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ABSTRACTS

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14th AMER International Conference on Quality of Life

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Sunlake Waterfront Resort & Convention,

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02-03 Jan 2026

AMER



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AicQoL2026

14th AMER International Conference on Quality of Life

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Indonesia, 02-03 Jan 2026

Editor

Mohamed Yusoff Abbas

Acknowledgement

The organiser, Association of Malaysian Environment-Behaviour Researchers (AMER), wishes to extend their gratitude to the many that made this conference possible. In particular, the Abstract contributors.

Thank you all !

Foreword

This 14th AMER International Conference on Quality of Life (AicQoL2026) being held at the Sunlake Waterfront Resort & Convention, Jakarta, Indonesia, is organised by AMER (Association of Malaysian Environment-Behaviour Researchers). It marked AMER's 52nd WoS-indexed international conference to be organised, which is fully managed by AMER's subsidiary, emAs (AMER Event Management & Services) under emAs emAs Resources

The Game Changer 2021 (#GC2021) initiated in early 2021 whereby it is compulsory for contributions from Malaysia to include international co-authors, is to increase our publications to be contributed by multi-national authors. We believe that initiative would tremendously increase the chances for our publications to be indexed by more reputable indexing bodies, such as Scopus. As such, commencing 2021 only multi-national authored contributions from Malaysia shall be accepted for publications.

AicQoL2026Jakarta managed to attract an overall total of 49 numbers of approved abstracts, of which authors from 10 countries contributed. Majority of the abstracts were in collaboration with Malaysian authors. The most were together with Indonesia (26 numbers / 60%); followed by China (7 numbers); Philippines (3), Thailand (2), and Iran, New Zealand, Nigeria, Turkey, and USA (1 each)

The abstracts approved were simply grouped generally under 18 sub-categories, although quite a number could have been easily placed under more than one category. The top three categories in order of popularity involved the Health / Healing Environment (HE), with 10 numbers, followed by Educational / Learning Environment (ELE) with 8, and Design / Creative Environment (DCE) and Tourism . Hospitality Environment with 5 each.

Hopefully this conference will inspire and encourage more researchers to participate in our forthcoming serial conferences.

Thanks again for your continuous support and contributions as always, and hope for an enlightening conference!

Looking forward.

Mohamed Yusoff Abbas, PhD.
Chair
AicQoL2026Jakarta, 02-03 Jan 2026
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About the Conference

Background

The AMER (ABRA*malaysia*) support for the AcE-Bs and AicE-Bs conferences, initially organised by the Centre for Environment-Behaviour Studies (cE-Bs), FSPU, UiTM, Malaysia, and co-hosted by international colleagues within the Environment-Behaviour (EB) disciplines, have been held and planned to be away from Malaysia, worldwide. There is a need for an annual serial internationally very relevant behavioural-themed conference in/nearby Malaysia, not only for the benefit of AMER / ABRA local members who could not participate at the AcE-Bs and AicE-Bs conferences being held worldwide, but also for potential international participants who would like to present their papers in/nearby Malaysia. What behavioural-themed can be most relevant affecting all nations than the QoL (Quality of Life)?

Thus, the timely and relevance of the Annual Serial Landmark International (ASLI) Conferences on QoL, back-to-back. The **AicQoL**, *AMER International Conference on Quality of Life*. shall be held at the ASEAN venues, while the **AQoL**, *ABRA International Conference on Quality of Life* shall be held in non-ASEAN countries. AicQoL is also strategized to coincide with AMER's AGMs. The anchor theme of the conference is "*Quality of Life in the Built & Natural Environment*".

Thus far, the AicQoL conferences organised were as follows: -

- 1st AicQoL2013Langkawi, Malaysia, 06-08 Apr 2013
- 2nd AicQoL2014Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 04-05 Jan 2014
- 3rd AicQoL2015Jakarta, Indonesia, 25 – 27 Apr 2015
- 4th AicQoL2016Medan, Indonesia, 25 – 27 Feb 2016
- 5th AicQoL2017Bangkok, Thailand, 25-27Feb 2017
- 6th AicQoL2018PerhentianIsland, Malaysia, 03-04 Mar 2018
- 7th AicQoL2019Bali, Indonesia, 16-17 Feb 2019
- 8th AicQoL2020Malacca, Malaysia, 18-19 Mar 2020 (Virtual due to C-19)
- 9th AicQoL2021BukitTinggi, Malaysia, 17-18 Mar 2021 (1st Hybrid)
- 10th AicQoL2022Penang, Malaysia, 16-17 Mar 2022
- 11th AicQoL2023Bangkok, Thailand, 28-30 Apr 2023
- 12th AicQoL2024KotaKinabalu, Malaysia, 26-28 Jan 2024
- 13th AicQoL2025Pangkor, Malaysia, 17-18 Jan 2025

14th AMER International Conference on Quality of Life, Sunlake Waterfront Resort & Convention, Jakarta, Indonesia, 02-03 Jan 2026

The conference focuses on current Quality of Life issues affecting the Asian/African/Arabian communities in both their countries and nons. Issues affecting other communities are also most welcomed.

Paper presenters are allowed to either present F2F or virtually. However, only those who present F2F shall be in the running for the Best Paper awards, amounting to more than cash MYR 10,500.00 with the grand prize of cash MYR 3,000.00 for THE Best Paper.

The e-IPH, UK published both the Abstract Book (eISBN 978-1-913576-20-2), and the Proceeding in the E-BPJ (Environment-Behaviour Proceedings Journal), eISSN 2398-4287, 10(34) Nov 2025, issue. Currently, the E-BPJ is indexed in Clavirate Analytics Web of Science (WoS). Extended versions of the selected papers shall be published as freely accessible articles, online, in our other international journals –ajE-Bs or jABs, @ no publication charges.

Conference Tracks

Paper contributions involved the following environments (though not exhaustive): -

Children / Youth Environment;
Climatic Environment
Commercial/Retail/Services Environment;
Communication / Social Media Environment;
Community Environment / Social Psychology;
Construction Environment;
Design & Creative Environment;
Educational / Learning Environment;
Elderly Environment;
Energy Environment;
General Psychology;
Green Environment;
Healthcare / Healing Environment;
Hospitality / Tourism Environment;
ICT Environment
Inclusive Environment;
Landscaping Environment;
Legal Matters;
Leisure / Recreational / Sports Environment;
Local Cultural / Heritage Environment (Food included);
Management & Production Environment;
Natural Environment;
Policy Matters
Public Sector Environment,
Residential Environment;
Rural Environment / Rural Psychology;
Sustainable Environment;
Technology-related Environment;
Transportation / Travelling Environment;
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Artificial Intelligence Environment

A 01
AIE 001

Technology Acceptance of Generative AI Tools among Creative Arts Students

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies are becoming increasingly prevalent and have already impacted people's lives in several ways, such as improving manufacturing processes and workflows, along with the creation of new job opportunities. Therefore, it is not surprising that many countries, including Malaysia, are racing to adopt AI technology and firmly believe it will create numerous opportunities for their economies. Apparently, one of its models, known as generative AI, has been receiving wide attention, especially from the creative art society. In this sense, the tools can revolutionise creative arts education by offering individualised learning experiences, enhancing creativity, and equipping students with appropriate skills that meet industry standards. This is partly due to its amazing capabilities in creating creative content, such as text, images, video, or music, by learning patterns from existing data. Despite this, some arts educators remain sceptical, suggesting that excessive reliance on these tools may impede students' digital literacy and their ability to meet industry standards. This study examines the

acceptance of generative AI tools among creative arts students through the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). TAM evaluates Perceived Ease of Use (PEOU), Perceived Usefulness (PU), Attitudes Toward Use (ATU), Behavioural Intentions to Use (BIU), and Actual Use (AU) to offer comprehensive information about students' acceptance of this technology. A total of 133 creative arts students from six UiTM branches participated in the study. The results demonstrate that Perceived Usefulness (PU) strongly mediates the relationship between Perceived Ease of Use (PEOU) and Attitude Toward Use (ATU). Additionally, Attitude Toward Use (ATU) mediates the effects of Perceived Usefulness (PU), Perceived Ease of Use (PEOU), and Behavioural Intention (BI) toward Generative AI tools. These findings indicate a high level of acceptance of generative AI tools among UiTM creative arts students. Art educators are encouraged to integrate generative AI tools into their teaching practices in order to capitalise on this acceptance.

Keywords: Creative arts, Generative AI tools, Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)

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Children / Youth Environment

A 02 CYE 001

Aesthetic Integration in Children's Calligraphy: Teachers' and experts' perspectives

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Abstract

Calligraphy has long been regarded as a cornerstone of Chinese cultural heritage, embodying both artistic expression and moral cultivation. However, in contemporary primary education, calligraphy teaching often emphasizes mechanical skill training while neglecting the cultivation of aesthetic sensitivity and cultural understanding. This imbalance highlights the urgent need to integrate aesthetic education principles into traditional calligraphy instruction for children. Within this context, the present qualitative study seeks to explore how aesthetic values can be effectively incorporated into calligraphy pedagogy for elementary-aged learners.

The study aims to investigate the perspectives of teachers and experts on the integration of aesthetic education in children's calligraphy, and to identify the key pedagogical strategies, challenges, and enabling conditions for developing an innovative teaching module. Specifically, its objectives are to determine how

teachers implement aesthetic principles in classroom practice, to examine the perceived barriers to effective instruction, and to establish expert recommendations for improving curriculum design and teacher training.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with five participants—two experienced primary school calligraphy teachers and three university-level calligraphy education experts. The collected data were thematically analyzed to identify recurring themes and relationships. The study revealed that teachers emphasize differentiated instruction according to age and ability, incorporating local cultural themes and interactive activities such as festival-related writing to engage students. Both teachers and experts identified challenges such as limited instructional time, students' short attention spans, and insufficient teaching resources. The experts further underscored the necessity of adopting modern pedagogies, cross-disciplinary approaches, and enhanced professional development for teachers.

A key limitation of this study lies in its small and context-specific sample size, which may limit the generalizability of findings. Nevertheless, the results provide valuable insights into the pedagogical potential of integrating aesthetics into children's calligraphy education. The findings imply that sustainable improvement requires well-designed teaching modules, institutional support, and policy initiatives that position calligraphy as a vehicle for both aesthetic cultivation and cultural transmission. The study concludes by recommending future research on the design, implementation, and evaluation of aesthetic-based calligraphy teaching models.

Keywords: Aesthetic Education; Calligraphy Pedagogy; Children's Learning Environment; Teaching Module Design

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A 03 CYE 002

Suitability of Music-based Items for Identifying Giftedness in Children at a STEM Camp

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Abstract

Gifted identification in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is still dominated by traditional paper-and-pencil and reasoning tests, which may overlook children who express advanced patterning, memory, and problem-solving skills through music. Emerging models of multimodal assessment propose music-based tasks as one avenue to surface such strengths, yet empirical evidence from children's own perspectives remains limited, particularly in Asian contexts. This study contributes pilot evidence from a Malaysian STEM camp with a music specialisation, examining both the psychometric qualities of music-based items and their acceptability to the intended beneficiaries, primary school pupils, and to inform the design of more inclusive, multimodal gifted screening tools. The study aimed to investigate pupils' perceptions of the suitability, fairness and meaningfulness of music-based items used within a gifted identification framework at a STEM camp. The study sought to (a) describe participants' ratings of music-STEM integration, self-reported musical aptitude and the suitability of music-based identification items,

(b) establish the internal consistency of these subscales, and (c) determine the relationships between them and overall programme perceptions. A cross-sectional survey was administered to 62 primary school pupils (aged approximately 11 years) attending a gifted Malaysian STEM camp at a science academy in Malaysia. Pupils completed a 20-item Likert-type questionnaire comprising general programme items and 15 music-related items grouped into three subscales. Descriptive statistics, Cronbach's alpha and Pearson correlations were computed. Findings derive from a single, self-selected camp cohort, rely on self-report data without an external criterion of giftedness, and are cross-sectional in nature, which limits generalizability and causal inference. Pupils reported generally positive views of music-based tasks ($M \approx 3.6\text{--}4.0$ on a 5-point scale). Internal consistency was good for music-STEM integration ($\alpha \approx .83$), musical aptitude ($\alpha \approx .83$) and perceived suitability of music items ($\alpha \approx .87$). Perceived suitability correlated strongly with music-STEM integration ($r \approx .84$) and musical aptitude ($r \approx .74$), and moderately with overall programme perceptions ($r \approx .50$). These results suggest that music-based items are both psychometrically promising and acceptable to pupils as part of a broader gifted identification process in STEM settings. Future work should refine task design, examine fairness across subgroups and link music-based indicators to independent measures of gifted performance.

Keywords: Gifted Identification; Music-Based Assessment; STEM Education; Music Education

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Commercial/Retail/Services Environment

A 04 CRSE 001

Elucidating the Theory of Dark Data Management based on Malaysian SMEs Practices

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Abstract

Dark data (DD) refers to information assets that are collected and stored by organizations but remain unused for other purposes, particularly for analytics and monetization. DD drowned in the organizational repository, whether virtual or physical, and its existence could result in weakened data safety, increased search costs, and wasteful storage costs in organizational operational expenses. This recognized gaps in the literature, which revealed that DD publication or research is often limited to large business firms and academic institutions; therefore, this research focuses on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Malaysia. The major intention is to study the phenomenon of DD among SMEs and to develop a theory of dark data. The Grounded Theory Methodology (GTM) was used using Straussian procedures, which aligned with constructivist philosophy. The data collection process was conducted using a semi-structured interview schedule with 18 SMEs across Malaysia, encompassing multiple sectors and varying enterprise sizes.

