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EDITORIAL

Whose Truth is it Anyway? Some Contemplations on Intellectual Honesty

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Research is a noble endeavour which seeks the truth. From an epistemological point of view, the pursuit of truth through evidence and verification, without any prejudice, should be the aim of all research activities. Therefore, researchers must be driven by a desire to gain true insights into a phenomenon through honest intellectual engagement, not the craving to win an argument or to justify and defend a certain endearing belief.

However, it is not uncommon for researchers to soft-manipulate the outcome of research findings under the influence of their preconceived notions, pre-existing beliefs, prejudices or desires to establish a particular 'truth'. This form of dishonesty is most often evident in research studies conducted on sensitive topics related to religion, culture, social taboos and other politically delicate themes. Some unscrupulous researchers, sometimes, distort the truth of the empirical evidence just to appease the readers and making sure that they do not cross a sensitive, ideological or dogmatic 'red-line'. In other cases, researchers inadvertently fall victim to various logical fallacies and other errors of reasoning, which leads to incorrect conclusions. In some rare cases, researchers have intentionally manipulated their data and results to achieve a nefarious objective.

Unfortunately, in this post-truth world of click-baits and 'social media schooling', such acts of pseudo-scholarship and quackery occasionally get accepted as genuine research by an uncritical audience. Notwithstanding the rigorous peer-review processes observed in academic publications, there is always the possibility that some dubious 'research' articles and books find their way to the readers. As a result, in recent years, there has been an increasing attention to address the issue of such questionable research practices (QRPs).

Intellectual honesty requires researchers to be absolutely truthful in their research endeavours and to challenge those who are dishonest. As researchers, we must adopt and use the most reliable methodologies and scientific rigour to uncover the truth. We must take our duty of truthfulness with vigour and gusto. We must actively seek to minimise false positives/negatives in our analysis and ensure that the outcomes represent the reality as accurately as possible. It is essential that we strive to be thorough and honest in our analysis and interpretation of data and empirical evidence. Thus, reliability in determining factual information through evidence-based research and engaging in honest intellectual discourses is a necessary condition for undertaking rigorous quality research. Moreover, the definition of research excellence should embrace fidelity and the quality of being authentic to the intellectual endeavour as the bedrock of high quality research.

We must remember that intellectual achievement is one of the finest fruits of human labour. Hence, truth based on evidence and analysed through a rational and rigorous methodology should be the aim of our enterprise. Personal preference and self-interest should not be allowed to influence our epistemological stance. Remember: when Galileo Galilei was impelled to recant his claims that the Earth moves around the Sun, he famously said "E pur si muove" - "and yet it moves".

¹ See for example: <http://www.longwood.edu/news/2013/researchers-sometimes-manipulate-data/>

² See for example: <https://www.icr.org/article/study-shows-many-scientists-manipulate>

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Introduction to Design Science Research (DSR)

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“Design Science Research is a "lens" or set of synthetic and analytical techniques and perspectives (complementing positivist, interpretive, and critical perspectives) for performing research. Design Science Research typically involves the creation of an artefact and/or design theory as a means to improve the current state of practice as well as existing research knowledge” (Vaishnavi & Kuechler, 2021, p. 1).

DSR is used to enhance human knowledge through creation of innovative artefacts and generation of design knowledge. Simon (1996) made a clear distinction between "natural science" and "science of the artificial" also known as design science, bringing the design activity into spotlight at an intellectual level. Design activity is the creation of an artefact, components and their organization, which interfaces in a desired manner with its outer environment (Vaishnavi & Kuechler, 2011).

Design science research involves designing novel or innovative artefacts. These artefacts include algorithms, human computer interfaces and system design methodologies or languages and many more. DSR can be understood as the analysis of the use or performance of the artefacts to enhance and recognise the behaviour of aspects of IS (Vaishnavi & Kuechler, 2011).

Philosophical grounding of DSR

In this article we compare two major research paradigms, that of positivism and interpretivism with DSR. Laws (2003) stated that research is all about power of defining reality and research is undertaking systematic study with a view to make a claim about the world.

Design science research is a set of techniques that can be used alongside positivist and interpretive viewpoints in engineering, architecture, business,

economics and information systems research (Vaishnavi & Kuechler, 2021). Table 1.1 summarises the philosophical assumptions of these three approaches to research.

Table 1: Philosophical assumptions of the three research perspectives (Source: Vaishnavi & Kuechler, 2021).

