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Editorial

Humanities Southern Africa. (Volume 1, Number 2)

Following the publication of the first issue of **Humanities Southern Africa** in June 2021 this second issue marks a second step in the right direction. True to the title of this journal, the current issue captures work from beyond Zimbabwe's academic institutions in line with arguments by Shin (2017) who reports that most social science publications cover a wide spectrum of disciplines. And true to this observation, the current issue covers a number of subject areas ranging from sociology, psychology, law, urban planning and human resource management.

In the first article, **Chafa, Jaka and Chazireni**, examines the impact of climate change on agriculture and the various strategies utilised by the Xangani community in Chiredzi District in Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe. The study sought to establish the effectiveness of the indigenous knowledge systems in mitigating the effects of climate change amongst the Xangani people in Chiredzi District. The study revealed that despite adoption of modern technologies, indigenous knowledge systems are still utilised in agricultural activities though recent technological advances have made some of the indigenous knowledge systems redundant. The scholars conclude that climate change is reshaping the lives of the Xangani communities including change of family structures through cross border migration, community wealth has been severely depleted.

In the second article, **Chazireni** teams up with **Chindedza** examines the challenges faced by female students in Masvingo District secondary schools in accessing contraceptives. It emerged from the study that there are quite a number of factors that inhibit access to desired contraceptive methods by the female students in secondary schools in Masvingo district in Zimbabwe. These range from the side effects of the contraceptives, costs of contraceptives, sexual pleasure, lack of knowledge, shortage of the contraceptives, limited confidentiality by service providers, male dominance, religion and community perception.

The third paper in this journal was a response by **Chifamba, Joseph and Kilonzo** to the problem of food insecurity in rural areas in Zimbabwe. As such, the scholars examined the strategies applied in coping with household food insecurity in the Chipinge District of Zimbabwe. The study's findings reveal interesting and radical approaches taken by rural households in Zimbabwe which include forced fasting to cope with food shortages. The study sets a strong case for ensuring food security in Zimbabwean rural areas and beyond.

Gender inequality at both macro and micro level has been a subject of debate at both international and national fora. The inequalities between women and men or boys and girls in Africa in terms of access to resources and opportunities have traditionally had a negative impact on women and girls. Taking a cue from these observations, **Chirombe, Mtemeri, Kasinamunhu, and Chademana** sought to unveil the strides taken to achieve gender equality among primary school learners where both boys and girls are equally treated. The results of the study revealed that the education system in Zimbabwe has realised tremendous achievements in bringing



equality among learners in primary schools, the learning and teaching tools have helped reduce the gap between boys and girls. The methods used in schools to attain equality among learners are very effective as they emphasise the girl child. Whilst the findings of this study are conclusive, they reveal a gap a knowledge as it emerged that the boy child has been left at a disadvantage thus creating room for further studies.

In a concept paper, **Dziwa and Maziti** interrogates the efficacy and prevalence of art therapy as a form of school-based counselling or psychotherapy which integrates visual arts, creative process, interpretation and models of counselling to help and support victims of social and emotional stress. This psychotherapeutic practise has a very strong tradition in the global north unlike in the global south albeit the various benefits it has shown in learners, patients, individuals and groups' behavioural change and healing. This paper demonstrated the efficacy of art therapy and visual engagement in soothing the soul, alleviating emotional stress and anxiety affecting learners' academic and social life in Zimbabwean schools.

In a study based on Gutu Rural District Council **Jena, Ndemera, Mago and Hickonicko** examined the role of participatory budgeting system in the enhancement of service delivery in local authorities. The research findings demonstrated that participatory budgeting system have a very important role in enhancing service delivery however its implementation is adversely affected by factors like flawed legislative system, the COVID-19 pandemic, bureaucratic malaise, political instability and many more. In response to that, the research passed recommendations on the amendment of flawed legislative acts, adoption of responsive mechanisms of conducting budget consultations among others. The paper is ground-breaking as it sheds light on the prospect of participatory budgeting in Zimbabwean rural local authorities albeit in a COVID-19 environment.

