

Technology

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Latest Research & Statistics: Continent of Africa

Compiled by Editorial Member, Sabian Polanco, Student, Stanford University

It is important for nonprofit leaders to be aware of the latest research in their field. Research encourages a nonprofit organization to find the most recent information available and be part of using best practices. As nonprofit organizations use best practices, outcomes are improved. There is a growing concern about gaps existing between nonprofit organizations operating on the ground and the information being discovered through the latest research.

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Case Study 1: Africa's Innovation and Creative Response to COVID-19

From Joseph R. Opponga, Yvonne A. Dadson, & Hilary Ansah. (2021). *African Geographical Review*, 1-18.

Abstract

"Rather than decimation and devastation, COVID-19 appears to reveal Africa's innovation and resourcefulness in fighting disease, but this has largely escaped scholarship. Using various search engines, keywords, and phrases, we conducted a scoping review of common key innovations and strategies Africa's 54 countries deployed to fight COVID-19. Our results show that African countries have used old tools and approaches in new ways, developed and adapted new technologies, and creatively used limited resources. Thus, COVID provides an opportunity for unparalleled transformation in health care and the economy. We offer some policy options for scaling up and sustaining this positive transformation."

Summary

This article from Joseph R. Opponga, Yvonne A. Dadson, and Hilary Ansaha, titled "Africa's Innovation and Creative Response to COVID-19," provided a unique window into Africa's COVID-19 and the major strides that African countries made during the pandemic. This article provided a very general overview of Africa's COVID-19, but nonetheless

pointed out several key developments within African Countries during the pandemic (Opponga, Dadson, & Ansaha, 2021). Due to the sheer population of the continent, it was expected that people could have had 123 million cases of Covid-19 within a year (Opponga, Dadson, & Ansaha, 2021). Importantly, Africa yielded much better results than experts initially predicted at the beginning of the pandemic, and this may be due "to inadequate testing, demographics, or earlier stage of the pandemic", but also the resourcefulness of several different countries and governments (Opponga, Dadson, & Ansaha, 2021, p. 1).

Many experts were initially concerned due to the poor existing healthcare infrastructure within several countries. For example, "56% of the African urban population lives in overcrowded and poorly serviced areas", which made it a prime spot for COVID-19 transmission (Opponga, Dadson, & Ansaha, 2021, p. 2). Nonetheless, to combat this, African countries developed new techniques and technologies. For example, Ghana and Rwanda used drones to transport medical supplies and other resources to remote and densely populated areas of their respective countries (Opponga, Dadson, and Ansaha, 2021). Meanwhile, in Senegal, the Pasteur Institute developed two different types of rapid tests to help detect COVID-19 (Opponga, Dadson, & Ansaha, 2021).

Many different technologies and techniques have been developed throughout the pandemic, but this article provided a small overview of some of the fascinating and inspirational developments within Africa.

Case Study 2: Agents of Technology Localization in East Africa: Case Studies of Social Enterprises in Tanzania

From Kim C. Brimhall. (2021). *Review of Public Personnel Administration*, 41(1), 321-338.

Abstract

"Technology localization refers to activities that seek to make particular technologies locally functional and locally embedded in order to overcome resistance to their adoption. These activities can be described as diffusion, institutional support, and technical adaptation. In developing societies that face experiences of resistance to technological change, several organizational agents could serve as agents of localization. This paper showcases a number of social enterprises in East Africa – particularly in Tanzania – that are involved in localizing technologies for sustainable energy and agricultural mechanization. Field data were collected between December 2014 and September 2015. Staff, clients, and partners of the social enterprises were interviewed. In addition, field observations and a scan of accessible reports and documents of social enterprises and their partner organizations took place. The cases demonstrate technology localization activities and assess the effectiveness of these social enterprises as agents of localization. The study concluded that, given appropriate tools and context, such as engaging early adopters of innovation and staying attuned to feedback from local communities, social enterprises can be effective agents of technology localization."

