

Interdisciplinary Journal of Education

Welcome to the fourth issue of IJE whose articles are on higher and secondary education. Themes include student support services, assessment practices, lecturer productivity, intellectualism, school environment, and madrasah issues.

Life at university can be challenging for students who need assistance and cannot readily access it. Besides providing academic services to students, universities are expected to offer additional services that cater for the students' various needs, and given the current trends in globalisation, the medium through which this is done matters a lot. Olayemi and Tofunmi investigated the extent to which private universities in Oyo state, Nigeria provided support services to students using Information and Communication Technology tools.

Among the key responsibilities of university lecturers is that of assessing student learning, and this necessitates the lecturers' possession of the appropriate skills, which skills should be measured by sound instruments. Matovu examined the psychometric properties of the Assessment Practices Inventory Modified Scale and its soundness in measuring assessment practices skills among university lecturers.

Maximising worker productivity is the desire of every organization – universities inclusive, and several theories have been advanced to that effect. Olabanji was mainly interested in the contribution of bureaucratic theory to workers' productivity in Nigerian universities.

The name Al-Azhar is quite popular among early Muslim scholars all over the world. In Africa for instance, a number of prominent scholars have gone through the system or at least interacted with graduates of the system. Abdel Fattah explores the development of Al-Azhar higher education system, its contributions, supporting conditions and challenges facing the system. He argues that one of the major challenges has been political.

The qualities of learning environment and academic facilities are vital to education therefore, and for learning to occur the learning environment should be conducive. In line with this, UNESCO set standards to be followed by schools but to what extent are they being followed? That was why Alabi surveyed the quality of sites, locations and facilities of public schools in Lagos State, Nigeria.

In the last article, Kabali takes us through a historical experience of the challenges facing madrasah in East Africa, arguing that they indeed are manageable once Muslims get united and cooperative.

We pray that you benefit from these scholarly pieces of work and look forward to your continued support for this journal.

Maimuna Aminah Nimulola
Editor-in-Chief