

## EDITORIAL

### Education and Science

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Education as a field of study continues to attract researchers who are drawn to investigate some of the many issues that are linked to teaching-learning activities, curriculum development, teacher education, teacher training and policies that guide education systems, among others. These elements provide numerous opportunities for comparison in local, regional and international contexts. Little wonder that comparative and international education has become a “burgeoning scholarly field” (Wolhuter, 2017, p.303).

Two papers and a keynote lecture are presented under the education section of this issue. They explore some of the aforementioned educational issues from different geographical locations—Nigeria, United Kingdom (UK) and Ukraine. Adebayo’s paper points to the lack of teacher training as the reason behind the failure of entrepreneurship education initiatives in Nigeria. Achinewhu-Nworgu and Nworgu’s work focuses on Nigerian students who are based in the UK. It explores the interrelationship between art, creativity, motivation and success. Ludmila’s paper, which is a keynote lecture, examines the changes that are occurring in Ukraine’s Education System.

The three papers clearly show the need for new pedagogical approaches that are relevant to each nation’s situation (Paris, 2012; Ball, 2011). Teacher education and training should therefore be at the heart of any education reform.

However, the section on agriculture and environmental sciences is much bigger, with fourteen papers. This section discusses issues relating to Agro allied industries, food security, degradation of the environment and health.

The raw material for Industrial starch *Manihot esculenta* (cassava) is readily available in Nigeria yet Nigeria imports industrial starch. The setting up of a process plant for production of industrial starch in Nigeria has a pay-back period of 3 years and is economically viable in Nigeria. Studies on the proximate composition, mineral content and phytoconstituent of various leaf and seed extracts were analyzed and antimicrobial activities determined. Results obtained validate the ethnomedicinal application of plant and as raw materials in the pharmaceutical industries. Studies on efficacy of the use of Neem seed kernel extract as a mosquito repellent showed that the repellent cannot produce harmful effects on man nor pollute the environment.

The presence of fish and human pathogens in fish ponds calls for concern. Most *Salmonella* isolated from fish ponds exhibited multiple antibiotic resistance. It was advocated that the indiscriminate use of antibiotics in the aquaculture process should be closely regulated.

Environmental analysis index corrosion map of shorelines and corrosion rates of mild steel coupons in the Niger Delta gives an insight on impact of biodiversity, socioeconomic and geological factors on corrosion rates in shoreline areas. Teenam creek was found to be polluted with heavy metals and the fungal population is declining drastically due to industrial scale sand mining operation. This is indicative of danger for other life forms within the creek. A bioreactor anaerobic digestion plant as a process unit in every Nigerian Process industry and wastewater treatment plant will solve the problem of sludge treatment and disposal.

Ready-to-eat Street vended foods were found to harbor antibiotic resistant microbes and heavy metals capable of causing infections. To prevent outbreak of food poisoning and possible spread of these agents, appropriate government agencies should enforce regulations on proper processing and handling of street vended foods. Study on mobile phones revealed presence of microorganisms of public health importance which may result in infection. Study showed 28.6% of pregnant women who have been previously tested to presence of antibodies to HIV were positive for HIV. More aggressive sensitization campaigns therefore needs to be carried out by Government and various organizations to educate the public on how to prevent the spread of HIV.

Together, these are varied and diverse papers—all pointing to continuing evidence of research, scholarly work and multidisciplinary nature of the ISCEST comparative community.

## References

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