Basic Belief	Research Perspective		
	Positivism	Interpretivism	Design Science
Ontology	A single reality. Knowable, probabilistic	Multiple realities, socially constructed	Multiple, contextually situated alternative world-states. Socio-technologically enabled
Epistemology	Objective: dispassionate. Detached observer of truth	Subjective, i.e. Values and knowledge emerge from the researcher-participant interaction.	<i>Knowing through making</i> : objectively constrained construction within a context. Iterative circumscription reveals meaning.
Methodology	Observation; quantitative, statistical	Participation; qualitative. Hermeneutical, dialectical.	Developmental. Measure artifactual impacts on the composite system.
Axiology	Truth: universal and beautiful; prediction	Understanding: situated and description	Control; creation; progress (i.e. Improvement); understanding

Basic principles and processes

DSR methodology is an iterative process of design activity, often visualised as a design cycle involving problem identification, defining objectives of a potential solution, design and development of artefact, demonstration of its use, evaluation, and communication of findings. DSR involves design cycle which is an iterative process of design activity. Building and evaluating artefacts are the two basic activities in DSR (March & Smith, 1995). Takeda, Veerkamp, Tomiyama, and Yoshikawa (1990) have

provided in depth explanation of the design cycle with its reasoning. Vaishnavi and Kuechler (2021) reproduced an enhanced model of Takeda, et al. (1990) illustrating the reasoning behind design cycles as shown in Figure 1.1.

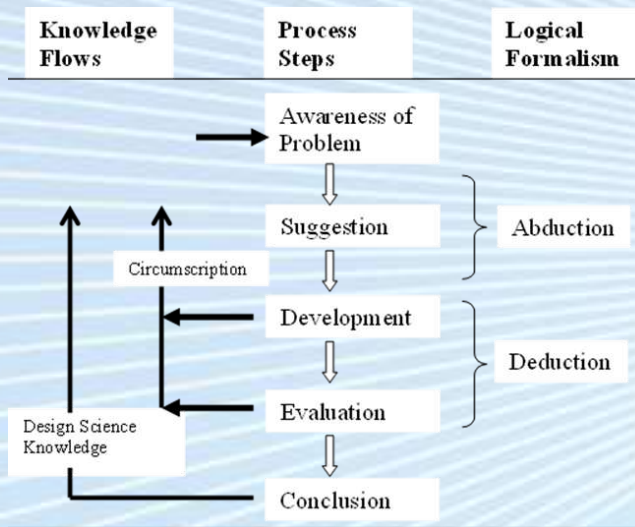


Figure 1.1: Reasoning in the design cycle (Source: Vaishnavi & Kuechler (2021))

Design science research is “fundamentally a problem-solving paradigm. It seeks to create innovations that define the ideas, practices, technical capabilities, and products through which the analysis, design, implementation, management, and use of information systems can be effectively and efficiently accomplished” (Hevner, et al., 2004:76).

Hevner, et al., (2004), believe that artefacts are interdependent and coequal with organisational and social contexts in meeting business goals. Hevner, et al., (2004), argue that the ability of the constructs, models, methods, and instantiations are as important as other elements of organisation and DSR works are required to create it.

Implementation steps of DSR project

Based on the design cycle provided in Figure 1.1, the following steps are used in implementation of DSR project.

Step 1: Awareness of problem

An awareness of an attractive problem may happen from the developments in industry or in the particular discipline. Reading in the discipline may also provide the chance to apply new solutions to the researcher’s field. The output of this phase is a proposal for a new research (Vaishnavi & Kuechler, 2011).

Step 2: Suggestion

The suggestion phase follows straight away after the proposal and the output is the tentative design which is any formal proposal for design science research for a sponsor. It is basically a creative step in which new functionality is figured out based on a novel configuration of either existing or new and existing elements (Vaishnavi & Kuechler, 2011).

Step 3: Development

The Tentative Design is implemented in this phase. The implementation techniques vary depending on the artifact to be constructed (Vaishnavi & Kuechler, 2011). Different methods can be used in the development phase to achieve the output of the project. The following are some suggested methods in DSR and expected output in DSR.

Methods in the DSR

Quantitative and qualitative methods are used in DSR. Quantitative analysis of artefacts is done using mathematical basis such as optimization proofs, analytical simulation, and quantitative comparisons with alternative designs (Hevner et al., 2004).

Empirical and qualitative methods are used in the evaluation of the artefact based on the research context. In such contexts, qualitative assessment of the interaction of people, organisation and technology would give better understating of the phenomena for theory development (Hevner et al., 2004).

Outputs of DSR

According to Hevner, et al., (2004), DSR develops and assesses artefacts which are meant to solve identified organizational problems. These artefacts may include software, formal logic, and rigorous mathematics to informal natural language descriptions (Hevner et al., 2004).

The definition of artefact by Hevner, et al., (2004), includes instantiations, constructs, models, and methods applied in the development and use of information systems. But it does not include elements of organisations and the evolving process of artefacts.

According to Hevner, et al., (2004), the artefacts created in DSR are not often fully developed

information systems implemented in organisations. They are new concepts that define ideas, practices, technical capabilities, and products.

March and Smith (1995) state that there are four types of DSR products. They are constructs, models, methods, and implementations. Constructs are the vocabulary of intended DSR domain. They represent the concept applied to explain problems within the domain and to state their solutions (March & Smith, 1995). Constructs come up during the conceptualization of the DSR problem and are enhanced and improved during the design cycle (Vaishnavi & Kuechler, 2011).

A model is “a set of propositions or statements expressing relationships among constructs” (March & Smith, 1995:256). In design activities, statements of condition as problems and solutions are representations of models. A model is basically a description or a representation of how things are (March & Smith, 1995).