Theoretical sampling was employed to refine the emerging theory identified during the study. The theory developed in this study is limited to the results based on only 18 SMEs in Malaysia, using interview data collected and analyzed using GTM. Moreover, this research is limited to investigating why and how DD is being managed by SMEs. Major findings indicate that the accumulation of DD is contributed to by the Data Crisis, characterized by data abundance, a lack of data skills, and failing infrastructures. The phenomenon of DD itself consists of various shades of data, including black and grey data. Each was differentiated by its accessibility and usability. The research also found that SMEs manage dark data using caretaking strategies, modeled as the Dark Data Lifecycle Management (DDLm), comprising six continuous stages: specialized caretakers, collection, organization, use, data mining, and appraisal. These stages are supported by elements of enabling attributes, which include technology, skills (such as ICT and data skills), security, and control mechanisms. In the end, the goal of managing the DD is to suppress dark data, which supports mitigating threats, lighting up dark data (increasing discoverability), and securing competitiveness. Finally, the Theory of Dark Data Management is proposed, which is constructed based on 6 conditional paradigms suggested by Strauss and Corbin.

Keywords: Dark Data; Small and Medium Enterprise; Dark Data Management theory; Data Crisis

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Communication / Social Media Environment

A 05 CSME 002

Determinants and Impact of Online Social Interaction on Online Buying Decision Behavior

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Abstract

Businesses are now shifting from brick and mortar to e-commerce. Many offline brick and mortar businesses are slowly moving to online business and those who are not in the online commerce business will be forced to change to online. The advances of e-commerce have provided a platform for businesses to customize their product and service information to the consumer (Udo and Marquis, 2002). E-commerce allows businesses to establish a market presence to enhance an existing market position by providing a cheaper and more efficient distribution chain for their products or services (Josephine Nava- Macali, 2016). The Malaysian retail market is gearing up to make the best of e-commerce. At the virtual Malaysian Property Summit 2021, Sunway Malls and Theme Park chief executive officer HC Chan said that the local retail sector will be spurred by private consumption drivers such as continuing fiscal support and pent-up spending. According to the Statistics Department of Malaysia, income from e-commerce transactions recorded RM896.4bil in 2020, an increase of 32.7% compared to 2019 (RM675.4bil). The Star stated that the recorded e-commerce transactions in the first quarter of 2021

stood at RM254.6bil, which was a year-on-year increase of 30% (www.theStar.com, 2021). In 2021, 80 percent of Malaysia's population are active Internet users (27.4 million) and mobile phone penetration is high (84.2 percent). As of January 2021, there are 28 million social media users and 39.99 million mobile connections in Malaysia. In 2020, Malaysia's mobile e-commerce was valued at a \$4.9 billion market, a sharp increase from \$4.5 billion in 2019. The market is set to accelerate further at a compound annual growth rate of 19.7% in 2023. Therefore, this study is motivated by the need to establish a model covering online social interaction and buying behavior. Studies on buying behavior related to consumer experience are increasing attention to e-commerce environments. Most prior studies, however have still relied on models developed from studies of pre-adoptive and post adoptive information system (IS). The main aim of this study is to investigate the concept of online social interaction on e-commerce websites and identify their relationship with online consumer website commitment and online buying decision behavior. Findings indicate consumer review and social referral has a positive effect and significant factors on online consumer website commitment and buying decision behavior.

Keywords: online social interaction; consumer review; social referral; electronic word of mouth

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A 06 CSME 001

Principles for Designing an Online Grammar Game: A Fuzzy Delphi validation

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Abstract

This study explores how the Theory of Variation (ToV) can guide the design of grammar tasks for online games that teach the Present Perfect and Present Perfect Progressive tenses. Many learners struggle to understand the difference between these two tenses because they involve time, completion, and ongoing action. By applying the ToV principles—contrast, separation, generalization, and fusion—the study demonstrates how grammar questions can be arranged to help learners notice important patterns and make more precise comparisons between the two forms. The research builds on previous work involving online grammar games and aims to provide a more structured approach to designing tasks that focus on tense and aspect. In this study, a set of proposed design principles was prepared based on ToV. These principles guided the writing of items, the arrangement of examples, and the highlighting of variations between the two tenses to support meaningful learning. To assess the suitability of these principles, the Fuzzy Delphi Method (FDM) was employed to gather expert consensus. Five specialists in English Language Teaching reviewed the proposed elements using a seven-point Likert

scale. Their responses were analysed using triangular fuzzy numbers and defuzzification to determine the level of consensus. The results show strong agreement among the experts: the overall consensus level is above 75%, the threshold value (d) is 0.2, and the α -cut value is above 0.5. These findings suggest that the principles are valid and can be used reliably in designing grammar tasks for online learning. The study contributes to the development of online grammar materials by demonstrating how ToV can be applied practically and how expert validation enhances the quality of the design. It also demonstrates that combining ToV with FDM can produce clearer, more effective grammar activities for digital platforms. The paper concludes with recommendations for extending the same validation process to other tense-aspect modules, such as the Past Perfect and Present Perfect Continuous in real-life use, and mixed-tense practice. Future work may also involve testing learner performance and integrating the validated principles into complete digital game prototypes.

Keywords: Fuzzy Delphi, Grammar learning, Present Perfect Progressive, Present Perfect, Theory of Variation.

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Design / Creative Environment

A 07 DCE 003

Digital Reconstruction of Ancient Chinese Wedding Attire

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Abstract

Ancient Chinese wedding attire boasts a history of over a thousand years, undergoing a long process of development and transformation from the Zhou Dynasty to the Ming Dynasty. Over time, distinct forms and systems gradually emerged. Based on different historical periods, ancient Chinese wedding attire can be broadly divided into three representative styles: The Zhou dynasty style, The Tang, and The Ming dynasty style. Wedding attire of the Zhou Dynasty was predominantly black, embodying a solemn and dignified aesthetic that influenced marriage garments prior to the Tang period. In the Tang Dynasty, wedding attire was known as "Dianchai Liyi", named after the magnificent headdresses worn by aristocratic women during marriage ceremonies. This style exuded visual elegance and luxurious splendour. By the Ming Dynasty, the characteristic "Fengguan Xiapei" became the defining feature of bridal attire and later served as a lasting model for subsequent generations. The evolutionary trajectory of these garments reflects the spirit and aesthetic essence of Chinese ritual culture. As an important component of human cultural heritage, wedding attire not only carries profound cultural connotations but also mirrors social structures, class distinctions, and evolving aesthetic preferences, thereby possessing significant historical research value. As a symbol of traditional Chinese culture, wedding attire shaped the characteristics of Chinese wedding customs throughout history and profoundly influenced marriage

rituals and etiquette norms in Chinese society. Meanwhile, its unique aesthetic concepts also impacted the wedding traditions of other East Asian regions and gradually gained recognition worldwide, becoming an important element of global wedding culture. With the continuous discovery of wedding attire artifacts from various dynasties, the study of ancient Chinese wedding garments has grown increasingly valuable. Therefore, this paper integrates digital technology with costume archaeology to conduct three-dimensional digital reconstructions of the three major forms of ancient Chinese wedding attire. This approach aims to more comprehensively present their developmental process while providing new perspectives and methodologies for research on ancient Chinese wedding culture and its global significance.

Keywords: Ancient Chinese wedding attire, historical evolution, archaeological research, digital reconstruction

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**A 08
DCE 004**

Impact of Evidence-Based Practice Pedagogical Strategies on Medical Students' Information Literacy: Mediating role of information-seeking behavior

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Abstract

Background: Information literacy is essential for medical students to critically assess clinical evidence and advance their professional development, particularly in educational settings with limited technological resources.

Significance: With the growing integration of technology in medical education, understanding how evidence-based practice pedagogical strategies influence students' information literacy has become crucial for improving curriculum design and instructional approaches.

Aim: This study explores how evidence-based practice pedagogical strategies affect the development of medical students' information literacy through information-seeking behavior within the context of medical education in underserved areas of China.

Objectives: To identify how pedagogical strategies influence information literacy development in medical students and to establish the relationship between information-seeking behavior and information literacy development.

Methods: A cross-sectional survey was conducted with 330 fifth-year clinical medicine students from a medical university in western China. All participants had completed clinical internships and received evidence-based medicine training. The proposed model was empirically tested using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM).

Limitations: The cross-sectional design limits the ability to infer causal relationships. Additionally, the sample is limited to one medical university in western China, which may affect the generalizability of the findings.

Findings: Evidence-based practice pedagogical strategies significantly influenced students' information-seeking behavior ($\beta=0.493$, $p<0.001$) and directly impacted information literacy development ($\beta=0.227$, $p<0.001$). Information-seeking behavior significantly enhanced students' information literacy competencies ($\beta=0.351$, $p<0.001$) and fully mediated the relationship between pedagogical strategies and information literacy development ($\beta=0.173$, $p<0.001$).

Implications: These findings provide empirical support for applying social cognitive theory in medical education and offer practical guidance for curriculum design and implementing instructional technologies that foster information literacy development in resource-limited settings.

Keywords: Information literacy, Evidence-based practice, medical education, SCT theory

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A 09
DCE 005

SSFF MorphoMap: A hybrid method for speculative futures using projection-mapped boards

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Abstract

Architectural representation has long relied on static boards, which, although valued for their clarity, legibility, and established role in design communication, remain inherently constrained in conveying dynamic systems, temporal progressions, and speculative possibilities. These boards freeze complex ideas into fixed snapshots, often failing to capture the evolving nature of spatial, environmental, and social conditions. While projection mapping has increasingly entered creative and architectural environments, its application frequently remains superficial, serving as a visual embellishment rather than a meaningful representational or analytical device. This limitation underscores a broader gap in how architects communicate layered, time-based, and future-oriented concepts. Responding to this gap, the study introduces SSFF MorphoMap, a hybrid method developed within the Strategic Speculative Futures Framework (SSFF). MorphoMap repositions projection mapping as a speculative storytelling instrument by layering dynamic digital content

onto static boards. This integration transforms conventional boards into responsive representational surfaces capable of illustrating scenario-building, systemic interdependencies, environmental behaviours, and immersive narrative trajectories. The approach aims to blend the material certainty of traditional architectural drawings with the fluidity and temporality of digital foresight. To investigate the effectiveness of this hybrid representational medium, the study employs a design-based qualitative methodology incorporating autoethnographic reflection, iterative prototyping, and scenario-based testing. This combination enables a situated examination of how MorphoMap is experienced, interpreted, and interacted with across different speculative contexts. Findings demonstrate that SSFF MorphoMap significantly improves the comprehension of complex spatial and systemic ideas by visualising transitions, relationships, and temporal shifts that static boards alone cannot communicate. The method also deepens narrative and temporal immersion, prompting stronger conceptual engagement and encouraging audiences to think in terms of futures rather than fixed outcomes. The dynamic layering and participatory nature of MorphoMap expand the representational repertoire available to both designers and educators. These qualities support systematic, futures-oriented thinking by allowing users to navigate multiple trajectories of architectural change and explore the consequences of different speculative scenarios. Academically, the study contributes to emerging discourse on hybrid representational strategies in architectural futures inquiry. Practically, it demonstrates that integrating traditional presentation methods with digital foresight technologies can enrich design education and professional practice by igniting imagination, fostering critical exploration, and enabling more nuanced interpretations of future spatial conditions.

Keywords: Projection Mapping; Speculative Storytelling; Architectural Representation; Strategic Speculative Futures Framework (SSFF)

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A 10 DCE 002

Visual Content Analysis in Art and Design: A case study of Malaysia's National Day Logo

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Abstract

Visual analysis in art and design research often lacks a systematic, transparent, and replicable methodology aligned with creative practice. Existing approaches frequently rely on frameworks adapted from other disciplines, leaving a gap in structured procedures for critically examining visual artefacts while integrating formal design principles and interpretive meaning. This study addresses this gap by introducing a visual content analysis methodology tailored for art and design research, applying Rose's (2016) Four-Step Visual Content Analysis Framework to the Malaysia National Day logo. The study aims to explore a methodologically

approach for examining visual objects through a design lens. The objective of this research is to determine analytical techniques in design that incorporate both formal and interpretive aspects of visual communication. A qualitative content analysis was employed to examine six logos, purposefully selected as representative cases from six major design evolution phases identified by Hashim (2023), spanning 1976 to 2020. These phases include complex traditional compositions (1976–1978), geometric static designs (1979–1993), organic minimalism (1994–1998), politically influenced slogans (2000–2006; 2009–2011), the publicly debated 2012 logo, and contemporary digital aesthetics (2013–2020). The analysis followed Rose's four-step process of image selection, coding, categorization, and interpretation to uncover recurring themes, symbolic motifs, and design strategies.

Findings reveal a clear progression in visual design and national messaging. Early logos (1976–1986) emphasized traditional symbols, symmetrical layouts, and serif typography, conveying unity, resilience, and institutional authority. Logos from the 1990s onward incorporated organic forms, floral motifs, and minimalist aesthetics to reflect inclusiveness and modernization. Politically motivated designs, including the 2006 slogan-based logo, illustrate strategic use of visual elements for narrative-driven national branding. The 2012 logo highlighted public critique of design lacking cultural resonance, while the 2020 logo restored emotional clarity with heart-shaped, symbolically rich visuals, reflecting unity and healing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Across all logos, color, typography, shape, and symbolism evolved to reflect Malaysia's sociopolitical trajectory and cultural identity. This study confirms that Malaysia National Day logos function as cultural artifacts conveying national narratives, political intentions, and social values. Rose's framework proved effective in combining systematic visual analysis with interpretive insight, demonstrating the importance of structured methodologies in art and design research and providing a foundation for future exploration in national branding, visual communication, and cultural studies.

