying a foundation for the 'intellectual giant in the making'. Since your departure, we have reconstituted, putting in place a new look editorial committee and board equally fired up and well experienced to run with the ball and fulfill the dreams of our stakeholders.

The articles in this issue have made it out of a very rigorous blind review process. Indeed, many have fallen by the way side hence we congratulate the authors who have made it for this issue for both rigour and patience. Doubtlessly, the long delay in publishing this issue caused anxiety among most of our would-be authors. We are profoundly regretful.

In this 'survivors' issue' we feature articles with diverse and intellectually stimulating issues. The issues straddle a variety of disciplines.

Globally, ecotourism is touted as a bulwark of cascading the benefits of tourism to local communities but not many studies have been commissioned to interrogate the notion and its practicality on the ground. In the paper with the title '*Re-thinking ecotourism and community development: the case of Ngomakurira Hills project, Zimbabwe*' the authors subject the concept of ecotourism to its litmus test of community benefits. In pursuit of this, an evaluation of the Ngomakurira Hills project revealed that the benefits were not evenly distributed among the community members. This orchestrated an overt intra-community polarization over the issue of differential access to benefits.

In the field of higher education institutions (HEIs) a concern has been raised that developing countries have been copying and using performance management tools that are developed in the West which are obsolete and not

adding value to concerned institutions. In the paper, '*A review of performance management systems in higher education institutions across the globe*,' the authors review literature on performance management systems in HEIs to gain insights on performance management system that can be used for quality assurance and its enhancement in higher education institutions in developing countries. From the study they make an observation that performance management in higher education can be improved by taking the strengths of the current systems (lean sigma, balanced score card, performance prism, performance pyramid and performance appraisal) and adopt them to current conditions and realities of the adopting institutions.

Corporate governance is a complex function which requires a myriad of other support systems in order to be effective. Internal auditing is one such support systems which play an important role in corporate governance and adds value by providing advisory and consulting services that are intended to improve governance processes. The paper with the title, '*Role of internal auditing in corporate governance in selected Zimbabwean state universities*' investigates the role of internal auditing in corporate governance in Zimbabwean state universities. The authors noted that lack of support from management impeded the efficiency and effectiveness of the internal auditing function. The study recommends that university management and staff be trained in appreciating the advisory and consulting role of the internal auditing function in corporate governance processes.

The renewed commitment and interest by African leaders to modernize agriculture due to increased global demand for food; need to address sustainable development goals and a general decline in traditional funding sources for agriculture has reignited the long standing debate on the best approach to financing agriculture. In the paper entitled, '*Commercial agriculture finance in Zimbabwe: past experiences and lessons for the future*' authors highlight challenges and headway made in funding commercial agriculture in Zimbabwe.

Natural springs can be an asset for Wellness and Spar tourism when packaged well. The springs in Makonde district are generally remotely located, with poor infrastructure. As a result, their economic value is hardly realised. The paper, '*Packaging natural springs into community hubs for Wellness and Spa tourism: a case of Makonde District in Zimbabwe*' explores strategies that could be

adopted to package natural springs into community hubs to optimise their appeal for Wellness and Spa tourism. These are, among others, infrastructure development, research and innovation, product and site marketing, community socialisation and involvement.

This journal issue also taps into the domain of natural resource utilisation and management. Many countries across the globe have 'bad land' and 'underutilised land' which could be considered for afforestation as one land use option with great economic potential. Despite the growing significance of afforestation in the development discourse world-wide, its uptake by farmers as an economic activity of tremendous ecosystem value and services remains a peripheral consideration. In the article *'The challenges of adopting afforestation as an alternative and sustainable land use for economic development'* the authors engage in a world-wide scanning of literature on forestry to establish the major encumbrances to the adoption of afforestation as a land use option in a manner that helps meet policy targets. A close analysis of the spectrum of challenges zero in on three (3) that are critical to optimizing uptake of afforestation, in order of importance, namely, security of land tenure or land rights, access to extension services and access to investment capital. Dealing with these three challenges is pivotal to meeting policy targets for adoption of afforestation as an alternative land use for economic development.

To our valued stakeholders, we promise more intellectually stimulating research outputs and regular issues from now on.