Summary

This article from Gussai H. Sheikheldin and John F. Devlin titled "Agents of Technology Localization in East Africa: Case Studies of Social Enterprises in Tanzania" provided an overview of the concept of technology localization and how this approach is used in East Africa. More specifically, Sheikheldin & Devlin (2019) defined technology localization as an "interventionist approach to respond to incidents of persistent resistance to change regarding particular technology types" (p. 324).

Essentially, this technique is meant to promote new technologies within areas typically resistant to change. Sheikheldin & Devlin (2019) highlight 3 necessary steps: Diffusion, Institutional Support Activities, and Technical Adaption Activities. More specifically, this refers to targeting specific groups, policy advocacy, and modifying the given technology to fit the specific cultural context. Sheikheldin & Devlin (2019) also highlighted the importance of Social Enterprises (i.e. Nonprofits and NGOs) in encouraging technology localization. Through the Tanzania case studies,

Sheikheldin & Devlin (2019) found that Social Enterprises are excellent conduits for technological dissemination. Particularly, Sheikheldin & Devlin (2019) focused on the promising prospects of sustainable energy technologies and agro-machinery.

Sheikheldin & Devlin (2019) provided a unique overview of a particularly promising topic that could yield very interesting results in the near future. Certainly, technology localization and Social Enterprises have the potential to rapidly and dramatically change the given technology structure of local communities, to improve outcomes in many different departments.



Case Study 3: Leading the Way – Foreign Direct Investment and Dairy Value Chain Upgrading in Uganda

From Bjorn Van Campenhout, Bart Minten, & Johan F. M. Swinnen. (2021). *Agricultural Economics*, 52(1), 607-631.

Abstract

"Driven by increased demand from both local and export markets and facilitated by far-reaching liberalization and privatization policies, the dairy sub-sector in Uganda has undergone significant changes in the last decade. With a comparative advantage in milk production, the southwest of Uganda has started to attract considerable Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in processing capacity, mainly targeting the export market. As a result, processing capacity increased five-

fold and dairy became Uganda's third most important export product, coming from negligible amounts a decade earlier. In this study, we use data collected at different nodes within the value chain to identify some of the key innovations in these value chains. This is done by comparing the area that received the bulk of FDI to a similar area that did not. Furthermore, we also provide an econometric analysis that focuses on the integration of value chain actors into modern value chains more broadly defined. We find that dairy value chains are transforming rapidly, but innovations are more pronounced in areas that received the bulk of FDI. Our analysis further underscores the importance of milk collection centers, which often take the form of farmer cooperatives, in providing many of the support services that enable other actors in the value chain to produce sufficient milk, and maintain milk sanitation levels necessary for a modern export sector to emerge."

Summary

This article from Bjorn Van Campenhout, Bart Minten, Johan F. M. Swinnen provides an in-depth economic analysis of the developing dairy industry in Uganda. Campenhout, Minten, & Swinnen (2020) highlight Foreign Direct Investment as a major component of this developing industry and the reason for its rapid expansion in Uganda.

Uganda is an example of a massive success story, as it rapidly modernized and upgraded its dairy industry. Campenhout, Minten, & Swinnen (2020) highlighted that dairy production has "increased by more than 50% in the last decade, from 1.4 to 2.2 billion liters annually" (p.608). This is a phenomenal amount of growth in a very short period of time. Essentially, this article highlights the institutional features that allowed this growth to be achievable. Increasing demand for dairy and the privatization and liberalization of the dairy industry combined with FDI in the "form of processing capacity for the export market" allowed for this rapid growth (p.624). Uganda's rapid expansion and impressive growth most likely set an example for other industries and other countries, which could have remarkable economic implications moving forward.



Case Study 4: Challenges to Nonprofit Organization Participation in Social and Development Policy Planning in South Africa

From Sokeibelemaye Nwauche and Shawn Teresa Flanigan. (2022). *Nonprofit Policy Forum*, 13(2), 119-139.