Keywords: visual content analysis, Malaysia National Day logo, art and design methodology, Rose's four-step framework.

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A 11 DCE 001

Watch and Learn in Signs: Interpreting signs in textile motifs for interior design application

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Abstract

layers of cultural meaning, aesthetic expression, and symbolic identity. Beyond visual appeal, traditional textile motifs often carry deep narratives that reflect the beliefs, values, and worldviews of the communities that produced them. However, integrating these culturally embedded signs and symbols into contemporary interior environments presents several critical issues related to interpretation, cultural sensitivity, and the appropriate application of design. As globalization, commercial trends, and modern design preferences continue to reshape the use of traditional motifs, concerns arise regarding the misreading of symbols, the dilution of authentic meanings, and the potential misuse of culturally significant or sacred imagery. The

objective of this study is to investigate the symbolic meanings contained in some traditional textile patterns and how these patterns affect the visual, cultural, and experiential qualities of interior spaces. Through qualitative analysis—including motif interpretation, cultural contextualization, and design relevance assessment—the research explores how symbolic elements function as communicative tools that connect occupants to cultural heritage and spatial identity. The study identifies several challenges: the tendency for contemporary designers or consumers to misinterpret motifs due to a lack of cultural literacy; the loss of symbolic significance when motifs are over-commercialized or adapted solely for decorative purposes; and ethical concerns regarding the appropriation of culturally restricted or sacred symbols in interior styling. Findings from the analysis emphasize the necessity for designers to engage in culturally informed practices that respect the origins and meanings of traditional motifs. This includes developing an understanding of symbolic language, acknowledging the cultural narratives associated with the motifs, and ensuring design decisions align with ethical, contextual, and aesthetic considerations. The study argues that responsible interpretation of textile symbols can enhance interior aesthetics while simultaneously supporting cultural continuity, identity preservation, and meaningful spatial experiences. Ultimately, this study contributes to broader discussions on cultural sustainability in interior design by demonstrating the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with contemporary design methods. It underscores the role of textile ornamentation not merely as decoration, but as a valuable cultural asset that, when interpreted appropriately, enriches interior environments with depth, authenticity, and heritage-informed design values.

Keywords: Signs; Textile Motifs; Interior Design; Semiotics

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Educational / Learning Environment

A 12 ELE 010

Adversity Quotient (AQ) Profiling among Polytechnic Students from Rasch Logit Setting

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Abstract

Adversity Quotient (AQ) refers to an individual's resilience and capacity to handle setbacks, challenges, and adversities effectively. The principal limitation of the existing profiling approach is that the data presentation accuracy is questionable; it is limited to ordinal data types rather than interval data. Hence, the objective is to develop a profile of AQ among polytechnic students based on demographic status (gender, year of study, type of programme, and polytechnic zone location) using Rasch logit setting. Four constructs in AQ, namely Control, Ownership, Reach, and Endurance, were measured. The survey used a quantitative approach with a total of 1,845 respondents from five polytechnics using a proportionate stratified multistage cluster sampling technique. The Rasch logit setting with the final 66 items of AQ analyses using the Winsteps software. Findings revealed that the AQ norm of female respondents was higher ($M = 1.699$; $SP = 0.940$) than that of males ($M = 1.472$; $SP = 0.904$). The norm of first-year respondents was higher ($M = 3.2314$; $SP = 0.2722$) compared to second-year ($M = 3.2067$; $SP = 0.2535$) and third-year ($M = 3.2178$; $SP = 0.2717$). Besides, AQ norms in the Department of

Marine Engineering program respondents were the highest ($M = 1.899$; $SP = 0.918$) compared to the Department of Electrical Engineering respondents ($M = 1.479$; $SP = 0.913$), who reported the lowest. Respondents in the western zone polytechnic ($M = 1.711$; $SP = 0.855$) had the highest norm, while those in the northern zone polytechnic ($M = 1.456$; $SP = 0.983$) had the lowest norm. This study advances the Rasch logit setting as a robust technique to measure AQ for the profiling purpose. The most important limitation lies in the fact that respondents only covered certain polytechnic students. Another important practical implication is that even though the Rasch logit was still unpopular in terms of statistical implementation, it can be a better approach for enhancing the accuracy of data presentation. Future research should extend the application of the Rasch logit model to broader educational contexts. Not only for profiling purposes but also for enhancing assessment validity, supporting longitudinal analyses of learning outcomes, and guiding evidence-based educational interventions.

Keywords: Profiling; Adversity quotient; Rasch logit; Polytechnic students

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A 13 ELE 005

Composing Strategies as Environment-Shaped Behaviour: A sociocultural theory model

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Abstract

Academic writing today is no longer viewed as an activity done alone by a single writer. Instead, teaching practices increasingly highlight collaborative writing tasks that encourage students to work together, share ideas, and discuss their writing processes. Writing is understood as an interactive act that involves the writer and the text, as well as the text and its readers. Because of this emphasis on interaction, the present study is grounded in sociocultural theory, which focuses on how learning takes place through social engagement and support from others. The purpose of this study is to examine a predictive model of the composing process using sociocultural principles. To do this, the researchers used an instrument that measures academic writing strategies. A total of 104 university students participated in the study; all were enrolled in a semester-long academic writing course at a public institution. The data collected from these students were analyzed using SmartPLS, a software tool used to test predictive models, in order to determine how well sociocultural factors explain the composing process. The results show that three sociocultural elements such as Social Interaction, the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD), and More Knowledgeable Others (MKO) are significantly related to the composing process. This means that students' writing

development is strongly supported by working with peers, receiving guidance from those with more expertise, and learning within a supportive developmental zone. However, the study also found that Language and Culture did not have a significant relationship with the composing process in this research context. Effect size analysis provided further insight into the strength of these relationships. The connections between the composing process and Social Interaction, ZPD, MKO, and Language were found to be large, suggesting that these variables have considerable influence. Meanwhile, the relationship between the composing process and Culture showed a medium effect size, indicating a moderate level of impact. In conclusion, the importance of this study lies in creating and validating a model of the composing process based on sociocultural theory. This model highlights how writing is shaped by social engagement and guided learning, offering useful implications for teaching academic writing in ways that better support students' development.

Keywords: composing, sociocultural, social interaction, language

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A 14 ELE 001

Current Trend of AI in Higher Education Self-Directed ESL/EFL: An activity theory approach

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Abstract

Digital innovation is transforming education globally, with AI emerging as a pivotal force in reshaping higher education. In the ESL/EFL domain, AI-driven tools show promise in fostering learner autonomy and linguistic proficiency, highlighting the need for critical evaluation of AI's role in self-directed learning environments. Guided by Engeström's expanded Activity Theory, this review investigates the integration of AI in self-directed ESL/EFL within higher education, positioning learner autonomy as the central object in a dynamic, tool-mediated activity system. The research objectives include exploring current research trends, identifying prominent AI tools, and determining their effectiveness in enhancing self-directed learning skills among ESL/EFL learners. The review analysed 76 empirical studies (2020–2025) from Scopus, Web of Science, and Education Research Complete@EBSCOhost, selected using PRISMA 2020 to ensure rigor and relevance. Findings reveal a sharp increase in AI-supported self-directed ESL/EFL research from 2023 onward, with China leading global contributions and EFL

dominating disciplinary focus. This reflects growing academic interest and iterative improvements in AI integration. AI-powered chatbots, particularly ChatGPT, dominate usage, supported by structured educational ecosystems involving learners, instructors, and developers. Additional tools such as Duolingo, Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), Automated Writing Evaluation (AWE), and translation tools enhance learners' learning across diverse contexts. Effectiveness assessments consistently indicate neutral to positive perceptions, underscoring the contextual value of AI in promoting self-directed ESL/EFL. Building on these findings, the study outlines strategic interventions to address key challenges, close existing gaps, and enhance the pedagogical impact of AI tools in self-directed ESL/EFL. These proposed strategies offer a valuable foundation for future investigations aimed at refining AI integration, advancing learner autonomy, and informing context-sensitive educational practices across diverse ESL/EFL settings. However, this review is limited to recent peer-reviewed English-language journal articles in higher education. Future research should expand the range of sources and educational levels to uncover transferable strategies and deepen understanding of AI-supported self-directed ESL/EFL. The study's implication lies in its support for pedagogical innovation by highlighting trending AI tools and instructional practices that guide ESL/EFL instructors toward more effective, goal-aligned integration strategies.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence; active theory; English; self-directed

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A 15 ELE 007

Impact of Evidence-Based Practice on Medical Students' Information Literacy

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Abstract

Information literacy is vital for medical students to critically evaluate clinical information and advance their careers, particularly in high-tech educational environments. However, the precise impact of teaching methods on the development of information literacy remains unclear. Understanding how evidence-based practice teaching methods influence information literacy through information-seeking behaviors is essential for improving medical curriculum design and integrating educational technologies effectively into medical education. This study investigated the connection between evidence-based teaching methods and the growth of information literacy among clinical medical students in China's disadvantaged areas. The objectives were to determine how environmental factors (pedagogical strategies) influence personal factors (information-seeking behavior) in shaping behavioral outcomes (information literacy skills), to establish the mediating role of information-seeking behavior in this relationship, and to identify the direct and indirect effects of pedagogical strategies on information literacy development. This cross-sectional study employed a comprehensive model

grounded in social cognitive theory. The research was conducted with fifth-year clinical medicine students from a medical university in Ningxia, western China, who had completed clinical internships and received evidence-based medicine training. Data were collected from 330 students through convenience sampling. Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) was utilized to test the proposed theoretical model. The convenience sampling method and single-institution setting may limit generalizability, and the cross-sectional design precludes causal inferences. The findings revealed that evidence-based practice pedagogical strategies significantly impacted information-seeking behavior ($\beta = 0.493$, $p < 0.001$) and directly influenced information literacy development ($\beta = 0.227$, $p < 0.001$). Information-seeking behavior significantly enhanced students' information literacy skills ($\beta = 0.351$, $p < 0.001$), demonstrating a partial mediating effect ($\beta = 0.173$, $p < 0.001$) on the relationship between pedagogical strategies and information literacy development. This study provides empirical support for applying social cognitive theory in medical education contexts, highlighting information-seeking behavior as a critical bridge between pedagogical strategies and information literacy outcomes. Findings suggest that curriculum designers should prioritize technology-enhanced pedagogical approaches that actively promote information-seeking behaviors to optimize information literacy development in medical education.

Keywords: Information literacy; Evidence-based practice; Medical education; SCT theory

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A 16 ELE 004

Exploring Non-Optional Teacher's Needs on Mnemonics Teaching Module in Samarahan

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Abstract

When it comes to teaching basic musical notation, especially non-optional music teachers, it remains challenging for them. This is because of the lack of formal music education training, resulting in low confidence teaching, restricted pedagogical approach, and difficulties in students' comprehension in learning musical notation. Mnemonics strategies were known for their capability to strengthen memory and have a strong potential to support both teachers and students. However, developing a successful mnemonics-based module requires a clear understanding of teachers' real needs and classroom constraints. Therefore, this research was to explore the instructional needs of non-optional music teachers in developing a mnemonics-based module for teaching basic musical notation recognition in the Samarahan district in Sarawak. The main objective in this research is to identify teachers' perceptions towards mnemonics-based methods; to determine the challenges they face in teaching basic music notation, and to establish the types of pedagogical support necessary for developing an effective module. This quantitative research was conducted with 30 non-optional primary music teachers, who completed a 28-item questionnaire based on Rossett's Training Needs Assessment Model. Findings shows that high needs in Optimal

Performances ($M = 3.97$) and Solutions ($M = 4.17$), indicating that teachers acknowledge importance of teaching basic musical notation and strongly desire structured mnemonics-based teaching module. A moderate level of means was found in Actual Performances ($M = 3.36$), Feelings ($M = 3.64$, and Causes and Barriers ($M = 3.03$), suggesting gaps in teachers' confidence, mnemonics-based familiarity, and access to suitable instructional materials. A limitation of this study was that the teachers were limited to one district, resulting in a relatively small sample size, which may influence the generalizability of the findings. This research provides critical insights and a stable foundation needed in designing a practical, user-friendly teaching module tailored to the needs of non-optional music teachers. The findings will also benefit the next phase of research. The essential findings reported will support the development of systematic modules, expert validation, and classroom implementation to improve basic music notation teaching and learning.

Keywords: Need analysis; Mnemonics; Music notation; Non-optional teachers

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A 17
ELE 008

**Home–School Partnership Model for
Accelerating Malaysia B40 pupils’ Literacy
and Numeracy Skills**

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Abstract

Home School Partnerships (HSP) serve as a vital strategy to enhance early multilingual literacy (Malay, English, Tamil, Chinese) and numeracy (MLN) skills among Stage 1 (Years 1-3) pupils, particularly from lower-income (B40) households in Malaysia. Two studies on parental involvement in the Malaysian context include (i) Smart Partnership in Reading in English (SPIRE) project, which involved parents reading printed English storybooks; (ii) Multilingual Mobile Storybook Reader (MMSR) project, which involved families reading multilingual e-storybooks on mobile devices, found positive correlations between parental involvement and literacy development. Both studies found that establishing home-school partnerships was viable. Research also shows that B40 pupils struggle to master multilingual literacy and numeracy skills. However, there is a paucity of research on B40 parents’ fostering partnerships with schools to accelerate Stage 1 pupils’ literacy and numeracy development in the Malaysian

context. Despite issues on language proficiency, numeracy, and parents' engagement being highlighted in the National Education Policy, Malaysia Blueprint (2013-2025), Government Transformation Programme, Shared Development Goals, Shared Prosperity Vision and Twelfth Malaysia Plan (2021-2025), there is no sustainable HSP model to encourage active parent participation in accelerating low-income pupils' learning. This study aims to develop an HSP model for schools to actively involve B40 parents in the development of Stage 1 pupils' literacy and numeracy skills. The primary objectives of this investigation are two-fold. Firstly, to explore the factors for establishing a sustainable Home-School Partnership to accelerate multilingual literacy and numeracy learning among B40 primary school pupils; secondly, to develop an HSP model involving B40 families. This qualitative study was conducted using semi-structured interviews with 24 principals, 28 teachers and 24 B40 parents from four primary schools in Malaysia. To ensure credibility, the sample was chosen from national, indigenous, Tamil and Chinese suburban schools. Using NVivo, the thematic analysis revealed four distinct and interesting findings: teacher-parent scaffolding and mediation, social and physical interactions, creating a home-school learning environment, and literacy and numeracy resources and activities. Drawing on Vygotsky's theory of social interaction, the findings align with SDGs 4 and 10. The significance of the proposed HSP model is bridging homes and schools, and bringing parents and teachers together as partners. This model aims to accelerate learning and build long-term resilience in literacy and numeracy skills. However, this research focuses only on pupils from low-income demographic backgrounds in suburban schools. Hence, future studies should extend the investigation to include the urban low-income community.

