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The tragedy of German Jesuits working in Chinhoyi Diocese during Zimbabwe's war of Liberation

J Chakawa

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Abstract

The Catholic Church emerged out of the liberation war in 1980 as battered, numbed and depleted by the deportation of several of its rural clergy and the murders of its missionaries, nuns and lay people working in parishes which were located in the main theatres of the war. The Catholic church was accused by the Rhodesian government of being riddled with communism yet at the same time missionaries were brutalized by armed guerrilla assailants. The paper studies the experiences of some of the missions in the then Sinioa Prefecture (now Chinhoyi Diocese). The missions under study are St. Albert's, Kangaire, St Rupert's, St Boniface and St Paul's. It begins with the history of Jesuits in Zimbabwe, the establishment of the missions and then goes on to explain circumstances surrounding the misfortune of these missions. The escalation of the war saw St Ruperts, Kangaire and St Albert's closing between 1978 and 1979. At St Ruperts, the two German missionaries present were killed and a German priest was murdered at Kangaire. St Boniface mission lost its African catechist and closed as well.

Keywords: Jesuits, Diocese, Prefecture, outstation

The Challenge of Service Delivery in Selected Local Authorities in Zambia

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Zambia

Abstract

This article presents selected findings from the author's PhD thesis entitled, "Local Government Administration and Service Delivery in the Third Republic: A Case Study of Lusaka City Council, Choma Municipal Council and Luwingu District Council. The article argues that in spite of the various local government reforms instituted since Zambia gained its political independence in 1964, public service delivery by local Councils has remained a serious challenge, and a source of concern to the citizenry. The selected findings have revealed that lack of public oversight, weak political representation, lack of sufficient capital equipment and inadequate financing of the local Councils have adversely affected the operations of the Councils. In effect, major stake holders in the process of service delivery are not sufficiently engaged, and the people's representatives, (the Councillors) constitute a weak link between local Councils and the residents. A serious reform agenda tailored to address these shortcomings, as suggested in the Conclusion and Recommendations section of the article, should be instituted as a matter of urgency.

Keywords: Service delivery; Political representation; Participation; Local revenue

Zimbabwean plantation Workers' Conditions of Work and Service, a Case of Manicaland Province.

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Abstract

The colonial state the world over has been characterized as brutal and exploitative in that it denied the indigenous peoples from benefiting from their resources. In the case of Zimbabwe in particular, the settlers during the greater part of the first half of the 20th century took recourse to primitive accumulation of wealth as the hoped for Eldorado's failed to materialize. Following the failure of the "Second Rand" by the turn of the century, the settlers turned to agriculture. This resulted in a well calculated and managed process of land expropriation from the indigenous Africans. Thus agriculture became the backbone and corner stone of the colonial economy. African conditions of work and service in this sector have been regarded as the worst compared to other sectors and this history is well documented. The nationalist movements in their struggle against the colonial state pledged to improve the conditions of farm and plantation workers should they gain power. Was this promise fulfilled? This is the major question this paper grapples with. Basing on evidence gathered from plantations in Manicaland, it is argued in here that conditions of plantation as well as other farm workers have remained pathetic.

Keywords: Plantation workers, Struggle, Conditions of service, Expropriation, Uhuru

Age-Discrepant Sexual Partnerships among Female Students at a Private University in Zimbabwe

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Abstract:

Age-discrepant sexual partnerships between much older men and younger women are a known key driver for HIV infection among young women particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. The specific extent of these partnerships in higher education institutions is not yet well-researched and documented. The present study was an exploratory investigation at a private Christian-related university in Zimbabwe. From discussion in three focus groups (assembled through a snowballing process) it was revealed that all the discussants were aware of the existence of age-discrepant sexual partnerships among people like them in the university. The relationships were initiated not only by the older men but by the initiatives of the young women, sometimes with the agency of young male university students. Poverty and need to survive in a difficult economic environment was important but not the only reason for engaging in these relationships. Also important to the young women were the need to have access to trendy goods and services, to be loved and cared for while sexual satisfaction with older men was only of secondary importance. Risk perception for HIV was universal among the young women in the study but successful negotiation of safe sex was often impossible. Additional disadvantages of age-discrepant partnerships included the disempowerment of the young women and problems caused for the older men's families.

Keywords : Age-discrepant, Age-disparate, Intergenerational, Economic asymmetries, Sexual partnerships.