Abstract

In South Africa, government relies significantly on NGOs in the delivery of social services (Patel, L. 2012. "Developmental Social Policy, Social Welfare Services and the Non-Profit Sector in South Africa." *Social Policy & Administration* 46 (6): 603-18). The services NGOs provide in areas such as early childhood development, education, health care, skills development, food security, elder care, and other arenas form part of South Africa's framework for achieving its long-term development goals. Also aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this government-NGO shared vision for development highlights the importance of NGOs in the development ecosystem. At the policy level, government explicitly refers to NGOs as stakeholders and development partners. However, at the level of practice, questions remain about NGOs' participation in planning for the development to which they so significantly contribute, and the extent of NGOs' role in increasing participation in democratic processes. In an effort to better understand whether NGOs adequately participate in development planning processes in South Africa, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 73 participants, including NGO leaders and relevant key

informants from national, provincial and municipal levels of government. The interview data were supplemented with content analysis of government documents. In spite of the fact that NGOs' involvement in development planning is explained by the state as a good governance principle ensuring meaningful participation of stakeholders (Republic of South Africa: Department of Social Development 2017, United Nations Development Programme 2011), the research findings suggest that NGOs' participation in the development planning process is deficient. This deficiency stems from institutional and policy issues including the lack of a framework for participation, the government's perception of NGOs and neglect of the NGO sector, and political issues such as partisan political activity in spaces of participation and engagement. The democratic potential of NGO participation is also hindered by organizational issues relating to the amorphous nature of the NGO sector, apathy of NGOs and a fragmented NGO sector."

Summary

Nwauche and Flanigan (2022) provided a unique perspective into how nonprofit organizations operate in South Africa and their importance in social development and policies. In South Africa, the government depends on nonprofit organizations to deliver social services such as childcare or welfare (Nwauche & Flanigan, 2022). This makes nonprofit organizations a vital resource in South Africa that many South Africans depend on (Nwauche & Flanigan, 2022). However, most of the scholarly literature is dedicated to nonprofit organizations' role in the delivery of social services rather than their role in formulating social policy (Nwauche & Flanigan, 2022).

Consequently, Nwauche and Flanigan (2022) focused on highlighting and discovering the importance of this particular role. Overall, nonprofit organizations' role in policy development is fairly underwhelming (Nwauche & Flanigan, 2022). They found this lack of adequate participation was the cause of four main factors: "deficient institutional arrangements relating to how NPOs are invited, the exclusionary nature of spaces for participation, inequitable methods of participation, and a lack of adequate information about NPOs" (Nwauche & Flanigan, 2022, p. 16). Moving forward, these findings clarify how to better formulate and develop effective social policy within South Africa.

Nwauche and Flanigan (2022) highlighted the unique nature of South Africa's social policy, and potential

areas for improvement moving forward to further better this particular system.



Case Study 5: Sustainable Development Amidst Technological Innovation and Tourism Activities in Sub-Saharan Africa

From Uju Violet Alola, Festus Victor Bekun, Andrew Adewale Alola, and Zafar U Ahmed. (2022). *International Social Science Journal*, 72(243), 111-127.

Abstract

"Following global debate on clean and responsible access to energy (electricity), access to recreation (tourism), technological innovation, and economic growth for sustainable development as captured by the Human Development Index (HDI), the present study is motivated by the inconclusive guidance found in the literature on technology, tourism industry, and energy. This study adopts the Pedroni residual cointegration test to investigate the cointegration properties of the variables under consideration, while the mean group (MG), dynamic fixed effect (DFE), and the pooled mean group (PMG) estimators are employed for simultaneous short- and long-run analysis. The study is based on annual frequency data from 1995 to 2016 with the adoption of panel analysis

to show that technological innovation, tourism development, and access to electricity affected the HDI significantly in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) over the investigated study period. This is instructive for policymakers, as the highlighted sectors are good predictors of sustainable development. Furthermore, consolidating the results that tourism development, electricity access, and technological innovation improve economic development. On the other hand, the growth-induced, HDI-fitted model reflects the importance of the examined variables in the sustainable development agenda of the continent. For instance, a 1% increase in tourism increases economic growth by 0.0195%. Similarly, a 1% increase in access to electricity and technological development increases economic growth by 0.0019% and 0.0009%, respectively. In conclusion, this study highlights the multifaceted merits that can be gleaned from access to electricity, tourism, and technological innovation in SSA, as they improve economic growth and HDI indicators that comprise life expectancy, quality education, and per capita income level."