Keywords: Home-School Partnership Model; Parental Involvement; Literacy and Numeracy skills; SDG 4 and 10

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A 18 ELE 006

Reward and Punishment Strategies in Character Building of Students with Special Needs

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Abstract

The use of rewards and punishments is a crucial pedagogical strategy for shaping the morality and discipline of students with special educational needs (MBPK). However, the effectiveness of this approach rests on the teacher's wisdom in adapting it to the students' cognitive, emotional, and individual needs. Past research has shown that unregulated punishments can pose negative ethical, motivational, and emotional implications for students from vulnerable groups. This study aims to explore the reward and punishment strategies used by Islamic Education teachers to build the morality of special needs students in primary

schools. A qualitative case study design was employed, involving seven Islamic Education Teachers (GPIs) from seven national day schools who were experienced in teaching special needs students in the Integrated Special Education Program. Data were obtained through semi-structured interviews, repeated classroom observations, and document analysis over 12 months. The data were analysed using thematic analysis methods with source triangulation to ensure the findings' validity and reliability. Four main themes were identified from the findings: reward types, reward use strategy, punishment types, and punishment principles. The teachers used various forms of verbal and non-verbal rewards adapted to the students' individual needs. This approach increased the students' motivation and self-confidence and strengthened their understanding of Islamic moral values. Notably, the teachers entirely rejected the use of harmful physical and emotional punishments, providing a sense of relief about the safety of special needs students. The teachers instead used reflective, prudent, and loving approaches, striking a balance between firmness and empathy. This strategy helped students understand the link between action and consequences, thus building moral self-awareness. This study is limited by its small sample size and specific focus on Islamic Education teachers in primary schools that run the Integrated Special Education Program (PPKI). Therefore, the findings may not apply to all types of special needs students or other special education contexts. The study reinforces the notion that rewards and punishments are not mere behavioural control tools grounded in behaviourism; instead, they serve as a medium for Islamic moral education, emphasising the overall spiritual, emotional, and social development of special needs students. Implications-wise, the study underscores the need for continuous professional training to help teachers strengthen their capacity to adapt behavioural management strategies anchored in values, empathy, and the students' individual uniqueness.

Keywords: Rewards, Punishments, Morals, Special Educational Needs Students

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A 19 ELE 009

School Space as Catalyst for Learning: Insights from Malaysian primary school pupils

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Abstract

Schools are inherently designed as environments for teaching and learning; however, their spatial configurations are often standardized to meet administrative and curricular needs rather than user experience. Such top-down space provision compels users - particularly administrators and teachers - to improvise creatively through scheduling, shared use, and spatial transformation. Despite these adaptive strategies, an important dimension remains largely neglected: the perspectives of the pupils, who are the primary occupants of these learning spaces. This study seeks to foreground pupils' voices by investigating how Malaysian primary school learners perceive, experience, and interpret their school environment. Employing a design charrette approach, the research provides an interactive platform for pupils to verbally and visually express their ideas, preferences, and critiques regarding school spaces. Across three primary school case studies in Puncak Alam, Selangor, approximately 129 pupils participated in a design charrette structured around a series of sequential activities. The first activity required pupils to collaboratively brainstorm the measures necessary to complete a full-scale sculptural installation repurposed from a petrol pump. The second activity required

pupils to identify and subsequently photograph appropriate school spaces for each of the specified measures. Following these collective exercises, the third activity required the pupils to be individually afforded the opportunity to reimagine and redesign one of the selected school spaces previously examined. Focusing only on the findings from the pupils' group exercise, a content analysis revealed two overarching themes: *engagement activities* and *categories of space*. Engagement activities refer to how pupils interact with their surroundings prior to executing learning tasks, while categories of space denote areas that are suitable for activities related to both teaching and non-teaching. These two interrelated themes highlight a key finding: effective learning is supported by diverse forms of pupil engagement, including *active*, *interactive*, and *constructive* modes. The pupils also associated these engagement activities with distinct categories of school spaces, noting that some spaces offer greater affordances for engagement than others. Thus, learning spaces in schools should not only be adequately provided but also adaptable and versatile, enabling a wide range of supplementary learning experiences for pupils.

Keywords: School Space; Learning; Primary Schools; Pupils

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Elderly Environment

**A 20
EE 001**

Perceived Stress and Attitude towards Safe Driving among the Elderly in Malaysia

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Abstract

Background: The global rise in adults aged 60 years and above has led to substantial socio-economic and demographic shifts, including an increase in older individuals who continue to drive. Although many ageing drivers maintain safe driving abilities, age-related physical, cognitive, and health changes can compromise driving performance (Nazlin & Siti Zawiah, 2016). Ageing also brings psychological pressures and biological changes that prompt some older adults to cease driving (Tendon, 2017), a transition associated with negative consequences such as depression, reduced social participation, and social isolation. As the number of licensed elderly drivers increases, promoting safe driving behaviors in this population has become increasingly important (Albert, Lotan, Weiss, & Shifftan, 2018). Objective: This study aimed to (1) determine the risk level of attitudes toward safe driving, (2) assess perceived stress levels among elderly drivers in Malaysia,

and (3) examine the association between perceived stress and attitudes toward safe driving. Methodology: Two validated instruments were employed: the Malay version of the 10-item Perceived Stress Scale (PSS-10) and the Attitude Toward Safe Driving Scale (ASD-46). The ASD-46 demonstrated strong psychometric properties based on the Rasch model, with a reliability of 0.80 and a Cronbach's alpha of 0.84 (Masuri et al., 2016). The Malay PSS-10 also showed good reliability, with Cronbach's alpha values of 0.82 for negative items and 0.72 for positive items, and an intra-class correlation coefficient of 0.81 (Sandhu et al., 2015). Findings: Most respondents (90.1%, $n = 64$) were classified as low risk for road traffic accidents (RTAs), while 7% ($n = 5$) were classified as high risk, and 2.8% ($n = 2$) were classified as neutral. Regarding perceived stress, 59.2% ($n = 42$) reported low stress, and 40.8% ($n = 29$) reported moderate stress. Both low- and moderate-stress groups predominantly demonstrated low RTA risk, accounting for 53.5% ($n = 38$) and 36.6% ($n = 26$) of the sample, respectively. Conclusion: Fisher's Exact Test indicated no statistically significant association between perceived stress level and RTA risk ($p = 1.000$), with Cramer's $V = 0.032$ suggesting no meaningful relationship between the variables (Akoglu, 2018). Implications: This study provides preliminary evidence to support interventions targeting safe driving among elderly Malaysians, including those involved in e-hailing services. However, the limited sample size constrains generalizability. Larger studies are recommended to strengthen the validity and applicability of these findings.

Keywords: ASDS-46; perceived stress; drivers attitude; elderly drivers

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Financial Matters

A 21
FM 001

**Retirement Planning Behaviour of Young
Malaysian Employees with Savings Intention as
Mediator**

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Abstract

There is a growing concern about the readiness of young individuals in Malaysia for retirement, as many of them lack sufficient resources and do not have long-term financial security. Despite the fact that around 18% of people who contribute to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) have enough savings to survive for six months, a startling 71% of people under the age of 55 are living below the poverty line. The need to conduct research on the factors that influence retirement planning behaviour (RPB) among young individuals is brought into sharp relief by these worrying figures on the subject. The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationships which are between the RPB, Spending Style (SS), Financial Literacy Awareness (FLA), and Savings Intention (SI), with SI serving as a mediating element in the relationship. A total of 335 young adult employees between the ages of 25 and 34 who were employed in the food and beverage (F&B) services sector in Klang Valley, Selangor, and data was obtained through the use of purposive and quota sampling. For the purpose of conducting the analysis of the data, SPSS Version 29 and Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) were utilized. Based on the finding, it is evident that FLA exerts a noteworthy and

favourable impact on RPB ($\beta=0.065$, $p<0.05$). On the other hand, SS does not exhibit a significant link with RPB ($\beta=0.072$, $p>0.05$). Furthermore, it is worth noting that the relationships between SS and RPB ($\beta=0.001$, $p>0.05$) and the relationship between FLA and RPB ($\beta=0.002$, $p>0.05$) are not mediated by SI. In spite of the fact that FLA plays a significant part in the formation of RPB, the data indicate that intention alone might not be sufficient to transfer into action when individuals are confronted with financial or structural obstacles. By shifting the focus from general financial literacy and spending patterns to financial habits conceptualized as subjective norms and financial literacy awareness as perceived behavioural control, this study advances the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB). Specifically, the focus shifts from general financial literacy to spending patterns. A more sophisticated understanding of responsible financial behavior among young adults is provided as a result of this. In order to improve retirement readiness, the findings have practical implications for politicians, educators, and employers. These implications include the promotion of a proactive savings culture through fintech-driven solutions and workplace-based activities.

Keywords: Retirement Planning Behaviour, Spending Style, Financial Literacy Awareness, Savings Intention.

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Gender Issues

A 22
GI 001

Structural Empowerment & Women's Cooperative Performance: A Measurement Model Assessment

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Abstract

Women-led cooperatives in Malaysia play a vital role in promoting inclusive economic participation and community development. Despite decades of gender-inclusive policies, these cooperatives remain underrepresented and underperforming, contributing only 0.03% to the national cooperative turnover. Structural empowerment, based on Kanter's theory, is widely recognized as a critical driver of organizational success, yet its application in the cooperative sector is limited. This study addresses these gaps by validating a measurement model of structural empowerment and examining its relationship with cooperative performance, while considering government effectiveness as a moderating factor. The primary objective is to assess the reliability and validity of a multidimensional structural empowerment construct comprising access to information, resources, opportunities, and support and its influence on women's cooperative performance. The study also explores the role of government effectiveness in shaping cooperative outcomes, providing insights for policy reform and gender equity initiatives. A quantitative, cross-sectional survey was conducted among 262 board

members of registered women's cooperatives in Malaysia. Data were collected using a modified Conditions of Work Effectiveness Questionnaire (CWEQ-II) adapted to a 7-point Likert scale. Measurement model assessment employed Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) and Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) using SmartPLS 4.1. Reliability was evaluated through Cronbach's alpha and composite reliability, while convergent and discriminant validity were assessed using AVE, Fornell-Larcker criterion, and HTMT ratio. Results confirm strong psychometric properties across all constructs. Cronbach's alpha values ranged from 0.839 to 0.907, and composite reliability exceeded 0.70 for all dimensions. AVE values were above 0.50, affirming convergent validity, while discriminant validity was supported by Fornell-Larcker and HTMT criteria. The inclusion of government effectiveness highlights its critical role in enabling empowerment initiatives, though findings suggest current policies and support mechanisms remain insufficient to meet cooperative needs. The validated measurement model provides a robust foundation for future structural analysis and policy interventions. Findings underscore the need for responsive, context-specific strategies that integrate structural empowerment with effective governance to enhance women's cooperative performance. This research contributes to advancing gender equity, cooperative sustainability, and institutional reform within Malaysia's socio-economic landscape.

Keywords: *structural empowerment, women cooperatives, institutional theory, government effectiveness, measurement model*

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Health / Healing Environment

A 23 HE 010

Association between Maternal Anemia and Household Food Security among Pregnant Women in Selangor: A cross sectional study

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Abstract

Maternal anaemia remains a major public health concern in Malaysia, with prevalence rates reported between 19.3% and 57.4%. Iron deficiency is the primary cause. Food insecurity contributes to this by reducing access to nutrient-rich foods essential during pregnancy. This study aims to assess the prevalence of maternal anaemia among pregnant women in food-secure and food-insecure households in Selangor, to investigate the association between household food security status and maternal anaemia, and to identify significant predictors of maternal anaemia. A cross-sectional study was conducted between February and June 2025 among 226 pregnant women attending antenatal care at five government health clinics in Selangor. Participants were selected using purposive sampling, with inclusion

criteria of age 19–49 years, residency in Selangor, and ability to complete a structured questionnaire. Data were collected via face-to-face interviews using a validated questionnaire on sociodemographic characteristics. Household food security status was assessed using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), and anthropometric data, including gestational weight gain (GWG) and mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC), were also collected. Maternal anaemia was defined as haemoglobin <11 g/dL. Descriptive statistics summarised participant characteristics, Chi-square tests examined associations between anaemia and food security, and logistic regression identified predictors of maternal anaemia. The prevalence of maternal anaemia was 58.8% (n=133). Food insecurity affected 62.4% of households (19.9% mild, 18.6% moderate, and 23.9% severe). Anaemia prevalence increased with food insecurity severity from 33.1% among food-secure women to 72.2% in severely food-insecure women, though the association was not statistically significant (p=0.291). Logistic regression showed maternal ethnicity and religion as significant predictors: Malay mothers had lower odds of anaemia (OR = 0.385, p = 0.002), and Muslim mothers had lower odds (OR = 0.39, p = 0.000). No other variables reached statistical significance, though trends suggested a higher anaemia risk among women with lower socioeconomic status, inadequate GWG, and MUAC <23 cm. In conclusion, maternal anaemia is prevalent in Selangor, particularly among food-insecure households. While food insecurity was not statistically associated with anaemia, cultural and dietary factors linked to ethnicity and religion emerged as key predictors. Targeted nutritional interventions and enhanced antenatal support are warranted for at-risk groups. Future research should adopt longitudinal designs, larger and more diverse samples, and strengthen collaborations with healthcare facilities to improve data quality and explore causal relationships between food insecurity and maternal anaemia.

