

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

This Special Issue explores the changing dynamics of development and the challenges faced by African peoples and governments. The contributions document how these challenges have undermined different African societies and the activities of both governments and African people in their quest to overcome the challenges they face. The special issue also documents local initiatives by people and government policies to sustain African development. Contributors interrogate African development dynamics as well as the different approaches undertaken so far across the continent.

The first article discussed the place of entrepreneurial education in Africa's pursuit of sustainable development goals. It highlights the importance of sustainable development goals both for African states and for global transformation. The subsequent article examines the socio-economic impact of de-agrarianisation in Sub-Saharan Africa with a special focus on rural livelihoods and employment. Unfortunately, the place of agriculture in ensuring food security within the African continent has largely been neglected by African leaders and other development actors thereby unleashing forces that have undermined the food security of the continent. In the article that follows, the contributor foregrounds the place of policy implementation and good governance in promoting sustainable development in Nigeria. This has been a key issue in development debates about the most populous African state. It has been argued that while the country has commendable policies, there seems to be a lack of the necessary will for implementation. Another important issue is the crucial role of digitalization and government responses to COVID-19 in post-pandemic in Africa which is also tackled by the article in question. The article that followed takes the special issue in a different direction. It offered an evaluation of gender mainstreaming in the appointment of senior management officers within the office of the Premier of Limpopo Province, South Africa. It makes a strong case for gender equity and gender mainstreaming. Next is a contribution that presents an assessment of consumers' perception of shrinkflation in Nigeria and its implication for sustainable development. This article dissects the negative implications of inflation on processes of nation-building. In addition, the article on the Izzih -Ukelle environmental crisis in Nigeria? highlights the negative implications of the crisis for sustainable development in African societies.

The place of policy formulation and management in African development remains continues to be the subject of thriving debate. This is linked, of course, to the problem of financing African development projects which is the focus of the next article. The author explores the role of external financing policies and sustainable energy development in Africa focusing on evidence from Sub-Sahara African countries. The article also refers to the effectiveness of strategic management practices at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

The next three articles offer important assessments of the extent to which customer feedback contributes to value co-creation with a focus on the tourism industry. The significance of this subject to African development is to be found in the push and pull effect of production and consumption in the development dynamics of the real world. The next article in the issue discusses the role of information communication technology in improving community participation in municipal processes in rural areas. It also examines the need for the reduction of school drop-out rates in Africa with a special focus on South Africa. This is of course necessary to enhance human capital development across the continent.

The issue of poverty eradication through human capital development, financial inclusion and entrepreneurship are further interrogated by the last three articles in this Issue. They offer penetrating analyses on how green and sustainable business innovation can be harnessed to advance a just and inclusive decarbonization and energy transition in Nigeria. They also offer business management approaches and pathways through which financial

inclusion, technology deployment, including artificial intelligence can be harnessed to advance sustainable business innovation and entrepreneurship to unlock sustainable development across Africa.

You are highly encouraged to take your time and read through these rich and well researched articles. I am confident that this Special Issue will advance and improve the existing global knowledge on African development economy and make useful contributions to the research and intellectual needs of readers in different ways.

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