A method is “a set of steps (an algorithm or guideline) used to perform a task” (March & Smith, 1995:257). Methods are developed on a set of constructs and a model of the solution. Even if methods are clearly not defined, demonstration of activities and results are inherent to methods (March & Smith, 1995).

Instantiations operationalise constructs, models, and methods as the outcome of the realization of an artefact in its environment (March & Smith, 1995:258). An instantiation sometimes precedes a complete articulation of the conceptual vocabulary, models and methods that it embodies. Instantiations exhibit the possibility and usefulness of the models and methods they contain (March & Smith, 1995).

In addition to the four types of outputs indicated by March and Smith (1995), based on the work of Rossi and Sein (2003) and Purao (2002), Vaishnavi and Kuechler (2021) stated additional outputs of DSR. In

Table 2, details of these outputs are given.

Table 2: The outputs of DSR (Source: Vaishnavi & Kuechler (2021))

	Output	Description
1	Constructs	The conceptual vocabulary of a domain
2	Models	Sets of propositions or statements expressing relationships between constructs
3	Frameworks	Real or conceptual guides to serve as support or guide
4	Architectures	High level structures of systems
5	Design	Core principles and concepts to guide
3	Methods	A set of steps used to perform a task – how-to knowledge
4	Instantiations	Situated Implementations in certain environments that do or do not operationalize constructs, models, methods, and other abstract artifacts; in the latter case such knowledge remains tacit.
5	Design Theories	A prescriptive set of statements on how to do something to achieve a certain objective. A theory usually includes other abstract artifacts such as constructs, models, frameworks, architectures, design principles, and methods.

Step 4: Evaluation of artefact

Once developed, the artefact is evaluated according to evaluation criteria. Deviations from expected results, both quantitative and qualitative are carefully noted and explained. The evaluation phase includes an analytic sub-phase in which propositions are made about the behaviour of the artefact (Vaishnavi & Kuechler, 2011).

The evaluation also can check if proper DSR guideline is being used in every phase of project. The following are DSR guidelines.

DSR guidelines

DSR methodology follows a set of specific guidelines. Hevner, et al. (2004) stated that the DSR is inherently a problem solving process and provided the following guidelines as given in Table 3 for DSR in IS.



Table 3: Guidelines for DSR in Information Systems (IS)

Guideline	Description
Guideline 1: Design as an Artifact	Design-science research must produce a viable artifact in the form of a construct, a model, a method, or an instantiation.
Guideline 2: Problem Relevance	The objective of design-science research is to develop technology-based solutions to important and relevant business problems.
Guideline 3: Design Evaluation	The utility, quality, and efficacy of a design artifact must be rigorously demonstrated via well-executed evaluation methods.
Guideline 4: Research Contributions	Effective design-science research must provide clear and verifiable contributions in the areas of the design artifact, design foundations, and/or design methodologies.
Guideline 5: Research Rigor	Design-science research relies upon the application of rigorous methods in both the construction and evaluation of the design artifact.
Guideline 6: Design as a Search Process	The search for an effective artifact requires utilizing available means to reach desired ends while satisfying laws in the problem environment.
Guideline 7: Communication of Research	Design-science research must be presented effectively both to technology-oriented as well as management-oriented audiences.

Step 5: Conclusion of research

Conclusion phase is the finale of a specific research effort. “Typically, it is the result of satisfying, that is, though there are still deviations in the behaviour of the artefact from the (multiply) revised hypothetical predictions, the results are adjudged good enough” (Vaishnavi & Kuechler, 2021, p. 13).

Summary

This paper discussed the basic theories and methodology applied in DSR projects. The philosophical aspects of the DRS in relation to positivism and interpretivism are discussed with the outcomes of DSR research. It also explained the DSR guidelines and how the guidelines are applied in DSR projects.

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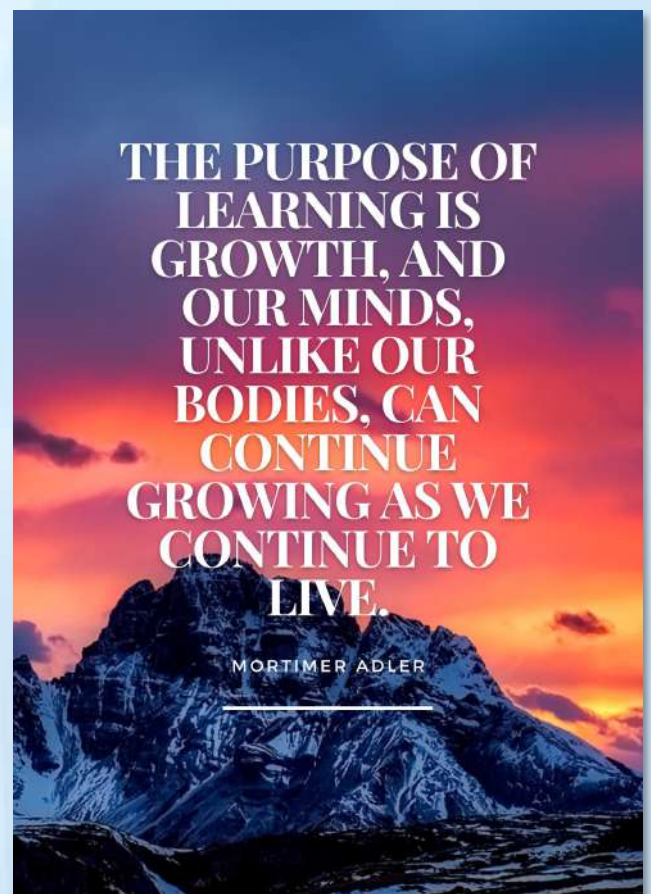
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Social Media Representation of Female Circumcision Practice: A Twitter Analysis