Keywords: maternal anemia; pregnancy; household food insecurity; Malaysia

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A 24
HE 009

**Impact of a Breastfeeding Education Package
on Breastfeeding and Anthropometry in GDM**

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Abstract

Women with Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) are at high risk for postpartum weight retention and future metabolic disease, highlighting the need for effective postnatal interventions. This study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of a Breastfeeding Education Package (BFEP) on breastfeeding duration and anthropometric profiles in primiparous women with GDM. This randomized controlled trial enrolled 60 primiparous women with diet-controlled GDM, randomized to either the Intensive Breastfeeding Intervention (IBI) group (n=30) or a control group (CG) receiving standard care (n=30). The IBI group received the BFEP, a structured educational program, from gestation until six months postpartum. Primary outcomes were breastfeeding duration and exclusivity. Secondary outcomes comprised changes in maternal body weight, Body Mass

Index (BMI), mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC), body fat percentage, and waist circumference, assessed at 1, 3, and 6 months postpartum. Analyses were conducted using two-way repeated measures ANOVA and Pearson's correlation. Fifty-eight participants (IBI=29, CG=29) completed the study. The IBI group demonstrated a longer mean duration of exclusive breastfeeding (92.4 vs. 55.6 days, $p=0.08$) and a significantly greater total breastfeeding duration over six months ($p=0.021$) compared to the CG. A significant time-by-group interaction effect was observed for MUAC ($p=0.01$) and body fat percentage ($p=0.01$). Over six months, the CG experienced significant increases across all anthropometric parameters ($p<0.05$), whereas the IBI group remained largely stable, showing only a significant increase in MUAC ($p<0.05$). Within the IBI group, a longer duration of exclusive breastfeeding was significantly and negatively correlated with body weight ($r=-0.38$), BMI ($r=-0.44$), MUAC ($r=-0.39$), waist circumference ($r=-0.43$), and body fat percentage ($r=-0.48$) at six months ($p<0.05$). Nevertheless, these correlations were not observed in the CG. The BFEP is an effective intervention that significantly increases total breastfeeding duration and, critically, mitigates adverse postpartum anthropometric changes in women with GDM. The synergistic effect of lactation support appears to unlock the metabolic benefits of breastfeeding on maternal body composition. This integrated approach represents a valuable strategy for improving long-term maternal health in this high-risk population.

Keywords: Gestational Diabetes Mellitus; Postnatal; Breastfeeding; Maternal

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A 25 HE 003

Influence of Demographic, Occupational and Pain Intensity on Low Back Pain among Office Workers

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Abstract

Background: Low back pain (LBP) is highly prevalent among office workers worldwide, largely due to prolonged sitting and poor posture, resulting in reduced productivity, increased absenteeism, and a lower quality of life. Despite extensive global studies, there is limited evidence on demographic and occupational determinants of LBP among administrative workers in Southeast Asia.

Significance: Understanding the factors contributing to LBP among office workers is crucial for designing effective ergonomic and preventive strategies that reduce

musculoskeletal risks and enhance workplace health and efficiency. **Aim:** To investigate the demographic and occupational factors influencing the occurrence of low back pain among office workers. **Objectives:** This study specifically aimed to (1) identify the demographic characteristics associated with LBP, (2) determine the work-related risk factors contributing to LBP, and (3) establish the independent predictors of LBP among office workers. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study design was employed, utilizing purposive convenience sampling to recruit participants. The sample size was calculated using G-Power3. The participants were included when they presented with the ability to ambulate independently, aged between 18 and 60 years, and had controlled comorbid conditions such as diabetes mellitus, hypertension, asthma, or thyroid disorders. The outcome measures consisted of a self-reported demographic questionnaire assessing participant characteristics and work-related factors, and the Numeric Rating Scale (NRS) for pain intensity. The data were analyzed for descriptive, Mann–Whitney U test, Chi-square or Fisher's Exact test, and Multivariable Logistic Regression for the significant variables. **Limitations:** The study only includes participants from a single centre, which limits the generalizability of findings. Additionally, the self-reported data may introduce recall bias. **Findings:** A total of 105 participants (LBP=64, NLBP=41) met the eligibility criteria and were included in the final analysis. This study revealed significant differences for gender ($X^2=10.04$, $p = 0.002$), height ($U=846.5$, $p = 0.002$), and pain intensity ($U=377.5$, $p < 0.001$) between LBP and NLBP. No significant differences were found for BMI, age, job satisfaction, physical exercise, prolonged sitting, length of employment, rest a week, and education level. Logistic regression revealed that female gender (AOR = 0.150; $p = 0.006$), tall stature (AOR = 25.910; $p = 0.003$), and moderate pain intensity (AOR = 0.046; $p = 0.001$) were independent predictors of LBP. **Implications:** This study indicates that female and taller workers face a higher risk of LBP, emphasizing the need for gender-sensitive ergonomic measures and postural programs, and recommends further research across diverse settings to confirm these findings.

Keywords: Low back Pain, Office Workers, Occupational Factors, Ergonomics

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A 26 HE 001

Nurse-Led Preoperative Education Impact on Anxiety and Pain in Total Hip Arthroplasty Patients

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Abstract

Preoperative anxiety and postoperative pain are significant clinical concerns among adults undergoing elective total hip arthroplasty, as both factors influence recovery trajectories, analgesic requirements, and overall patient satisfaction. Nurse-led preoperative education has emerged as an essential component of peri-anesthesia care, providing patients with structured information, psychosocial support, and realistic expectations regarding the surgical experience. Despite its widespread use, variations exist in how these educational interventions are delivered, and the extent to which they influence postoperative pain remains unclear. The purpose of

this scoping review is to map and synthesize current evidence on the relationship between nurse-led preoperative education, preoperative anxiety, and postoperative pain among adults undergoing elective total hip arthroplasty, and to identify gaps that warrant further investigation. This review was conducted using the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses for Scoping Reviews methodology to ensure transparent identification, screening, and selection of evidence. Five electronic databases were searched PubMed, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, Embase, Scopus, and the Cochrane Library along with additional records from trial registries and grey literature, yielding a total of 210 records. After removal of duplicates, 184 titles and abstracts were screened, and 25 full-text articles were excluded due to reasons such as non-nurse-led interventions, non-elective procedures, publication prior to 2020, non-English or non-Malay language, or insufficient data. Eleven studies were included in the final synthesis. The included studies ranged from randomized controlled trials to quasi-experimental studies, observational research, and review articles. Most studies demonstrated that nurse-led preoperative education effectively reduced preoperative anxiety, whereas findings on postoperative pain were mixed due to heterogeneity in intervention format, timing, and outcome measurement. The current evidence highlights the importance of structured educational interventions in improving psychological readiness before surgery, while recommending further research using standardized protocols to clarify the direct impact of these interventions on postoperative pain outcomes.

Keywords: Total Hip Arthroplasty; Nurse-led Education; Preoperative Anxiety; Postoperative Pain

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A 27 HE 005

Quality of Life and Burden in Informal Caregivers of Femoral Neck Fracture Patients

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Abstract

Background: Femoral neck fractures represent one of the most serious injuries among older adults, often requiring surgical intervention, prolonged hospitalization, and extensive rehabilitation. As patients frequently experience reduced mobility, functional decline, and dependence during recovery, the involvement of informal caregivers typically family members become essential. These caregivers commonly shoulder multiple responsibilities, including assisting with daily activities, coordinating follow-up care, and providing emotional support. Such demands may result in significant physical, emotional, social, and financial strain, ultimately affecting caregivers' well-being and overall quality of life. In Malaysia, the increasing prevalence of hip fractures, coupled with a rapidly ageing population, has intensified the need to understand caregiver experiences. Despite this growing burden, research exploring the quality of life and caregiving load among informal caregivers of femoral neck fracture patients remains limited. This study aims to assess

caregivers' quality of life and burden within public hospital settings, contributing valuable insights to inform policy and targeted support services. **Method:** A cross-sectional study was conducted involving 176 informal caregivers recruited through purposive sampling from selected public hospitals in Malaysia. Data were collected using a structured self-administered questionnaire consisting of three sections: (1) sociodemographic characteristics of caregivers and patients; (2) the Short Form 36-Item Health Survey (SF-36), which assesses physical and mental quality of life; and (3) the Caregiver Burden Inventory (CBI), which measures multidimensional caregiver burden. Ethical approval was obtained from the university's ethics committee, the Medical Research Ethics Committee (MREC), and the respective hospital directors. Data were analyzed using IBM SPSS version 28. **Results:** The findings revealed that caregivers had a moderate level of quality of life, with a Physical Component Summary (PCS) mean score of 48.84 (SD = 10.26) and a Mental Component Summary (MCS) mean score of 51.81 (SD = 11.49). The overall caregiver burden was also moderate, indicated by a mean CBI score of 48.35 (SD = 1.71). Despite moderate outcomes, caregivers still reported considerable strain across various caregiving domains. The study's cross-sectional design and limited hospital settings may restrict generalizability. **Conclusion:** Informal caregivers of femoral neck fracture patients experience moderate levels of burden and quality of life challenges. These findings underscore the necessity for enhanced caregiver support systems, including psychosocial assistance, respite services, and improved rehabilitation programs. Strengthening these resources is vital for promoting caregiver well-being and facilitating better recovery outcomes for patients.

Keywords: Quality of Life; Caregiver Burden; Family Caregivers; Femoral Neck Fracture

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A 28 HE 004

Radiographers' Perspectives on Justification of Radiographic Procedure in Klang Valley

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Abstract

Justification is a fundamental principle of radiation protection that ensures every radiological procedure is medically warranted and provides more benefit than harm. As frontline professionals in medical imaging, radiographers play a critical role in assessing the appropriateness of imaging requests before proceeding with examinations. In private healthcare settings, where workflow dynamics, resource availability and clinical demands may differ from the public sector, understanding radiographers' perspectives on justification practices is essential. Because justified imaging directly influences diagnostic accuracy, radiation exposure, financial burden and overall patient experience, it also indirectly contributes to patients' quality of life. This study explores how radiographers working in private hospitals in the Klang Valley perceive, implement, and experience the justification process in their daily clinical practice, particularly when navigating varying levels of autonomy, clinical complexity, and communication with referring clinicians. This study employed a qualitative exploratory design to gain in-depth insights into

radiographers' perspectives on the justification of radiographic procedures. Semi-structured interviews were conducted via Microsoft Teams with ten purposively selected radiographers from several private hospitals across the Klang Valley. Participants represented a range of experience and exposure to imaging modalities. Interview data were analysed thematically to identify key patterns relating to their experiences, decision-making processes, and perceived barriers to effective justification practices. The findings revealed that radiographers in private hospitals generally understand the importance of justification and often take an active role in the process, particularly when unclear, incomplete or clinically inappropriate requests are received. Participants described routinely reviewing clinical histories, correlating indications with requested examinations and engaging with referrers or radiologists when clarification was required. Despite these proactive efforts, several challenges were identified. These included limited authority to reject unjustified requests due to hierarchical constraints, inconsistent communication pathways with referring clinicians, inadequate clinical information on request forms, and practical constraints such as time pressure, patient-related limitations, and variations in staff experience. While radiographers in private hospitals demonstrate strong awareness, initiative and professional commitment in upholding justification, several structural and systemic barriers continue to hinder their ability to fully exercise this responsibility. Strengthening justification practices through policy revision, improved interprofessional collaboration, standardized referral documentation and digitalized request systems may not only promote safer imaging but also reduce unnecessary radiation, prevent avoidable financial costs, and enhance diagnostic accuracy. These improvements directly support better patient outcomes and improve patients' overall quality of life in private healthcare settings.