The Prevalence of Corporal Punishment in Zimbabwean Schools in the Twenty-First Century: A Case Study of Gweru

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Abstract

This study investigated the prevalence of corporal punishment in Zimbabwean secondary schools in the first decade of the twenty first century. The focus of the study was to analyze the perceptions of students, teachers and heads in Gweru Urban secondary schools on the continued use of corporal punishment. Currently progressive scholars are calling for child centred and liberative pedagogy while human rights activists are calling for the banning of corporal punishment in schools. The study employed the descriptive survey method and the research instruments used were the questionnaire and the interview schedule. A sample of 5 school heads, 30 teachers and 45 students was selected. Research findings revealed that the use of corporal punishment is widespread in Gweru Urban secondary schools and it is applied indiscriminately on both female and male students. However, this is in direct contradiction and violation of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture's Minute number 362 of 1998 which clearly stresses that where it becomes necessary to apply corporal punishment heads are directly responsible or any member of staff authorized by the head, and that female students should not be subjected to any form of corporal punishment. The findings revealed that truancy, disruptive behaviour, bullying and theft are the main causes leading to the prevalence of corporal punishment in schools. The study recommends that teachers and heads need to be conscientised to adopt a democratic and professional conduct in their interaction with students. Guidance and counselling are also recommended as alternative means to corporal punishment. There is need to move away from the retrogressive practice of administering corporal punishment as it is deemed dehumanizing by the respondents.

Keywords: Corporal punishment, truancy, bullying, disruptive behaviour

On the Fringes of Life: Challenges and Survival Strategies of Migrant Labourers in Bahir Dar Town, Ethiopia

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Abstract

Bahir Dar town has been the destination of thousands of rural migrants since the last few decades. Many studies have been conducted on other features of the town. Labour migration and its challenges on the host and labour migrants remained unexplored. The study analyzes the challenges that migrants pose on the urban environment, the risks they encounter, and the corresponding coping strategies employed by them in response to the new urban environment. Migrant labourers in Bahir Dar town can be characterized by making mixed contributions to the host environment. On one hand, they have been principal sources of the manual labour that has played immense role in the development of the town, while on the other posing scores of adverse effects like urban delinquency, unemployment, among others, on the host environment. The new urban setting itself poses a range of challenges to migrant labourers including housing problem, labor exploitation, and social discrimination. To deal with these rigors, they employed different coping strategies including accepting any job, blood selling, reciprocity, food sharing, and others. In-depth interview, observation, document review, and questionnaire were used as major instruments to elicit data on these wide- ranges of themes.

Key words: Migration, challenges, host-environment, survival strategies

Primary School Pre-Service Teachers' Perceptions of the Effectiveness of Mentor Supervision

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Abstract

Perceived mentor behaviours and attitudes may influence pre-service teachers' development of basic teaching skills. This study was a survey to find out pre-service primary school teachers' perceptions of the effectiveness of mentor supervision in helping develop essential teaching skills (planning, assessment, communication, classroom management, subject mastery and reflective practice) during their period on teaching practice. A self designed and pilot tested four-point Likert Scale 43-item questionnaire and interviews were used to collect data for the study. Questionnaire responses were analysed using SPSS Version 15 to find frequencies, means and standard deviations of commonly held views on effectiveness of mentoring on teaching skills and practices development. Mentors have been perceived to have effectively helped pre-service teachers in developing communication skills and were less effective in the other areas including mentoring relationships. The college under study needs to improve the design of mentoring practices for pre-service teachers for effective development of teaching skills.

Keywords: Mentor supervision, Teaching practice, Teaching skills, Perceptions.

Untranslatability Is A Myth

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Abstract

The tower of Babel is the most celebrated Judeo-Christian myth explaining the rationale behind an array of languages spoken on the face of the earth. In colonial and neo-colonial Africa, technical knowledge has been assumed as naturally constructed in the European and Western languages. The flip side of this attitude is that African languages by their nature cannot incorporate knowledge and modern science and cannot be used to teach and learn Science subjects since English is “untranslatable”. This study seeks to expose the fallacy behind “untranslatability” by using practical examples from a bilingual Shona-English dictionary entitled Duramazwi reUrapa noUtano hence proving the linguistic property of language called immense complexity.