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Female Circumcision (FC) affects the lives of millions of girls and women. Recent news on this practice being encouraged in the Maldives has sparked conversation and discourse, particularly on social media sites like Twitter. Hence, there is a need to analyse social media data from Twitter on the portrayal of FC practice to gather insights and inform intervention designs. This paper investigates Twitter content to examine the characteristics and perceptions of active Twitter users' discourse on FC and offers the first exploration into Twitter postings related to the topic of FC in the Maldives.

Female Circumcision in Maldives

Female circumcision was “widely known to have occurred in the Maldives”, however, it has been reported that this practice stopped during the 1980s and 1990s (Hope for Women, 2012). In 2009, this narrative was invalidated following former Attorney General’s concerns about “circumcision of girls... going on with a new spirit” in the Maldives (Minivan News, 2009). Thus, suggesting that it may still be ongoing in the country.

Recently, some of the Maldivian religious clerics have promoted FC and linked the practice with Islam, despite it not being an obligation of any religion (UNFPA, 2020; UNICEF, 2010). This incident led to the inclusion of a question on FGM in the Maldives Demographic and Health Survey in 2016-17 that showed that 1 in 10 women are circumcised in the Maldives (MoH & ICF, 2018). In the Maldives, 13% of women aged 15-49 are circumcised, whereas 83% of circumcised women aged 15-49 were circumcised before the age of five. Only 1% of girls, aged 0-14 are circumcised indicating that this is an ongoing practice, albeit not as commonly as previously practised. Among women who had heard of female circumcision, 10% believed that the practice was required by their religion, and 8% believed that the practice should be continued indicating that there exist myths and

misconceptions of FGM, which can consequently promote FGM and can cause harm (MoH & ICF, 2018). These facts, along with the recent promotion of FC by Maldivian religious scholars (Hope for Women, 2012), imply that FC will continue in the Maldives unless the issue is addressed at multiple levels of knowledge sharing and communication. However, there are currently no known initiatives to ratify specific national legislation, national policies, or initiatives that criminalize FC in the Maldives, nor are there any known attempts to look into current prevalence and practice of FC in the Maldives.

Methodology

Ninety-one Twitter posts were derived using the keywords “FGM” and “Maldives”, posted from 2013 through 2022. These were extracted using Octoparse Software. Social media data was coded and thematically analysed to identify the emotive character of content or classify hierarchical data to identify areas of significance within them (Thelwall, 2008). For this study, the codes were derived based on the specified research questions and identified the most relevant constructs in the discussion.

Results

The first research question focused on identifying the characteristics of those involved in focused Twitter discussions about FC. A community of relatively limited size, yet actively invested in the discourse, participated in tweets pertaining to the topic of female circumcision. A total of 43 Twitter users participated in the “FGM” and “Maldives” Twitter feeds generating 91 tweets. Majority of the observed participants used the hashtag “#EndFGMmv” (35 Tweets) and “#EndFGM” (20 Tweets). The Tweets express frustration and concern over the practice and call for it to be criminalized. The Tweets also suggest that there are individuals who are advocating FC and that this is unacceptable to other Maldivian users of Twitter. Additional

Tweets express frustration with individuals who are not well-informed about the issue. These Tweets also touch on the themes of human rights violation, misogyny, and the need for societal change. The largest group of users had no specified profession, followed by activists, non-profits, and international organisations who accounted for the rest of the users. There were more males (53%) tweeting on the topic compared to females (47%).

The second research question examined the perceptions of active Twitter users about the practice of FC in the Maldives. During the coding process five main themes emerged as follows a) criminalize FC, b) human rights, c) Islam and FC, d) patriarchal society, and e) victimization. Table 1 provides a summary of the main themes supported by tweets.