Keywords: Justification; Radiographer; Medical Imaging

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A 29 HE 008

Relationship between Foot Disorder, Disability, and Fitness among Older People with Low Back Pain: A scoping review

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Abstract

Background: Low back pain (LBP) is the most common musculoskeletal issue among older people (OP) and a significant cause of disability and reduced quality of life. Age-related declines in muscle strength, degenerative changes, and altered biomechanics contribute to chronic pain and reduced mobility. Foot disorders such as hallux valgus, flat feet, and abnormal plantar pressure may further disrupt posture and spinal loading. However, research exploring their relationship with LBP in older adults remains limited. **Significance:** Understanding the links between foot

conditions, disability, and physical performance in older adults with LBP is key to enhancing early detection, screening, rehabilitation, and integrated interventions to prevent disability among the older population. **Aim:** This review aims to synthesize current evidence on the relationship between foot disorders, disability, and physical fitness among OP with LBP. **Objectives:** This review aimed to 1) examine the relationship between foot structure and function with disability and physical fitness in older adults with LBP, 2) explore how foot deformities contribute to postural instability, pain severity, and mobility limitations, and 3) identify research gaps to guide future interventional and longitudinal studies. **Methods:** This review followed the PRISMA-ScR guidelines. Three databases were explored: PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science, and systematically reviewed for full English articles published between January 2020 and October 2025. Eligible articles include participants aged more than 60 years with low back pain, foot disorders, disability, and physical fitness. A total of 1272 records were retrieved, but only 12 studies were included for analysis. Data were extracted and classified into themes reflecting the key variables analysed. **Findings:** Most studies show that abnormal foot biomechanics, such as pronation, hallux valgus, and asymmetric plantar loading, are associated with higher pain levels, poorer balance, and reduced physical performance. Exercise-based interventions, particularly strengthening and mobility training, have been shown to improve pain and functional outcomes. **Limitations:** This review is limited by the small number of studies on LBP and older people, as well as variations in methods, outcomes, and sample sizes that restrict comparison and causal interpretation. Only English-language studies were included, which may have excluded relevant evidence. **Implications:** Foot health is an essential yet often overlooked component of LBP management in older adults. Integrating routine foot assessments into geriatric care may improve functional outcomes and reduce disability. Future research should use standardized assessment tools and longer follow-up periods to better clarify the causal links between foot biomechanics and LBP.

Keywords: low back pain, disability, physical fitness, foot disorder

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A 30 HE 002

Relationship of Anxiety, Physical Performance, and Sarcopenia in Older People with Low Back Pain: A scoping review

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Abstract

Background: Low back pain (LBP) is a significant health concern among the elderly, often leading to disability and reduced independence. Factors such as sarcopenia, poor physical function, and anxiety may contribute to its development. However, their combined impact remains unclear, highlighting the need for further investigation. **Objective:** This study was conducted to explore the relationship between anxiety, physical performance, and sarcopenia in older adults with LBP. **Methods:** This scoping review utilised a systematic search across four major databases, including PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar, and Web of Science, to identify studies published up to June 2025. This review was conducted and reported in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and

Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement for scoping reviews, as outlined in the PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR). This review employed the following five steps accordingly: (1) identification of the research question, (2) identification of relevant studies, (3) selection of eligible studies, (4) charting the data, and (5) collation, summarization, and reporting of the results. The Boolean terms "AND", "OR", and "AND NOT" were used to separate the keywords. Eligible studies included participants aged 60 years and above and reported on at least one of the following (anxiety, sarcopenia, or physical performance) in relation to LBP. Conversely, exclusion criteria omitted studies without anxiety, physical performance, and sarcopenia due to the absence of full text (n=36), sample not healthy (n=15), experimental / intervention study (n=10), and mixed population (n=11). Data were extracted and organized thematically according to the key variables studied. **Results:** Nine studies were included, most of which were cross-sectional-designed studies, consistently showed that reduced physical performance and sarcopenia were linked to increased levels of LBP-related disability. Additionally, anxiety symptoms were associated with high pain sensitivity, although this factor was less frequently assessed compared to physical measures. **Conclusion:** The findings highlight a multifaceted relationship between anxiety, sarcopenia, and physical performance in older adults with LBP. Comprehensive strategies that combine physical and psychological assessments should be incorporated into primary healthcare to improve the management of LBP in aging populations.

Keywords: Low back pain; Anxiety; Sarcopenia; Physical Performance

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A 31
HE 007

Self-Care Behaviors Among Malaysian Heart Failure Patients in Government Hospital: Demographics Influence

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Abstract

Heart failure (HF) continues to represent a major public health burden in Malaysia, contributing to hospitalization, morbidity, and reduced quality of life. Effective self-care is essential for preventing symptom worsening, reducing avoidable admissions, and improving long-term clinical outcomes. However, self-care practices are not uniform among patients, as demographic factors may influence individuals' motivation, readiness, and capacity to engage in recommended behaviors. Differences in age, sex, and marital status can shape patients' perceptions, priorities, and understanding of their self-care responsibilities. Understanding how demographic characteristics influence self-care is crucial for developing tailored, patient-centered strategies in healthcare settings. Identifying individuals or groups who may be at risk of lower self-care performance enables clinicians to deliver more targeted education, allocate resources more effectively, and provide additional support when necessary. This is particularly important within

Malaysia's diverse population, where cultural and demographic variations may affect HF management. This study examines the relationship between demographic factors and self-care behaviours among HF patients. Gaining clearer insight into these demographic influences can support the development of targeted interventions to improve disease management and patient outcomes. The objectives were to determine the level of self-care behaviours among HF patients in a government hospital and to examine associations between demographic variables and self-care behaviours. A descriptive, cross-sectional quantitative design was utilised. Validated Malaysian versions of the Self-Care of Heart Failure Index (SCHFI v7.2) were administered to adult HF patients at the Cardiology Clinic of Hospital Serdang. Data were analysed using SPSS version 27.0, employing descriptive statistics, one-way ANOVA, and regression analysis to identify relationships between demographic characteristics and self-care behaviours. A total of 159 HF patients participated. Most were male (65.4%), while 34.6% were female. More than half were married (56.6%), followed by single (15.1%) and divorced (17.0%) participants. Age was a significant predictor of self-care, with older adults reporting higher scores ($p < 0.001$). No significant differences were found across marital status groups ($p = 0.215$), indicating generational differences in self-care engagement. This study is limited by its cross-sectional design, which prevents causal conclusions. Self-reported data and hospital-based sampling may reduce accuracy and generalizability. Future research should use broader variables, diverse settings, and longitudinal designs. Age was significantly associated with self-care behaviors, suggesting that older HF patients manage their condition more effectively. Younger patients or those lacking social support may benefit from enhanced education, structured guidance, and supportive programs such as counseling, caregiver involvement, and community support groups.

Keywords: Heart Failure, self-care behaviour, demographic factors, predictors of self-care.

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A 32 HE 006

Understanding and Implementation of Breast Screening Practices among Female Lecturers

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Abstract

Breast screening practices include routine testing such as breast self- examination (BSE), clinical breast examination (CBE) by healthcare practitioners, and mammography to detect breast cancer early, hence increasing treatment options and results. For patients who are diagnosed with breast cancer, early detection of these screening tools is critical since it enhances the likelihood of a successful course of treatment and better outcomes. The screening criteria are influenced by age and individual risk factors, emphasising the importance of routine screening in discovering problems early on, when therapies are most successful. The purpose of this study was to analyse female lecturers' knowledge and implementation of breast screening practices at UiTM Puncak Alam. A cross-sectional study design was used. Two hundred and sixty-one instructors received an email with a Google Forms questionnaire adapted from the last survey. The findings revealed that the majority of respondents had fair to good knowledge and practice of BSE (97.4%),

while 23.0% had good knowledge and practice of CBE and 18.4% had good knowledge and practice of mammography. Despite this, a notable percentage still exhibited poor knowledge and practice, particularly for CBE (31.4%) and mammography (13.0%). Therefore, the result indicated that the implementation of breast screening practices will increase along with the level of understanding of the breast screening practices. Thus, the result suggested that this practice will decrease the chance of getting a breast cancer. One of the limitations of the study is the use of a cross-sectional design restricts the ability to establish causal relationships between the level of knowledge and practice of breast screening methods and actual health outcomes. The sample size, while adequate for preliminary analysis, may not be large enough to generalize the findings to all women in Malaysia or other regions. Future studies with larger and more diverse samples are recommended to validate these findings. Furthermore, the use of an online questionnaire could have excluded individuals with limited access to digital resources.

Keywords:Breast Screening Practices, Breast cancer, Knowledge, Implementation,

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Landscaping Environment

A 33
LaE 002

**Planting Profiles' Impact on Bird Species
Diversity in Taman Botani Negara, Shah Alam**

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Abstract

Urban green spaces are being increasingly recognized as biodiversity's vital refuges within rapidly urbanizing tropical regions these days, where urban park's planting design was said to be among the key contributors and factors. Still, the extent to which planting profile characteristics influence avian diversity especially in managed landscapes remains poorly quantified. This study was conducted at Taman Botani Negara Shah Alam (TBNSA), Malaysia. It aimed to examine the relationship between planting profile characteristics and bird species diversity across four selected zones of TBNSA. Furthermore, the first specific objective was to investigate influence of different vegetation structures, plant composition, and canopy complexity on bird species richness and diversity indices. Secondly, to determine the effect of native versus ornamental plant compositions on bird abundance, distribution patterns, and foraging guilds. A mixed-methods ecological approach was used, integrating vegetation profiling with standardized avifaunal point counts, which the data had been validated through interview with the key personnel of TBNSA. Diversity indices which are Shannon–Wiener, Simpson's

Evenness, together with non-parametric statistics such as Kruskal-Wallis H test and Spearman's correlations were employed to evaluate differences between the selected zones and vegetation-diversity relationships. Result from the Kruskal-Wallis test revealed significant inter-zone dissimilarities ($H = 8.24$, $p < 0.05$). Besides that, zones A and B, with dense, with more plant species variations and multi-layered native vegetation, supported higher avian species richness and evenness. Moreover, correlation results showed canopy cover, vertical layering, and native plant proportion as strong positive predictors of diversity in urban parks. The study's limitations included restricted temporal sampling due to time constraint, besides potential seasonal variation. In conclusion, findings confirm that vegetation complexity and native composition are major drivers of avian diversity and the results suggest that biodiversity-sensitive landscape design emphasizing native flora, several vertical stratifications, and good ecological connectivity can significantly improve habitat quality and also urban ecological resilience.

Keywords: Planting profile; bird species diversity; urban park design

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A 34 LaE 001

What Maps Reveal and Generational Views of Peri-Urban Landscape Change in Hulu Langat, Malaysia

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Abstract

Peri-urban regions are dynamic frontiers where natural, cultural, and urban forces converge. Despite rapid landscape transformation, few studies examine how generational perceptions aligns with spatially verified land-cover changes in Malaysia's peri-urban areas. This study fills this gap by comparing land use/land cover (LULC) changes derived from Geographical Information System (GIS) analysis with community perceptions collected through structured surveys in Hulu Langat sub-district, Selangor. The aim is to combine temporal GIS evidence from 1989-2019 with age-based perception data, offering a new lens on cognitive responses to long-term land transformation. Multi-temporal LANDSAT 5 TM (1989) and LANDSAT 8 OLI (2019) maps revealed substantial built-up expansion (+95.14%), major declines in agriculture (-68.58%), cleared/ open land (-91.61%), minor reductions in forest (-1.88%) and waterbody (-3.55%). These trends signal rapid urban encroachment over three decades. Perception data from 406 residents were analyzed across three age cohorts: below 20 years (born after 2004), 20-39

years (born 1985-2004), and over 40 years (born before 1985). Respondents rated perceived changes in forest, waterbody, cleared land, agriculture, and built-up areas using standardized Likert-scale. One-way ANOVA (IBM SPSS v.29) identified significant generational differences for agriculture ($p = 0.008$, $\eta^2 = 0.02$) and built-up expansion ($p < 0.001$, $\eta^2 = 0.06$), indicating small to moderate effects. Older respondents showed greater awareness of land-cover changes, influenced by longer exposure and stronger ties to peri-urban livelihoods. This pattern reflects a shift in environmental cognition among younger cohorts, whose reduced lived and intergenerational memory weakens recognition of peri-urban landscape traits. In Hulu Langat, these findings mirror a historical trajectory where agriculture and smallholder cultivation dominated local livelihoods through much of the twentieth century, before rapid urbanization from the late 1980s onward repositioned the landscape into its current peri-urban form. The perceptual contrast between older and younger cohorts reflects both lived memory of agrarian change and the contemporary normalization of urban expansion. The study concludes that effective peri-urban landscape planning and design should integrate perceptually salient elements such as green corridors, community farming zones, and interpretive landscapes to anchor spatial memory and local identity. Although focused on Hulu Langat, these insights emphasize the necessity of generational views in shaping planning and design strategies within Malaysia's broader urban and peri-urban context.

Keywords: Peri-urban; LULC change; GIS; Generational views

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Local Heritage Environment

A 35 LHE 001

Narrating the Local Heritage Environment: Cultural Memory in Malaysian Folklore

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Abstract

Kuala Selangor, a district in the state of Selangor, Malaysia, possesses a rich and distinctive body of coastal folklore shaped by early Bugis migration, the settlement of *orang laut* and historical political connections with the Melaka Sultanate. Yet, these culturally meaningful narratives remain underexplored within heritage scholarship. Two prominent folktales: *Legenda Pekan Lama Kuala Selangor dan Teluk Penyamun* and *Legenda Jeram dan Penabalan Paduka Seri Cina*, offer valuable insights into leadership traditions, multicultural diplomacy and the formation of place-based identity in this coastal region. Understanding these stories is significant because folklore is an essential component of intangible heritage, preserving regional memory, reinforcing community identity and informing contemporary cultural development. This study, therefore, aims at investigating how these Kuala Selangor folktales operate as cultural memory sites that articulate maritime identity, leadership values and historical political networks. Its specific objectives are to identify the themes of leadership, diplomacy and maritime resilience embedded within the narratives; to establish how the stories construct symbolic memory landscapes linked to significant local places; and to determine

the cultural relevance of these folktales for present-day heritage preservation efforts in Selangor. The study employs qualitative textual analysis using two folktales as the sample, drawing on close reading, thematic coding, historical contextualization and theoretical framing guided by Pierre Nora's concept of *lieux de mémoire* and contemporary heritage studies. As the research examines only two folktales and relies on existing transcriptions and oral retellings, it is limited by the small sample size and the challenges inherent in validating historically fluid oral traditions. Nevertheless, the findings illuminate a Bugis female leader who embodies moral authority and collective resilience; portray Teluk Penyamun as a charged maritime landscape of danger and vigilance; position Jeram as a significant ceremonial and political nexus within Melaka's royal orbit; and frame Paduka Seri Cina's lineage as a testament to early intercultural diplomacy. These insights demonstrate that the folktales anchor communal identity by transforming geographical sites into storied cultural landscapes. The study concludes that integrating these narratives into heritage conservation, regional tourism, education and community-based place-making initiatives can meaningfully support cultural continuity, strengthen local identity awareness and enhance sustainable heritage development in Malaysia, particularly through the Kuala Selangor folklore.

