

EDITORIAL

Rwanda Journal of Social Sciences, Humanities and Business: ISSN 2708-759X (Print); ISSN 2708-7603 (Online): <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/rjsshb.v1i1.1>

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I welcome you to the inaugural issue of our newly merged Rwanda Journal of Social Sciences, Humanities and Business (RJSSHB). I would like to give a brief introduction of the journal for the benefit of those who are not aware of its history. The former National University of Rwanda (NUR) began a journal series in 2010 hosted by Africa Journals Online (AJOL) from A to H covering a broad range of disciplines transforming from one generic bilingual journal called “Etudes Rwandaises”. With the advent of the University of Rwanda (UR) in 2013, all those journals became an integral part of UR. Among those journals of former NUR were; Rwanda Journal Series A: Arts and Humanities, Rwanda Journal Series B: Social Sciences, Rwanda Journal Series G: Law, and Rwanda Journal Series H: Economics and Management. In the new university, the former three journals were under the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) and the last one was with the College of Business and Economics (CBE). As part of restructuring of UR, a decision was taken to merge these four journals and form a single one with the benefit of being run by an interdisciplinary team. As a result, the Rwanda Journal of Social Sciences, Humanities and Business (RJSSHB) was born with the appointment of the new editorial team in July 2018.

University of Rwanda being transformed into a research led global university, inter-disciplinary research is given top priority. Ten research clusters across the university have been created. These include Cluster 2 Socioeconomic Transformation and Sustainable Development and Cluster 4 Inclusive Governance, Peace and Security. As such the RJSSHB is seen as an important platform to disseminate the research results to share with the peer groups across the globe and contributing to scientific research in the mentioned research clusters. RJSSH has, in all five main streams of disciplines, which include social sciences, arts & humanities, law, economics and business management.

The editorial team thanks the UR senior management for the support rendered to make it possible to start the new journal and it foresees a reinforced journal contributing to the impactful scientific research dissemination. This inaugural issue is a maiden attempt to roll out the RJSSHB with 5 research papers spreading in the fields of social sciences, humanities, economics and management.

The first paper belongs to economics discipline. **Ruranga Charles and Scott Hacker** contributed the first paper titled ‘The determinants of households having savings accounts in Rwanda’ using the data from Rwanda Integrated Household Living Conditions Surveys. It assesses the extent to which the households’ socio- economic factors influence the likelihood of having savings account. It has greater relevance in the context of global awareness and preparedness for inclusive finance. An understanding of the dynamics around the ownership and operationalization of savings bank accounts by people shall help intensification of domestic savings, thus contributing to formation of capital. The paper confirms that the main households’ characteristics such as affordable economic status, urban background, male as the households’ head, and literacy level of the households’ head have positive impact on the household’s ownership of savings account. The bank balances also doubled over the reference period. It exemplifies the Rwandan miracle.

The second paper by **Raphael Nkaka and Charles Kabwete Mulinda** titled ‘Sacred kingship and political power in ancient Rwanda’ revisits the sacred kingship in ancient Rwanda. The existing literature portrayed

it as either obvious or doubtful. Using local sources, documentary research, historical method and exploring theories related to sacred kingship, the article argues that the kingship in Rwanda was sacred. The role that this sacred kingship played in the processes of unification of the territory of Rwanda, creation of material culture, origins and consolidation of the kingship and the kingdom is also identified. The most important role of the sacred kingship appears to have been mainly the legitimization of the King's power.

'Motivation, Implication and Autonomy at Work' is the third paper by **Serupia Semuhoza Etienne**. It explores the impact of autonomy on motivation, and implication at work. The study showed that perception of autonomy varies according to the position of employee in an organization. It found that autonomy had positive effect on employee's motivation and implication to all its components. The individuals who are more autonomous in their job are satisfied and motivated. Special attention should be paid on the form of activity and in particular the level of autonomy when one is interested in the motivation, satisfaction and the implication at work. The author emphasized that the organizations should consider also factors related to the intrinsic such as the fact of taking initiatives, to have responsibilities or to carry out one's competences, source of implication, while extrinsic aspects and dissatisfaction go together. Though this paper is tagged to social sciences, but it cuts across multidisciplinary aspects like human resource management, sociology and organizational behaviour.

The fourth paper contributed by **Innocent Nsengiyumva and Rama Rao Bokka** on 'Topical skills for accounting graduates within changing business environment: Stakeholders' satisfaction levels in Rwanda.' It is based on a survey of the perceptions of three important stakeholders of accounting environment inclusive of teachers, accounting graduates who gained employment and the employers. The study focused on measuring the gap between employers' expectation of accounting employees' skills and the skills sufficiency levels of accounting graduates. The paper also examines the influence of business environment dynamics on the demand for the type of accounting skills from the universities. The authors established that the Rwandan business environment is fast changing and lay much demands for variety of skills to sustain its growth inclusive of accounting skills.

The employers expect a portfolio of technical accounting skills as well as generic soft skills from their accounting employees. The authors emphasize that the skills sufficiency levels of accounting employees are acceptable and up to the expectation of the job market on technical side, while they are deficient in the possession of IT and Communication skills. On the other hand, the university teachers felt that it is suffice for accounting graduates to have the technical accounting skills while others be secondary in importance. The authors highlight the importance of coherence and collaboration between the industry and academia in designing and building appropriate technical as well as generic skills among accounting students enabling them to match with the job market expectations.

The fifth and the last paper entitled 'Conflicting expectations by lecturers and students regarding the production of good academic writing: A case study of the University of Rwanda' by **Twagilimana Innocent and Devika Naidoo** is related to teaching and learning academic writing in a particular context of English as Second Language. English as medium of learning has a special place in Rwanda, which made it possible a Francophone nation into an Anglophone country. The analysis of lecturers and students' expectations regarding the production of academic writing reveals that the lecturers' conception of academic writing is influenced by an autonomous view – based on discrete skills. An alternative approach for development of students' academic writing competences is suggested.

Dear readers enjoy reading the articles in this first volume N° I of the Rwanda Journal of Social Sciences, Humanities and Business (RJSSHB). Feel free to give us any feedback. Potential authors are invited to submit original scientific research papers for consideration to publish in the second issue.

Rama Rao Bokka
Editor-in-Chief