Summary

Alola, Bekun, Alola, and Ahmed (2022) highlighted a unique ongoing development in sub-Saharan Africa. Notably, it uses sub-Saharan Africa as a case study to analyze whether "tourism development, electricity access, and technological innovation" improve economic growth and quality of life (Alola et al., 2022, p. 111). More specifically, it looks at how sustainable development can be a relatively good predictor of economic security and continued growth (Alola et al., 2022). Importantly, this article uses the definition of sustainable development provided by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (2020), defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Alola et al., 2022, p. 112). The article highlights a positive correlation between tourism, a robust energy sector, and innovation with increased economic growth (Alola et al., 2022).

Overall, this provided a unique perspective on the ongoing development of sub-Saharan African countries, and the sectors other countries may focus on to promote economic growth. This paints a promising image for countries in sub-Saharan Africa that continue to innovate and constantly take their respective countries to new heights.

Case Study 6: Street Homelessness in South Africa: A Perspective from the Methodist Church of Southern Africa



From Noah K. Tenai & Gloria N. Mbewu. (2020). *Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies* 76(1), 1-10.

Abstract

"Homelessness and its various forms of manifestation are a complex phenomenon. Street homelessness, which is the subject of this study, continues to be a challenge for the South African people and government. Different research studies have been undertaken on street homelessness. Various frameworks have been used in an attempt to understand and respond to street homelessness. Churches continue as key role-players in responses to street homelessness. There is a need, however, for churches to continually evaluate the various approaches to street homelessness, with a view to sharpening those approaches to better understand and respond to the challenge. Churches need frameworks that can help them to theologically understand and adequately respond to street homelessness. Gustafson's framework of moral engagement is explored within the context of street homelessness, with a view to suggest ways and means by which the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) could better understand and adequately respond to the problem of street homelessness in South Africa."

There is an increased number of homelessness in South Africa, and it continues to rise.

Case Study 7: Violence Victimization and Parenting among Black African Mothers

From Nada M. Goodrum, Rosa Felix, Shannon Self-Brown, Natasha De Veauuse-Brown, & Lisa P. Armistead. (2019). *Journal of Family Violence* 34(1),127-137.



Abstract

"Black South African women and girls face high rates of violence victimization, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse in childhood and intimate partner violence (IPV) in adulthood. U.S.-based research suggests that violence victimization predicts parenting difficulties, but this relation has not been examined in a South African context. Among a sample of 99 Black South African female caregivers, we examined rates of child abuse, IPV, and cumulative trauma, and we explored the associations between caregivers' victimization history and current parenting quality (i.e., parent-child relationship quality & parental involvement with child). Caregivers completed self-report questionnaires using ACASI software. Hierarchical regression analyses revealed that caregivers reporting childhood physical or sexual abuse were less involved with their children. Caregivers with a history of emotional abuse reported significantly worse parent-child relationship quality. Cumulative trauma was associated with worse parental involvement and parent-child relationship quality. Results reveal relatively high rates of interpersonal violence victimization among this convenience sample

of Black South African women, as well as unique relations between forms of victimization and specific parenting practices. The findings highlight the importance of behavioral parent training interventions with a focus on specific assessment of parents' victimization experiences."

Summary

"Interpersonal violence, including child maltreatment and intimate partner violence (IPV), is a major public health issue in South Africa and a leading cause of death among Black South Africans in particular. The rate of women killed by intimate partners in South Africa is six times the worldwide average, and rates of rape of women and girls are also high in this country."