Keywords: Kuala Selangor folklore; cultural memory; intangible heritage; maritime identity

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A 36 LHE 002

Sustaining Botok-botok as a Malay Food Tradition Practice through the Lens of Cultural Intelligence

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Abstract

This study examined the Cultural Intelligence (CQ) of the regional cultural heritage significance of Botok-Botok, a traditional Malay dish originating from the Johor community. The study is crucial in relation to the integration of the MADANI Economy framework. The six core values of the MADANI Economy framework aim to strengthen local identity and community well-being by sustaining traditional food practices, thereby benefiting communities in the long term. Botok-botok faces the risk of cultural erosion due to weakening intergenerational transmission and a lack of written recipe documentation. Reliance on online platforms has reduced youth connection with authentic practices and preserved the dish for the future. Hence, three objectives are: (1) to examine the cultural significance of botok-botok within

the Malay community in Johor, (2) to identify the key ingredients, traditional preparation methods, and consumption practices that contribute to the sustainability of botok-botok, and (3) to explore the innovation of botok-botok in response to modernization that changes consumer preferences. Using a qualitative approach, data were collected through 20 interviews with a diverse range of informants, including elders, home cooks, and food entrepreneurs, with ages ranging from 23 to 62 years old. Thematic analysis revealed that Botok-Botok served not only as sustenance but also as a vessel of ancestral memory, communal identity, and intergenerational heritage. However, the dish faced challenges in acceptance and visibility among younger generations, who tended to favor modern, fast-prepared foods. While Malays still practice traditional methods, several respondents have begun to innovate the dish by incorporating alternative ingredients, using frozen packaging, and developing creative menu concepts. These findings highlighted the potential for cultural preservation through thoughtful adaptation, educational engagement, and commercialization. In conclusion, although at risk of cultural decline, Botok-Botok held strong potential for revival if promoted through inclusive and culturally sensitive strategies, guided by the six core values of a MADANI Society and with CQ action.

Keywords: Culinary Heritage; Cultural Intelligence (CQ); Sustainability; Youth Perceptions.

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Natural Environment

A 37 NaE 001

Enhancing Urban Resilience: A Spatial-Temporal Analysis of Flood Risks and Quality of Life in Malaysia

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Abstract

Flooding is a major environmental concern in many urban areas, particularly during the monsoon season, with significant impacts on the quality of life. This study investigates the flood-prone areas in Taman Sri Muda, Shah Alam, Malaysia, for the years 2016, 2020, and 2024 using spatial-temporal GIS analysis. Flooding has become a recurring issue in urban areas like Taman Sri Muda, particularly during the monsoon season with significant impacts on the quality of life. Rapid urbanisation, poor drainage systems, and climate change-induced extreme weather events are major contributors to the increased flood risks in these areas. The study aims to assess and map the evolution of flood-prone areas over time. It identifies key parameters influencing flood susceptibility, including rainfall, water levels,

slope, elevation, and land use/land cover (LULC). A multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) approach using AHP was employed to assign weights to the flood-prone criteria. GIS-based techniques were applied to process and analyse spatial data, creating flood risk maps for the years 2016, 2020, and 2024, visualizing trends and identifying the most vulnerable areas. The research finds that rainfall and water levels are the most significant factors in determining flood risk, with the northern part of Taman Sri Muda consistently classified as the highest flood risk zone due to its low elevation and proximity to the Klang River. Flood risk increased from 2016 to 2020, with some improvements noted by 2024. These findings confirm that the parameters used in the analysis align with the hydrological characteristics of the area. The findings underscore the need for improved flood management strategies, particularly in high-risk zones. Enhanced drainage infrastructure, flood barriers, and sustainable urban planning can significantly reduce the flood impacts, improving the quality of life for residents in flood-prone areas.

Keywords: Geographical Information System (GIS); Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP), Urban Development; Flood Mitigation

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Residential Environment

A 38 RE 002

Assessment of Indoor Environments in University Student Accommodation: Evidence from Nigeria

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Abstract

Globally, ensuring adequate Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) in university student housing is critical for protecting occupant health, comfort, and academic performance. In Nigeria, however, deteriorating hostel conditions, overcrowding, insufficient building upkeep, and limited ventilation systems have all led to unsatisfactory IEQ levels, albeit empirical evidence is scarce. This study objectively

reviews the indoor environmental conditions of university residences and investigates their impact on student health and well-being. A mixed-methods approach was used, combining field measurements with a structured questionnaire survey across six purpose-built hostel buildings to capture both objective environmental data and subjective resident experiences. High-sensitivity air-visual monitoring equipment were installed to quantify particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), CO₂, temperature, and relative humidity at various time intervals. A total of 442 students took the survey, which collected information on perceived indoor comfort, ventilation sufficiency, and the occurrence of health problems. The study found that PM concentrations in all hostels exceeded the WHO's recommended criteria of 25 µg/m³ for PM_{2.5} and 50 µg/m³ for PM₁₀. Male hostels had the highest pollution load, with mean PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ values of 64 and 88 µg/m³, respectively, while female hostels recorded 40 and 46 µg/m³. These findings imply severe particle exposure, which is most likely caused by poor ventilation, high occupant density, and activities like cooking within rooms.

Disparities in ventilation efficacy were discovered using CO₂ concentration patterns. Male hostels had a mean CO₂ level of 754 ppm, which is within acceptable indoor air thresholds. Female hostels had much higher mean concentrations (1211 ppm), indicating inadequate ventilation and potential for discomfort and cognitive impairment. Reported health symptoms were highly associated with observed environmental factors. The most common symptoms reported were asthma-related problems, recurring influenza, headaches, and malaria, demonstrating the cumulative impact of poor IEQ on student well-being. This study emphasises the critical need for enhanced IEQ management in Nigerian university hostels through better ventilation design, stricter maintenance regimens, reduced overcrowding, and regular indoor air monitoring. It finds that improving student housing necessitates rethinking the architectural design, operational tactics, and policy frameworks that guide hostel growth. Improving IEQ is critical not only for protecting student health, but also for increasing academic output and long-term institutional sustainability.

Keywords: Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ); Student Accommodation; Occupant Health; University Hostels

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A 39 RE 001

Multi-Generational Housing Environment of Physical Features Preferences for Quality of Life and Active Ageing Community

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Abstract

Malaysia is experiencing a rapid demographic transition, evidenced by a significant and continuous increase in its ageing population. This demographic shift creates an urgent need for housing environments that can enhance quality of life and effectively support active ageing. As multi-generational living arrangements become increasingly common, understanding the physical features of the housing environment that meet the needs and preferences of different age groups has become crucial for ensuring inclusive, resilient, and sustainable housing development. In response to this growing demand, this study aims to determine a conceptual framework of the multi-generational housing environment preferences of physical features that promote quality of life and support an active ageing community. This study employed a mixed-method research design. However, this paper reports only the quantitative findings, which are derived from survey data collected from 398 respondents residing in Shah Alam. The sample represents four

(4) generational cohorts, including Baby Boomers, Generation X, Generation Y, and Generation Z. The analysis identified four (4) physical features across all generational cohorts, which are (1) Accessibility and Walkability, (2) Communal Areas, (3) Personal Privacy, and (4) Assisted Technology Integration. These findings provide a robust foundation as a guideline in shaping future housing developments and urban planning initiatives. By integrating these physical features into housing policies, development guidelines, and design standards, both public and private sectors can better accommodate the diverse needs of multi-generational households while promoting quality of life and active ageing within Malaysian communities. In addition, this study is significant for housing consumers as it highlights the essential physical features that contribute to their independence and social well-being. Overall, the study underscores the importance of designing homes and neighbourhoods that can foster inclusivity and intergenerational harmony, ultimately supporting a holistic and sustainable approach to housing for all ages.

Keywords: Multi-Generational Housing Environment; Quality of life; Active Ageing; Physical features

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Sustainable Environment

A 40 SuE 001

A Bibliometric Analysis of Sustainability Research in the Food Industry

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Abstract

Environmental sustainability refers to preserving ecological integrity and the natural environment's capacity to support life by maintaining productivity and resilience. As global population growth drives higher food consumption, significant pressure is placed on critical resources such as land, water, and energy. Food production, distribution, and consumption are inherently connected to ecosystems, and adopting environmentally responsible practices can help mitigate climate change, protect biodiversity, and foster a resilient future. Recent disruptive events have further highlighted the need to transform food supply chains to advance sustainability and support the Sustainable Development Goals. This study employed a bibliometric methodology to examine sustainability research in the food industry, analyzing highly cited publications, trends in publication volume, influential journals and authors, leading institutions and countries, and prospective research directions. The analysis was conducted using VOSviewer 1.6.20.0 software on a sample of 3,295 articles retrieved from the Web of Science database. The findings reveal that *Sustainability*, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, and *Foods* are the most prominent journals in this domain based on publication output. Network and overlay visualizations of keyword co-occurrence identified six distinct research clusters. At the center of the network, the terms "food consumption," "sustainability," and "food

security” appear as dominant, high-density nodes, indicating that these topics serve as core anchors within the research field. In addition, the largest and most central cluster is anchored by Thomas Kastner, who appears as a central connecting node within the network. The results suggest that future research should adopt a multidisciplinary approach, integrating related fields such as agriculture, agroecology, and climate science, and further investigate the production and consumption aspects of sustainability in the food sector. Although this study provides valuable insights, it has several methodological limitations. Relying solely on the Web of Science (WoS) database may have led to the omission of essential publications from other sources, such as Scopus or Google Scholar, thereby reducing the comprehensiveness of the analysis. Furthermore, the keyword-based search strategy, while systematic, could be influenced by variations in terminology, and restricting the study to English-language publications may have excluded relevant research in other languages. Overall, the findings offer a roadmap for researchers and policymakers to promote environmental sustainability in food production and consumption, supporting the development of resilient, climate-smart, and resource-efficient food systems.

Keywords: Food consumption; Food security; Sustainability; Environmental effect

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Tourism / Hospitality Environment

A 41 THE 004

A Literature Review on 30 Years in Aging Tourism: Past, Present and Future Trends

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Abstract

The convergence of global population aging and the growth of the tourism industry the convergence of global population aging and the expansion of the tourism industry has positioned aging tourism as a critical area of research. Over the past three decades, scholarships have evolved from market-driven segmentation studies to a more holistic understanding of tourism's role in healthy aging. This paper presents a narrative literature review, informed by bibliometric insights from 1995 to 2025, to trace the evolution of aging tourism research. It aims to identify past gaps, highlight current trends, and propose future research directions that integrate tourism and gerontology. A comprehensive search strategy was employed across academic databases and reputable industry sources using keywords such as "senior tourism," "aging tourism," and "healthy aging." Inclusion criteria focused on relevance to older adults' travel behaviors, temporal scope (1995–2025), and academic rigor. While framed as a bibliometric analysis, the review synthesizes findings from existing bibliometric studies and organizes them into thematic categories: past problems, present trends, and future directions. Early research (1990s–2010s) was dominated by quantitative, market-oriented

approaches, emphasizing segmentation and consumer behavior while neglecting experiential depth, health impacts, and diverse populations such as the oldest-old and caregivers. Present trends reveal a paradigm shift toward healthy aging, wellness tourism, multigenerational travel, and sustainable practices. Tourism is increasingly recognized as a non-pharmacological intervention that enhances physical, emotional, and social well-being, supported by evidence linking travel to reduced mortality risk and improved cognitive health. Digital engagement among older travelers has surged, though concerns about security and usability persist. Emerging technologies such as Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence offer new opportunities for accessibility and personalization but raise ethical considerations. Future research should move beyond neoliberal notions of “successful aging” to embrace inclusive, humanistic, and participatory approaches. Interdisciplinary collaboration between tourism scholars and gerontologists is essential to capture the lived experiences of older adults. Ethical integration of technology, caregiver-inclusive tourism, and longitudinal studies on health outcomes represent critical research frontiers. This holistic understanding positions tourism not merely as leisure but as a catalyst for longevity, equity, and well-being among aging populations worldwide.

Keywords: Gerontology; Digital Inclusion; Aging Tourism; Longevity; Transformative Travel Experiences

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A 42 THE 005

Decoding #trafies: Leveraging travel selfies for destination marketing in Malaysia

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Abstract

Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC), which has transformed the traditional communication method, is believed to have deepened the relationships of individuals. CMC is fundamentally seeding the tourism industry by allowing tourists to engage through social media and digital platforms that enable instant sharing and interactive engagement. However, within the tourism photography literature, selfies are still regarded as a form of narcissistic behavior, neglecting their inclination for destination marketing and as a tool for understanding tourists' behavior who are the new active content producers and disseminators. Addressing the need to explore the selfies taxonomy within the tourism context, this paper examines the evolving phenomenon of travel selfies within the Malaysian tourism context by analyzing user-generated travel photographs. Drawing from 10000 travel selfies collected via archival research, this study identifies the primary categories of travel selfies posted by Malaysian tourists. Witnessing the variety of photographs shared on Instagram, travel selfies have been singled out, often at the expense of other types of selfies. Samples have been reached via a predetermined hashtag covering every state in Malaysia (i.e., #travelmalaysia). Each sample has been verified after screening through five selection criteria set for this study, and

intercoder reliability was established through expert review. Three primary data points were collected: travel selfies posted, gender based on profile, and geotag. Through content analysis, this study establishes seven prime genres of travel selfies, namely: adventure/outdoor, nature/landscape, people, tourism infrastructures/facilities, architecture/building, flora/fauna, and food & beverages. Results show that female tourists often post more selfies than male tourists, while Pulau Pinang and Kuala Lumpur are the most selfie-friendly states within Malaysia. The result reveals travel selfies could be significant tools for destination promotion, rather than mere expressions of narcissism. This research contributes to the understanding of visual user-generated content (UGC) in the form of travel selfies in tourism marketing and offers implications for destination managers, policy-makers, and researchers interested in digital communication behavior. The study is limited to the findings of travel selfies posted by Malaysian tourists on Instagram, and the samples collected are limited to public posts and within the stipulated timeframe only.