Key words: Translation, untranslatability, scan and balance, spin-offs

Challenges Faced by Girls in Learning Science in Mixed Sex Schools of Marondera East District

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Abstract

This study established the perceptions of teachers, pupils and school heads on difficulties girls face in learning science in mixed sex schools. A descriptive survey design was adopted. A Closed-ended questionnaire was administered to female science students. Structured interviews were conducted with male students, science teachers and school heads. The data was analysed using the manual sort and count, grouped, coded, classified, categorized and trends and patterns analysed as they emerged. The study established that teachers are aware of some obvious factors such as teachers' biases and preferential treatment of boys as factors that hinder girls' progress in science. Teachers were however not clear of the link between subtle cultural norms, the masculine nature of science and the poor performance of girls in science. Girls on their part cited patriarchal values such as hostile class environments, domestic gendered division of labour, and unfriendly teaching styles as some of the constraints to their progress in science. The study proposed the engendering of the teacher education science curriculum as well as in-service of practicing teachers as ways to reduce the burden faced by girls in studying science.

Keywords: Perceptions, Science Learning, performance, attitude, patriarchal socialisation, gender stereotype

Achieving research excellence Zimbabwean universities: A review based on the eight anchor elements characterising excellent companies

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Abstract

This paper discusses the importance of achieving quality university research and how the research contributes to the success of industry and commerce in Zimbabwe. The research boards in universities are under stress due to limited resources and budgetary constraints. There are eight anchor elements that characterize most successful companies in United States of America that can be used as a framework of achieving research breakthrough in institutions of higher learning in Zimbabwe. Being stakeholder driven institutions of, the issue underpins the importance of being more closer to the customers in so far as research excellence can be achieved. The author further seeks to add a ninth anchor element, leadership which is the umbilical cord which houses the 8 anchor elements that characterise companies that have achieved breakthrough in business strategies. Lastly, the author assesses the importance of magnetic leadership for achieving research breakthrough in universities.

Key words: Research excellence, universities, Zimbabwe, anchor elements, excellent companies.



BOOK REVIEWS

The Early Morning Phone Call: Somali Refugees' Remittances

A Abeje
Department of Social Anthropology
Addis Ababa University
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Lindley, Anna. 2010.

The Early Morning Phone Call: Somali Refugees' Remittances.

New York: Berghahn Books.

ISBN978-1-84545-664-3

This well-crafted book deals with the intersection between remittance and the socio-economic effects that the home and the diaspora Somali community in London have undergone because of migration. With sensible rationale of the need to capture emic point of view, Lindley rendered the utmost effort to analyze the repercussion of remittance from the perspective of the main actors- remitters and receivers.

China in Africa

C Munhande
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Alden, C. (2007).

China in Africa,

Zed books: London, pp. 157

ISBN: 978 184277863 0 hb

Chinese growing influence in Africa in the 21st century is no longer a myth; it is a reality. From Sudan down to South Africa and Tanzania to Nigeria, Chinese businesses have become part and parcel, if not the dominant, of the domestic business milieu. In big projects, such as oil exploration, mining, and construction that require large capital outlays, Chinese businesses have actually become major investors in many countries. This phenomenon has provoked heated debates among intellectuals on the continent and beyond on the impact of Chinese business activities on the continent. This debate is polarized between those who are the majority, who argue that the new engagement between China and the continent has nothing to offer for Africa's development agenda, but continued exploitation, and those who see an opportunity for African development. Chris Alden's *China in Africa* is part and parcel of this debate. The book, in trying to present a balanced and holistic argument, investigates the emerging relationship between China and Africa to determine whether this engagement will be that of a development partner, economic competitor, or new hegemony.

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Original research articles from empirical investigation, high quality

review articles, case studies, expository essays and first-hand experiences in the fields of social sciences, arts, humanities and commerce may be considered. Short communication or preliminary results of important research and news items may be submitted. Manuscripts should not normally exceed 20 double-spaced pages, including references and appendices. Book reviews, preliminary results of important research, and news items, should not normally exceed 1000 words.

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Article structure

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State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background and a review of literature. Authors are expected to confine this section to the title and objectives of the paper and avoid the inclusion of irrelevant information.

MATERIALS AND METHODS (METHODOLOGY)

Results of any research depend very largely on the materials and methods (methodology). This means that this section should be as detailed as possible.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results should be clear and concise. Discussion needs to explore the significance of the results of the work. The use of sub-headings is encouraged in this section.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Main conclusions and recommendations of the study should be presented in a short section that stands alone.

REFERENCES

Provide a detailed list of the literature cited in the text. Ensure that all references cited in the text are listed in the references section and that any reference not cited in the text should not be listed. Use the American Psychological Association [APA] Style (5th Edition)

N.B. Manuscripts should not be longer than 20 typed pages inclusive of references and appendices. Double space all text including references. Use **Times New Roman Font Size 12** and avoid unnecessary graphics.

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