Table 1. Summary of main themes supported by tweets

Key Themes	Tweets
Criminalise FC	<p>“We call for FGM to be criminalised in Maldives?” – TW9</p> <p>“[female circumcision] is the same as FGM. Stop trying to change the subject” – TW10</p> <p>“Educate before advocating for inhumane practice” – TW12</p> <p>“End marital rape, FGM, and child marriages” – TW15</p>
Human Rights	<p>“Just a reminder that FGM is a violation of Human Rights according to the United Nations and has no health benefits according to a 2020 report by the World Health Organisation” TW19</p> <p>“Call it ‘female circumcision’ or whatever you will, but FGM is a human rights violation and has no place in our society” – TW21</p>
Islam and FC	<p>“FGM is not mandatory in Islam” – TW25</p> <p>“FGM is haram [forbidden] in Islam” – TW23</p> <p>“Islam does not promote barbaric [FC] acts” – TW33</p> <p>“No evidence of FGM allowed in Islam” – TW57, TW58</p>
Patriarchal Society	<p>“Mansplaining [justifying FC]” – TW37</p> <p>“Patriarchal norms lead to FGM” – TW38</p> <p>“Bold of them to assume that women exist to satisfy desires of these misogynistic men” – TW55</p>
Victimization	<p>“A [...] survivor spoke and yet you continue with your [...]. [Be ashamed]” – TW86</p> <p>“The fact that when survivors spoke up and some [...] dared to invalidate that experience says a lot. Have some shame” – TW87</p>

Discussion

The initial findings indicate a growing inclination towards the defense of the human rights of females who have or may potentially become victims of FC. The analysis suggests that social media platforms such as Twitter, can serve as an effective means of increasing awareness surrounding sensitive issues, such as FC, fostering dialogue surrounding the topic, and highlighting areas in which current interventions

may be inadequate. This is consistent with earlier research on sensitive subjects with "hard-to-reach" populations (Dosek, 2021; Goodman et al., 2011; Hu et al., 2019), which discovered that the internet, in particular online social networks, can be efficient and culturally appropriate communication channels for such populations.

With regard to the perceived justifications for the practice of FC, religious and cultural motivations were frequently mentioned in the tweets. Participants’ also portrayed a dialogue that FC was a manifestation of patriarchy in society, particularly among those of Islamic faith aimed at exerting control over women, which was corroborated by survey data from various countries (ARROW & Orchid Project, 2020; UNICEF, 2013; WHO, 2018). The perceived rationale for FC in the Maldives is similar to most Islamic South East Asian countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia where practices of FC are broadly accepted within the communities and have strongly supported FC (Dawson et al., 2020). These actions disregard the United Nations (2022) policy of zero tolerance and SDG 5.3, which calls for the abolition of "all harmful practices such as child, early, and forced marriages, and female genital mutilation" due to strong evidence of harm to women’s and girls’ health because of such practices.

Conclusion

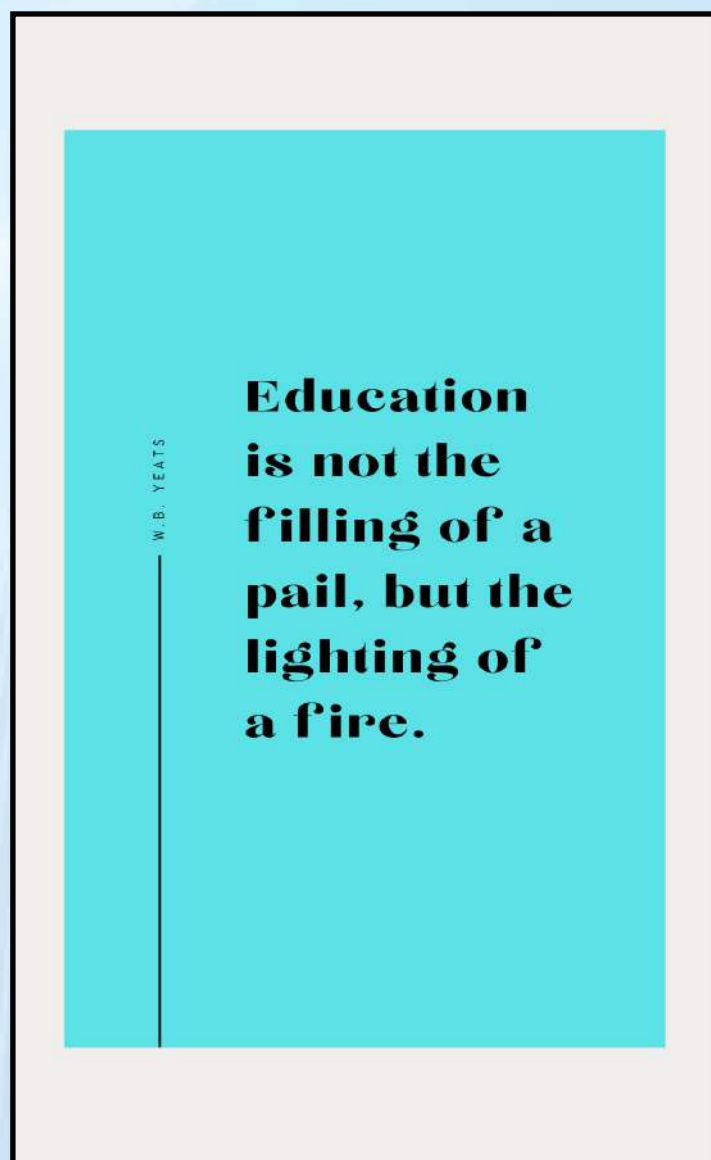
The key findings of the study show that there is an uprising in support of upholding the human rights of women and girls who have fallen or may fall victim to FC. The recurring themes revolve around voicing out the criminalisation of FGM, eradicating patriarchal dominance, and dialogue on the practice of FGM in Islam. Therefore, this study can be used as a narrative to understand the scope of the issues surrounding FGM in the Maldives and to advocate for prevention of harm to women.

