
Editorial

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This volume consists of eight articles. Four of the articles in this volume focus on issues relating to COVID 19. The first article by Kwashirai Zvokuomba and Itai Kabonga entitled “Disaster Response Feasibility: Poverty and Inequality as Sources of Community Fragility during Covid-19 Lockdown in Zimbabwe” examines how urban communities responded to the lockdown measures put in place in order to curb the spread of COVID 19. Due to the weak socio-economic base of most communities in Zimbabwe, COVID 19 worsened an already bad situation characterized by high poverty levels, overcrowded accommodation and other fragile systems. The article draws its conclusions from an ethnographic survey carried out in the high density suburbs of Harare. It is currently estimated that Zimbabwe's economy is more than 90% informal. Due to high levels of informality of the economy the situation in the high density suburbs during the initial phases of the lockdown period can be viewed as a dog eat dog situation. The COVID 19 lockdown measures worsened the state of communities, generally there was an increase in scrambling for water at communal water points, daily queuing for basic food thereby exposing people to infections

and conflict with law enforcement agents. The lockdown measures not only compromised people's livelihoods but had a deleterious effect on people's well-being and ability to implement WHO health guidelines. Thus the adopted lockdown measures pushed the urban poor to the brink, thereby forcing people to deploy various strategies of survival as 'agency'.

The second article by Francisca Nkemdilim and Christopher Onyemaechi Ugwuibe entitled “The socio-economic effects of COVID-19 lockdown in Nigeria: implications on micro and macro economy” discusses the unprecedented challenges faced by countries such as Nigeria due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nigeria, Africa's most populous country is no exception to the debilitating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Nigerian government implemented a range of measures to curb the spread of the pandemic, including closure of international airports, shutting down of institutions, markets/stores etc. On March 29th, an initial four-week state-wide lockdown was declared in three major states, Lagos, Abuja and Ogun, halting all essential activities. Following this Executive Order, state governments throughout the country took stringent measures such as restrictions on inter-state travel, instituting curfews, etc. Against this backdrop, the paper reviewed the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 lockdown in Nigeria and its implications on the micro and macro economy. The study adopted the systems theory. Due to safety protocols established by health experts on the COVID-19 pandemic, data for the study were drawn from participant observation, media commentaries and authentic secondary sources. The content analytical technique was used to review the literature on the subject matter. The study reported that the halt in business activities in the country rendered many penniless and unable to provide for themselves the basic amenities needed for the duration of the lockdown. The study concluded that Federal Government of Nigeria should waive payments on personal and corporate income tax for the second quarter and third quarter of 2020, considering that the shock has affected the income and profits of households and businesses.

The third article by Derick Blaauw, Derek Yu and Rinie Schenck entitled “Inequality among the informally wage-employed in South Africa: implications for the impact of exogenous shocks on lives and livelihoods”, examines the impact of COVID 19 for day labourers. A large number of informally employed men work as day labourers. Day labourers are particularly vulnerable to exogenous shocks such as the COVID 19 pandemic. The paper reflected on and analysed the spatial inequalities in the socio-economic circumstances of day labourers at provincial level and the impact of exogenous shocks on their lives and livelihoods. The paper draws from the only nationally representative database on day labour activities in South Africa and the latest available micro-studies. Most day labourers are into gardening, loading and unloading, bricklaying assistance, construction and painting. Generally day labourers in the Western Cape and Gauteng on average enjoyed shorter working hours, shorter tenure as day labourers, but higher wages than those in South Africa's economically weaker provinces. The post 2007 period has been characterised by increased unemployment as well as declining real and reservation wages among day labourers across all provinces in South Africa. While the impact of COVID 19 is still to be determined the pandemic is likely to impact negatively on livelihoods and provincial inequalities. The demand for labour has gone down hence day labourers are facing serious economic hardships. It is thus imperative that research be done urgently required in order to provide coordinated policy responses to the plight of the informally wage-employed.