Keywords: Travel Selfies; Selfies Taxonomy; Instagram; Tourist

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A 43 THE 006

Information Authenticity as a Determinant of Online Destination Image among Selfie-Driven Tourists

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Abstract

The rise of selfie-driven tourism and the widespread use of social media have reshaped how destination images are formed, perceived, and evaluated online. While the popular media are using travel selfies as a medium for destination marketing, the authenticity behind the self-curated image remains questionable and could be a source of misinformation. Understanding the context of information authenticity within the tourism computer-mediated communication perspective is crucial in this digital age to rival disinformation spread through social media. Therefore, this study aims to explore the relationship between information authenticity and overall destination image through the lens of selfie-driven tourists. This study refers to information authenticity as the truthfulness of information shared by tourists via travel selfies for a general view on social media. Information authenticity is denoted as four variables, namely, information authority, author's identity, author's engagement, and author's transparency. Overall destination image is referred to as the behavioral intention of tourists based on travel selfies posted on social media. A total of 406 valid responses received via online survey

were analysed through PLS-SEM using SmartPLS 4.1.1.6 Software. Confirmatory factor analysis, convergent validity, discriminant validity, and the instrument's internal consistency analysis have been cross-checked entirely. Result shows that all four dimensions significantly and positively influence the overall destination image, and the author's engagement seemed to be the most important determinant of the overall destination image, followed by the author's transparency. The findings from this study are expected to contribute to the development of Social Information Processing Theory and understanding how information authenticity cues influence tourists' online destination image perception within the social media context. The result from this study also reflects the invaluable responsibility of selfie tourists, content creators, and destination management organisations to maintain content credibility to gain tourist trust in this information age. The finding from this study is limited to the responses derived from Malaysian tourists who have the experience of engaging in Instagram prior to/during/or after traveling within a stipulated timeframe, and the use of purposive sampling that reached respondents who have higher familiarity with social media travel photography contents may influence the findings.

Keywords: Information Authenticity; Selfie-Driven Tourist; Online Destination Image

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A 44 THE 002

Local Satisfaction as an Evaluation Framework for Co-Created Sustainable Tourism in Pangururan

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Abstract

Pangururan is one of the priority districts in the development of Lake Toba's tourism area, particularly since Lake Toba was proposed as a UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp) in 2016. The construction of the Pangururan waterfront in 2020–2024 further accelerated regional development in Samosir Regency. Since 2017, Pangururan has also been ratified as part of the UN Tourism INSTO Sustainable Tourism Observatory network, requiring systematic monitoring of sustainability indicators. Among these indicators, local satisfaction plays a central role because it influences community participation, policy support, and good governance that ensures equitable economic benefits for local residents. Tourism development in Pangururan adopts a co-creation model, engaging government, communities,

academia, and tourism businesses to collaboratively design innovation-driven tourism products. This study evaluates the success of co-created sustainable tourism innovation by assessing local satisfaction as a key indicator of sustainability outcomes in Pangururan. The study aims to investigate the effectiveness of tourism innovation implemented through co-creation and to determine the level of local satisfaction as the foundation for subsequent development stages. The research objectives are: (1) to identify community perceptions of recent tourism innovations; (2) to assess local satisfaction across social, economic, and environmental dimensions; and (3) to evaluate how co-creation influences community participation and perceived quality of life. A mixed-methods approach was employed, involving a survey of 355 local residents and qualitative data from observations and interviews with stakeholders representing academia, government, tourism businesses, and local communities. Findings reveal that co-created tourism innovation in Pangururan has generated positive and encouraging outcomes. Community members expressed strong ownership of the tourism initiatives and demonstrated a willingness to actively participate in the tourism sector. The results also indicate improvements in local quality of life and strengthened socio-economic benefits. However, continuous community engagement and diversification of tourism products remain necessary to ensure broader and more equitable benefits across the population. The implications of this study support future planning and policymaking in Samosir Regency, demonstrating that local satisfaction measurement is a viable evaluation framework for guiding the next phase of sustainable tourism development in Pangururan and other Lake Toba destinations.

Keywords: Community-Based Tourism; Quality of Life (QoL); Monitoring of Sustainable Tourism; Social Sustainability

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A 45 THE 001

Progress of the Integration of Mountain Culture, Sports and Tourism Industry: A literature review

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Abstract

Background: Mountain regions worldwide face persistent socio-economic challenges, including agricultural decline, rural depopulation, and limited employment opportunities. Tourism has increasingly been adopted as a strategic driver of development. A recent paradigm shift toward integrating cultural assets and sports activities within the tourism sector offers a promising pathway for building more resilient and diversified mountain economies. **Significance:** This integration is pivotal for advancing sustainable development. By combining culture, sports, and tourism, mountain destinations can enhance their attractiveness and competitiveness through unique, authentic, and multifaceted experiences. Moreover, such integration empowers local communities, safeguards cultural and natural heritage, and generates synergistic benefits unattainable by any single sector alone. **Aim:** To investigate the current progress and prospects of integrating mountain culture, sports, and the tourism industry. **Objectives:** 1) To identify the key drivers, success factors, and challenges of this integrative process; 2) To

establish a conceptual understanding of the interaction mechanisms between culture, sports, and tourism in mountain contexts; and 3) To determine effective strategies and models for achieving sustainable and synergistic development. **Methods:** A systematic review of existing literature was conducted, drawing on qualitative case studies from diverse mountain ranges (Alps, Apennines, Carpathians, Pyrenees) involving 11 best-practice initiatives, as well as quantitative analyses from Southwest China using industrial integration evaluation models over nine years (2012–2020). **Limitations:** The review is constrained by its reliance on case studies from European and Chinese contexts, which may limit global generalizability. Furthermore, research specifically addressing the tripartite integration of culture, sports, and tourism remains at an early stage, with much evidence inferred from studies focusing on culture–tourism or sports–tourism dyads. **Findings:** Leadership, community participation, and cross-sectoral collaboration emerged as critical success factors. Key drivers include the pursuit of authentic experiences and regional economic diversification. Persistent challenges include infrastructural deficits, administrative fragmentation, seasonal imbalances, and risks of cultural commodification. While culture–tourism integration is often prioritized, the explicit incorporation of sports remains underexplored, representing significant potential for future growth. **Implications:** These findings provide valuable insights for policymakers and destination managers, highlighting the importance of holistic planning, quality standards, and community-centered approaches. For researchers, the review underscores the need for more empirical studies on tripartite integration, the development of robust evaluation metrics, and exploration of digitalization as a means of enhancing visitor experiences and operational efficiency in mountain destinations.

Keywords: Industrial integration; Tourism industry; Sports industry; Culture industry

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Transport / Travel Environment

A 46 TTE 001

Aviation Carbon Offsetting: A thematic review on sustainability and quality of life

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Abstract

The aviation sector makes a significant contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for approximately 2–3% of total anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions. The rise in international air travel demand, particularly in developing nations, has heightened the need to address aviation-related emissions while promoting economic growth. Carbon offsetting has emerged as a significant market-based mechanism within the framework of the green economy, aiming to reconcile economic development with environmental responsibility. The extent to which these offset initiatives contribute to ecosystem sustainability and improve quality of life (QoL), particularly in developing contexts, remains insufficiently examined. This study conducts a thematic literature review to synthesise and critically analyse current research on aviation carbon offsetting, with a focus on

environmental economics, sustainability transitions, and social well-being. A systematic search of articles indexed in Scopus and Web of Science (WoS), concentrating on literature published from 2000 to 2025. The study employs a structured thematic analysis in accordance with PRISMA protocols to identify and categorise recurring themes concerning (i) carbon market mechanisms, (ii) ecosystem and biodiversity co-benefits, (iii) governance and policy integration, and (iv) socio-economic and quality of life impacts. Findings indicate that carbon offsetting schemes, including CORSIA and voluntary carbon markets, have raised awareness and achieved some emission reductions; however, they frequently fail to ensure equitable distribution of benefits in developing countries. Ecosystem-based offset projects, such as reforestation and mangrove restoration, have the potential to enhance ecological resilience and sustainability. However, their long-term sustainability is hindered by governance weaknesses, limited local participation, and insufficient monitoring frameworks. The anticipated enhancements in community well-being are inconsistent, with evidence indicating both beneficial livelihood outcomes and potential risks of social displacement. The study concludes that aviation carbon offsetting can enhance sustainability and improve quality of life when integrated into inclusive green economy strategies that emphasise transparency, local capacity building, and ecosystem integrity. The paper emphasizes the need for comprehensive policy frameworks that integrate aviation emissions management with broader sustainable development objectives. However, the study's limitations include restricted access to region-specific literature and inconsistencies in project reporting standards.

Keywords: Green Economy; Ecosystem Sustainability; Carbon Offsetting; Quality of Life

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Urban Environment

A 47
UE 001

Mediating Role of Relational Value in Cultural Ecosystem Services for Subjective Well-Being

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Abstract

The concept of cultural ecosystem services (CES) has been receiving growing attention from scholars due to the intensifying pressure from rapid urbanization, which continues to raise global concern about the quality of ecosystem services and the erosion of natural resources. The CES framework provides a theoretical foundation for examining the intangible benefits people derive from ecosystems. However, empirical inconsistencies remain in translating these benefits into people's quality of life. A significant gap was identified in the lack of empirical studies on the integration of relational value for assessing cultural ecosystem services and their contribution to people's quality of life. This narrative review provides insights into the concept of relational value such as care, spiritual, sense of place and connectedness with nature within the theoretical linkages between environmental space, cultural practices and subjective well-being derived from the framework developed by Fish et al. (2016) and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES, 2014). This paper provides a narrative overview that synthesizes findings from two reputable databases: Scopus

and Web of Science (WoS). Through a structured qualitative screening, journal articles were selected based on the related keywords and refined inclusion criteria to establish thematic coding for the conceptual patterns across the literature. As a result, three narrative themes were identified in this review: i) perceived environmental space settings as the provision of CES, ii) cultural practices as expression for human-nature relationship and iii) relational value as mediator mechanism in assessing subjective well-being for CES assessment. It is also critically examined the subjective well-being that might be assessed through cultural ecosystem benefits according to three dimensions; affective, cognitive and experiential of human life. This paper addressed the overlap conceptual between CES benefits and relational constructs by distinguishing instrumental, intrinsic and relational value domains. The findings offer new insights into the concept of CES for assessing subjective well-being within the social-ecological system by integrating relational value domains and suggest practical implications specifically for green space planning. It is suggested to include the dimensions of relational value such as care, stewardship and identity to enhance community-based strategies to enhance people quality of life.

Keywords: Cultural ecosystem services, Relational value, Subjective well-being, Sustainable development

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Working Environment

A 48
WE 001

Regulating Algorithmic Management on Digital Labour Platforms in Malaysia: Lessons from the United Kingdom

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Abstract

Digital labour platforms now rely heavily on algorithmic management to assign tasks, track performance and control worker behaviour. In Malaysia, these systems operate with little oversight, which raises serious concerns about transparency, fairness, and protection for platform workers. Understanding how these tools shape everyday working experiences is therefore vital to strengthening labour safeguards and improving workers' welfare in a fast-growing digital economy. Drawing on insights from more advanced regulatory contexts, especially the United Kingdom, this study investigates how different regulatory approaches to algorithmic management affect platform workers in Malaysia. It has three objectives. First, to identify the main issues linked to algorithmic management in digital labour platforms. Second, to analyse the United Kingdom's regulatory framework in this area. Third, to develop policy recommendations for Malaysia through comparative benchmarking. A two-phase qualitative design was used. Phase One involved content analysis of journal articles, parliamentary statutes, and government policy

documents. Phase Two compared several jurisdictions with a primary focus on the United Kingdom and Malaysia. The study is limited to digital labour platforms and to the regulatory settings of these two countries. The findings reveal significant transparency gaps that leave platform workers open to unfair evaluations and automated deactivation, a problem made worse by weak safeguards in Malaysia. In contrast, the United Kingdom shows stronger recognition of employment status, clearer transparency duties, and growing ethical and policy initiatives that encourage responsible use of AI. Overall, the comparison suggests that Malaysia can strengthen algorithmic management in digital labour platforms by clarifying employment status, enforcing transparent algorithmic practices, and embedding ethical AI standards. Specifically, this can be achieved by recommending amendments to existing labour laws to include definitions of employment status for platform workers, establishing an independent oversight body to ensure compliance with algorithmic transparency standards, and mandating regular audits and disclosures by digital platforms. Additionally, introducing a grievance system that allows workers to challenge unfair evaluations and deactivations could enhance accountability and provide accessible redress pathways. These measures are intended to improve fairness, accountability, and platform workers' quality of life.

Keywords: Algorithmic Management; Digital Labour Platforms; Labour Protections; Ethical AI governance

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