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Proposal — Sunkissed Scandal: A Qualitative Study on Corruption in the Maldives Tourism Industry

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Introduction

Corruption undermines the principles of sustainable tourism by creating economic imbalances and hindering social and environmental well-being of local communities. It flourishes in cultures of secrecy and lack of transparency, creating opportunities for unethical actions and benefiting a small group of individuals who are politically connected and powerful, at the expense of the majority of the population. Studies show that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are susceptible to corruption in the tourism industry due to poor transparency, ineffective regulatory systems, and inadequate oversight within destination governance (Scheyvens & Momsen, 2008). The Maldives, a popular tourist island destination, has also been plagued by allegations of corruption in its tourism industry. Therefore, the study proposes here to investigate corruption in the Maldives' tourism industry, with a focus on understanding the perceptions, experiences, and consequences of corruption from the perspectives of key stakeholders.

Background and scope of the study

The economy of the Maldives relies heavily on the tourism industry. The industry accounts for 28% of the nation's GDP (World Bank, 2020). Despite its economic importance, the industry has also been marred by accusations of corruption, including bribery, embezzlement, and favoritism, thus, raising concerns about its integrity and impact on the economy and society. Such a case was well documented by Al-Jazeera in their award-winning documentary titled 'Stealing Paradise' (Al Jazeera Investigative Unit, 2016). Xu et al. (2022) stated that corruption in the tourism industry can have detrimental effects on a nation's economy and image. Previous research on corruption in the Maldives has mainly focused on the political (Adam & Urquhart, 2009; Henderson, 2008) and economic aspects (Mallempati, 2017), but little attention has been given to the tourism industry. This study aims to fill that gap by providing a deeper understanding of corruption in the Maldives

tourism industry from the perspectives of key stakeholders by examining the various aspects of corruption. Moreover, the study will examine the impact of corruption on the Maldives tourism industry and its stakeholders, including effects on investment, employment, and economic growth.

Problem statement

Political instability and vulnerability can negatively impact a country's tourism industry, as seen in the case of the Maldives, where a lack of political will, insufficient capacity, ongoing conflicts, corruption, poor implementation, and unstable political environments have been identified as factors contributing to the industry's vulnerability (Becken et al., 2014). Research by Becken et al. (2014) suggests that corruption in the Maldives' tourism industry is a complex issue that affects various stakeholders, including hotel and resort owners, government agencies, tourism sector workers, local communities, and tourists. Therefore the problem statement for this study is to explore the perceptions, experiences, and effects of corruption among key stakeholders.

Aim and objectives of the study

The aim of this study is to explore the perceptions, experiences, and consequences of corruption in the Maldives tourism industry from the perspectives of key stakeholders. The objectives of the study are:

1. Identify how key stakeholders perceive and experience corruption in the Maldives tourism industry.
2. Identify the causes of corruption in the Maldives tourism industry as perceived by its stakeholders.
3. Examine the impact of corruption on Maldives tourism industry and its stakeholders.
4. Evaluate the current anti-corruption measures in Maldives tourism industry.
5. Suggest policy recommendations to combat corruption in the Maldives tourism industry.

Significance of the study

The study aims to examine corruption in the Maldives tourism industry from the perspectives of key stakeholders, to provide a deeper understanding of the issue. The findings will inform policy decisions within the industry and contribute to the wider academic literature on corruption in the tourism sector. The study is important as it addresses the susceptibility of tourism to corruption, which is crucial for economic and social development. Understanding the extent and causes of corruption within the industry is crucial for promoting economic and social growth in the Maldives. It will also provide insights on current anti-corruption measures in the industry and recommendations for future actions.

Literature review

The Maldives is a popular tourist destination, known for its beautiful beaches, clear blue waters, and luxurious resorts. However, in recent years, the Maldives tourism industry has been plagued by allegations of corruption. One of the major causes of corruption in the Maldives tourism industry is the lack of government oversight and sidestepping of existing laws and regulation. The long history of weak governance and corruption has been the dialogue used over the last 50 years to describe the ineffectiveness of the Maldives' governments in addressing corruption in the tourism industry, due to a lack of political will and insufficient capacity (Bowen, Zubair, & Altinay, 2017). Another cause of corruption in the Maldives tourism industry is the high degree of economic dependence on tourism. The industry relies heavily on the revenues generated from tourism, which can put pressure on government officials and businesses to overlook corrupt practices in order to maintain the flow of tourists and investments.