The fourth article by Shupikai Kembo entitled “Social media and resource mobilisation for COVID -19 pandemic related initiatives in Zimbabwe”, explores how social media is utilised to promote, mobilise, drive support, and persuade the public to donate towards COVID 19 related charitable initiatives in Zimbabwe. COVID 19 had a negative effect on people's livelihoods. While social media is generally viewed as a negative force it can play a very significant role in the mobilization of resources that are needed in order to combat the negative effects of COVID 19. This article is

based on qualitative data focusing on purposively selected five charitable organizations and two individuals that relied on the social media to mobilize support for COVID-19 related social causes. The article demonstrates the effectiveness of social media use in mobilising resources for charitable causes. Virtual ethnography and in-depth interviews were utilized as data gathering tools. Social influence theory is used to examine the prospects and challenges as well as the effectiveness of social media in mobilising support for health pandemic related social causes. The article demonstrates the effectiveness of the social media in publicizing charitable initiatives, inspiring the public to action and encouraging donations even in economically challenging situations as is obtaining in Zimbabwe.

The fifth article by David Mugo entitled “Effects of the mining legal framework on women participation in Artisanal and Small Scale Mining: Lessons from Taita Taveta County (Kenya),” explores women's participation in the mining sector. Generally Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) has seen an increase of women's participation estimated at more than 50%. This study sought to evaluate the level of women participation in the ASM industry as a result of the legal framework undertaken in the mining sector. The study used data from a cross-sectional survey of 215 women working at different nodes of the ASM sector in Taita Taveta County. Generally most women who participate in ASM business are the main breadwinners in their households. On average, women spend more than eight hours in a day working in the ASM activities. The linear regression results indicated that there was a positive correlation between women's participation in the ASM and legal framework at 1% level of significance. The study therefore, recommends policy frameworks that facilitate easy access to mining licenses by women in the ASM sector. It is strongly suggested that women should be encouraged and sensitized to take up leadership positions in order to ensure that their voices count on the decision table.

The sixth article by Katlego Mashiane and Kola O. Odeku is entitled an “Analysis of the impediments to the realization of the right to access to adequate housing in South Africa”. This article examines issues pertaining to housing and legislative provisions meant to promote housing access. The constitution of South Africa guarantees the right to access to adequate housing. In addition Section 2(1) of the Housing Act 107 of 1997 places an obligation on the national, provincial, and local governments to prioritize the basic needs of the poor community and to have a budget put in place for housing development. There are constitutional provisions that demand access to adequate housing for the poor, disadvantaged, and the vulnerable people. The South African government is mandated under the Constitution to provide and deliver adequate housing to needy citizens. This article seeks to analyse the impediments to the realisation of adequate housing as guaranteed in the Constitution. The article analysed existing documents/data such as journal articles, government policies. The paper found that corruption, nepotism and maladministration are impediments to the realisation of the right of access to adequate housing by the poor, indigents and vulnerable people. It is recommended that there should be proper oversight and that corrupt officials should be brought to justice.

The seventh article by Deborah Tambulasi, Judith Kamoto and David D. Mkwambisi is entitled “Climate justice approaches and effectiveness of flood response interventions on women in Chikwawa District, Malawi”. Floods are amongst some of the negative impacts of climate change. The article's main focus is on the 2015 floods. The article sought to analyse pre- and post- flood response interventions by different stakeholders. The effectiveness of the Climate Justice Approach in interventions to enhance women's resilience during 2015 floods in Malawi is also examined. Data for the qualitative study is based on household interviews, focus group discussions (15 men and 15 women) and key informant interviews (2 experts). Where necessary some quantitative data is provided. Qualitative data was analysed

through Thematic Content Analysis while quantitative through SPSS. The results showed that though women received the response interventions (response, recovery and resilience) the study found that they did not fully benefit due to culture and tradition, rigid gender roles and stereotypes, increased workload and gender based violence. Of note is that interventions that had climate justice lens enhanced women's resilience than the ones without climate justice lens.

The last article by Onipede Wusu entitled “Influence of household wealth status on uptake of short-acting and long-acting contraceptives among in-union women in Nigeria, 2003-2018,” focused on factors that have caused the uptake of short-acting and long-acting contraceptives among in-union women to stagnate in Nigeria in the last two decades. The study analysed the 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) data to explain the stagnation. The analysis involved descriptive and logistic regression techniques at bivariate and multivariate levels. The results suggest the uptake of short-acting and long-acting contraceptives stagnated between 2003 and 2018. Long-acting contraceptive uptake was much lower during the period. Household wealth status significantly and positively predicted uptake of short-acting and long-acting contraceptives in Nigeria ($p < 0.05$). Women in wealthier households had higher odds of reporting short-acting and long-acting contraceptives than their counterparts in households with lower wealth status. Sustainable improvement in family planning uptake in Nigeria, requires the adoption of integrative family planning policy.