Case Study 8: Science, Technology, and Innovation are Africa's Blueprint for Accelerated Development

From African Press Organisation. Database of Press Releases Related to Africa; Lausanne [Lausanne]. 02 Mar 2022.

Full Text

"The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Vera Songwe, has called for the establishment of an African Technology Development and Transfer Network to spur innovation and accelerate development on the continent. She made the call during the opening of the 4th Africa Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Forum in Kigali, Rwanda, on 1 March 2022."

"An African Technology Development and Transfer Network could 'identify emerging technologies, anticipate needs, and encourage the sharing of knowledge' across the continent, said Ms. Songwe, noting that such a network would lie at the heart of diffusing technologies to the continent's SMEs. 'We need to build sound scientific, technological and innovation foundations to enable STI to deliver. As we have witnessed recently, many of our countries needed support to build capacities to test for COVID-19. As global supply chains collapsed, Africa's over-reliance

on imported medical supplies left the continent vulnerable in many aspects, and Africa was forced to innovate,' she added."

"The Africa STI Forum is a collaborative multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established pursuant to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as part of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. The mechanism was established under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and was launched by the 2030 Agenda to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The forum is organized by the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the SDGs."

"Rwanda's Minister of Education, Valentine Uwamariya, explained that 'this congregation of some of Africa's best and experienced minds will find ways in which Africa can deploy science and technology to meet these goals in less than a decade.'"

"UNESCO Regional Director for Eastern Africa, Hubert Gijzen, who was also in attendance, emphasized the importance of collaboration: 'We need cooperation between countries for Open Science. This is why UNESCO launched the First International Open Science framework which 193 members states have approved.'"

Case Study 9: The Prevalence and Causes of Visual Impairment among Children in Kenya – The Kenya Eye Study

From Shadrack Muma & Stephen Obonyo. (2020). *BMC Ophthalmology: London* 20(1).

Abstract

"Visual impairment is the partial or complete loss of vision in which the presenting visual acuity lie between 6/18-no perceptions of light. In Kenya, little attention has been directed towards children vision and causes of visual impairment. Therefore, this study was

designed to investigate the prevalence and causes of visual impairment in the children population of Kenya."

Methods

"This cross-sectional population-based study included 3400 (1800, 52.9% female) randomly selected children with a mean age of 12 ± 2 years (range 5-16 years). Visual acuity was taken using Snellens chart at 6 m. Anterior and posterior segment was assessed using slit lamp and indirect ophthalmoscope. The World Health Organization definition formed the baseline for calculating the mean prevalence of visual impairment."

Results

"Visual acuity measurements were available for 3240 (95.3%) participants. The mean prevalence of visual impairment based on pin-hole value was $1.7 \pm 0.3\%$ using World Health Organization definition. The prevalence of visual impairment based on presenting visual acuity value was $2.4 \pm 0.7\%$ using the World Health Organization definition. Multivariate analysis demonstrated that the presence of visual impairment on pin-hole increased significantly with increasing age (odds ratio 1.230, $P = .021$) and uncorrected refractive error (odds ratio 0.834, $P = .032$) according to World Health Organization definition. Cases of uncorrected refractive error remained the major cause for presenting visual impairment. Causes of visual impairment due to presenting visual acuity were nystagmus (14%), amblyopia (24%) and uncorrected refractive error (62%)."

Summary

"The prevalence of visual impairment in Kenya is associated with age. Uncorrected refractive error remains the major causes of visual impairment."

Conclusion

"Uncorrected refractive error still remains the major cause of visual impairment among children population in Kenya. In as much as the prevalence is not that high, a lot of attention should be directed towards child eye health to reduce incidences of visual impairment. To ensure that vision for the population is improved, eye care providers should do a comprehensive eye examination and dispense a pair of glass if need be. There is a need to increase the training of eye care providers in Kenya on pediatric eye care."