Corruption in the Maldives tourism industry has a number of negative effects on the country and its people, like any other. For example, the case study on Botswana reveals that tourism, due to its high capital requirements, is mostly controlled by foreign investors and the elite, with only a small number of local citizens involved and this results in limited participation from locals, who often only hold unskilled labor positions and face discrimination and poor working conditions (Gumbo, 2022). This is similar to the notion discussed by Scheyvens (2011) noting that despite the Quality Tourism Strategy enacted under the Gayoom government, which attempted to ensure sustainable tourism, the practice of sustainable tourism in the Maldives has faced criticisms over time. Issues such as

corruption, repression, poverty, and human rights violations have been highlighted by campaigns such as Tourism Concern and Friends of the Maldives, which called for a boycott of the 21 resorts owned by government members, their families, and friends (Scheyvens, 2011). The environmental, social, and economic sustainability of the Maldives tourism industry has also faced concerns. The critics points out environmentally harmful practices, such as sand mining to artificially create pristine sandy beaches causing erosion and degradation of locally inhabited islands (Scheyvens, 2011). Although luxury tourism brings millions of dollars to the economy, the benefits are not in reality, reaching those who need it, and state management of tourism protects these systems, ensuring local communities are denied access to the benefits of tourism. Thus, it shows that less transparency and accountability lead to corruption in the industry, which can in turn result in unequal distribution of resources and wealth, thus contributing to poverty and social inequality.

Although Maldives has recently allowed tourism businesses to flourish in communal islands, the previous governments have restricted tourism to uninhabited islands and has implemented regulations to protect the natural environment and preserving indigenous vegetation. As an example of sustainable tourism, it has been praised by the World Tourism Organization (Scheyvens & Momsen, 2008). However, while tourism generates a significant percentage of GDP, the benefits of tourism do not reach those who need them most, and it has also created heavy leakages. The resorts cater to high-spending luxury tourists, and most of the provisions on the resort islands need to be imported (Scheyvens, 2011). The tourism sector has generated employment, but more than half of these jobs are filled by foreigners (Maldives Bureau of Statistics, 2021), which has exaggerated existing inequalities between Maldivians. Additionally, Scheyvens and Momsen (2008) elaborates that focusing on the environment and economic development is a more politically safe path to take, and it requires significant power to challenge the rights of certain groups to direct tourism development and control the benefits of tourism.

In conclusion, corruption within tourism industry is a significant challenge for countries, especially SIDS such as the Maldives, that is caused by a number of factors, including weak government oversight, high economic dependence on tourism, and relaxed attitude towards corruption. Thus, suggesting the need to understand the

hidden meanings behind acts of corruption that are evident within the tourism industry of Maldives.

Methodology

The study will use a qualitative research design to explore the social phenomena of corruption within the Maldives tourism industry. The main method of data collection will be in-depth interviews using a semi-structured interview guide. The sample will be purposive and include key stakeholders such as hotel and resort owners and operators, other sectoral service providers, and governmental agencies. Snowball technique will be used to expand the samples from the initial participants to other relevant stakeholders. The interviews with the samples selected will be conducted face-to-face or via video conferencing, depending on participant availability. The data will be analyzed qualitatively using content analysis to identify themes and patterns emerging from the study.

Ethical considerations

The study will be conducted in accordance with the institutional ethical guidelines and principles. Participants will be informed of the purpose of the study, the voluntary nature of their participation, and their right to withdraw at any time. Confidentiality and anonymity will be maintained, and all data will be kept confidential and secure. Informed consent will be obtained from all participants, and any sensitive information will be handled with care and sensitivity.

Conclusion

This study aims to gain a deeper understanding of the perceptions, experiences, and consequences of corruption in the Maldives tourism industry from the perspective of key stakeholders, excluding the tourists. The proposed research design, methodology, and ethical considerations are designed to ensure that the study is conducted in a thorough and rigorous, and ethical manner. By understanding the impact of corruption on the industry, the study intends to inform policy and decision-making within the industry as well as contribute to the wider academic literature on corruption in the tourism sector. Furthermore, the findings of this study can also provide insights for other countries and their efforts to combat corruption in the tourism industry. The research will examine the existing anti-corruption measures in the Maldives and make recommendations for future action, which could help the Maldives government to improve their anti-corruption policies.

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Principles of Cultural Historical Activity Theory (Part II)

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As previously outlined in the publication “Principles of Cultural Historical Activity Theory - Part I” in the last issue of the Research Digest, these principles form the basis for CHAT's approach to understanding social phenomena and provide a framework for investigating the complex relationships between individuals, their environment, and the cultural and historical context in which they live and learn. As CHAT has developed and evolved over generations there are several perspectives and directions of using CHAT in research. Consequently, the principles discussed in this publication are founded on particular research and investigators. Some of the main contributions to these principles were made by Jonassen and Rohrer-Murphy (1999). These principles are also presented here in the context of conducting research on use of Interactive Whiteboard (IWB) in classrooms.

Activity: minds in context

As previously mentioned, the unity of the conscious and activity (Kaptelinin, 1996) is central to CHAT. Vygotsky posits that “socially mediated activity may serve as an explanatory principle in regard to, and be considered as a generator of, human consciousness” (Kozulin, 1986, p. 264). Vygotsky's statement emphasises the role of social mediation in shaping human consciousness and suggests that it acts as a generator, rather than just an explanatory principle, of human consciousness. In this perspective, activities are the interactions of humans with their environment and some of these are conscious activities. The human mind develops and exists as a special component of these interactions with the world, meaning activity is a precursor to learning. For example, the comprehension of subtraction by learners is facilitated through the engagement in practical subtraction procedures within a contextual setting. They can memorise a subtraction table but only understand what they mean through practically doing it. This is challenged in

CHAT by the idea that learning is understood by carrying out these actions and that affect our knowledge and that changes our actions (Jonassen & Rohrer-Murphy, 1999). This concept is fundamental in Vygotsky (1978)'s work, where he argues that consciousness is manifested in action: “you are what you do” (p. 7). Actions are socially bound and are influenced by people and tools (physical and mental). Therefore, it is necessary to analyse the activities in which actors engage in the context of their performance. Thus, this study endeavours to examine the utilization of IWBs in the context of classroom teaching and learning, as the manner in which they are employed may differ significantly from that in an office setting.

Internalization and externalization

The principles of internalization and externalization in human activity reflect the interdependence of the individual's mental processes and the cultural and societal context. The mutual process of transforming these components of activity is referred to as internalization and externalization (Kaptelinin & Nardi, 2006). For example, internalization occurs when a young learner uses an IWB's touch feature to trace over guiding lines when practicing writing alphabets and over time they are able to write without the guiding lines. On the other hand, externalisation is when a learner uses touch to draw a picture based on his imagination. The individual and the social are also not separable; for example, when a learner practice counting on the IWBs as a whole-class activity and later is able to individually complete a worksheet on writing the numbers in order.

The historical-cultural dimension

CHAT emphasises on the historical nature of development within a culture and how the situations we live in have evolved over time. For the purpose of understanding a specific situation, it is crucial to

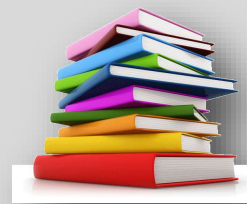
become familiar with the nature of this evolution. For example, the use of technology in teaching and learning has changed over time, and new learning theories and technologies have emerged and been shared in education. From a CHAT perspective, IWB use in teaching and learning cannot be understood without awareness of its predecessors: personal computers, touch screens, projectors, whiteboards, and presentation software, particularly as these technologies exist in some form in IWB technology. Moreover, the beliefs and values that arose around these technologies are already internalised in the teaching community, in turn permeating the use of IWBs.

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FROM THE WORLD OF RESEARCH



Public Opinion on the Root Causes of Terrorism and Objectives of Terrorists: A Boko Haram Case Study

Adesoji O. Adelaja, Abdullahi Labo (Late) and Eva Penar

ABSTRACT

Since about the year 2009, Boko Haram, a territorial terrorist organization, has wreaked havoc on communities in Northeast Nigeria and beyond. Significant debate has ensued about the reasons for the Boko Haram insurgency and their objectives. The government's response to Boko Haram has largely focused on the need to stamp out the insurgency through strong military response and heightened activities in intelligence and security agencies. Some have espoused the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) approach of mounting strategies that at least recognize the root causes of the problem and the angst amongst citizens that contribute to their decision to support terrorist organizations. In this article, we investigate public opinion about the root causes of terrorism and the objectives of terrorists. The results suggest that the majority of the public agree with the following: (1) the root causes of Boko Haram are unemployment, poverty and economic problems, dislike for government, extreme political ideology, extreme religious feelings and manipulation by some politicians; and (2) a major objective of Boko Haram is to seek revenge against security forces. However, more respondents disagreed than agreed about the following objectives of Boko Haram: fighting political inequality, fighting economic inequalities, and addressing political imbalance. Given these findings, it appears there is divergence in public opinion about Boko Haram and that some aspects of public opinion differ from perspectives held by government agencies.

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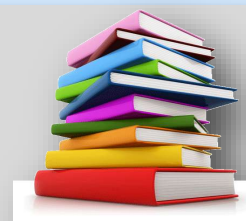
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FROM THE WORLD OF RESEARCH

Advances in risk assessment for climate change adaptation policy

W. Neil Adger, Iain Brown, and Swenja Surminski

ABSTRACT

Climate change risk assessment involves formal analysis of the consequences, likelihoods and responses to the impacts of climate change and the options for addressing these under societal constraints. Conventional approaches to risk assessment are challenged by the significant temporal and spatial dynamics of climate change; by the amplification of risks through societal preferences and values; and through the interaction of multiple risk factors. This paper introduces the theme issue by reviewing the current practice and frontiers of climate change risk assessment, with specific emphasis on the development of adaptation policy that aims to manage those risks. These frontiers include integrated assessments, dealing with climate risks across borders and scales, addressing systemic risks, and innovative co-production methods to prioritize solutions to climate challenges with decision-makers. By reviewing recent developments in the use of large-scale risk assessment for adaptation policy-making, we suggest a forward-looking research agenda to meet ongoing strategic policy requirements in local, national and international contexts.

This article is part of the theme issue 'Advances in risk assessment for climate change adaptation policy'.

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