Gayos, Matewe and Zirima explores the efficacy of the Draw A Person Test (DAPT) in interpreting children's personalities in Zimbabwe by determining and establishing how it helps in the interpretation and understanding of children's sexual orientations and personality disorders. The study revealed that, the Draw A Person Test was able to successfully interpret the personality traits of children from a Zimbabwean sample thereby validating its effectiveness in interpreting children's personality in Zimbabwe. The study also exposed that the DAPT is less effective in interpreting children's sexual orientations in Zimbabwe as most personality traits considered as abnormal in DSM-5 are considered normal and healthy in the Zimbabwean context. Based on these findings, the scholars recommend that different cultures and regions should have different DSM to be used in conjunction with the Draw A Person Test if it is to effectively diagnose personality disorders in various regions.

In another paper drawn from the discipline of psychology, **Kasinamunhu** examines the efficacy of palliative care service for people suffering from chronic and terminal illnesses as well as their families in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. The study revealed that the Covid-19 pandemic had disrupted palliative care provision in Zimbabwe. In addition, palliative care facilities were unprepared for the transition that would be needed to provide palliative care virtually in response to Covid-19. The study recommends drafting of virtual palliative care



policies and strategies, training of professionals to be competent in these and facilities to safeguard and promote psychological wellbeing of palliative care professionals.

In a theoretical paper, **Mabika** examines the challenges and opportunities of teleworking in Zimbabwean organisations in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. The results indicated that there are more challenges than opportunities for Zimbabwean organisations. Findings indicated that amongst other things, productivity has reduced for most organisations and managing performance of employees working from home possess an additional challenge for employers. The study also revealed that most Zimbabwean organisations have resorted to restructuring as a way to cope with the new normal; some jobs are being merged whilst others are being discarded totally. Based on these findings, the study concluded teleworking have brought more challenges than opportunities to Zimbabwean organisations. network connectivity. This means that organisation should craft relevant strategies to navigate through these challenges.

Mataruse takes over the effects of the Covid-19 and explores the experiences of people who lost spouses due to Covid-19 related complications in Zimbabwe. Based on the findings of the study, the scholar recommends that surviving spouses must be given insight into professional counselling services in dealing with grief. The scholar also exhorts national authorities must decree burial restrictions coupled by complete remedial packages. One of the key issues affecting Zimbabwe at the moment, the effects of the incessant electricity load shedding. The scholars (**Matewe and Samson**) argue that whilst extant literature concentrates on the economic impact of electricity load shedding on the Zimbabwean economy, an examination of the psycho-social effects of electricity load-shedding reveals other issues that are often ignored by mainstream researchers. The paper therefore fills a yawning gap in literature and probes future researchers to also adopt a psychological examination of other matters affecting Zimbabwean other than electricity load shedding.

Mlambo examines the effects of the Covid19 pandemic from the perspective of the visually impaired. The study revealed that the application of digitalization during the COVID-19 pandemic brought about a digital divide especially in the inclusive society where the most binding substance has been the language of conveying information on COVID-19. Having to rely on mostly English language has therefore proved inappropriate especially in societies where English language is a third or fourth language and especially in areas that are remote like rural areas.

Mukorera and **Chivengenga** takes a different approach and argue that the emergence of the Covid-19 in Zimbabwe left a certain section of the society (Adolescent girls and young women) neglected by policy makers. The scholars prove that before the advent of Covid19, policy makers where making concerted efforts to address the sexual and reproductive health rights of adolescent girls and young women. However, the Covid19 scare saw this attention been withdrawn thus leaving this critical but vulnerable social group groping in the dark for sexual and reproductive health services. The scholars call on policy makers to address this blind spot before the situation gets out of hand.

Motivated by a gulf in literature at the confluence of psychology and the design fields, **Muleya** examines how humanistic streetscaping can be improved from the tactile planning and design standpoint using a Case of



Bulawayo Central Business District (CBD). The study recommends the re-engineering of public space through the introduction of a 'tactile street roof'.

Mutanda, Zinhiva and Sawunyama adopt a legal approach to the effects of the Covid19 by examining how the effect Covid-19 restrictions on democratising environmental governance through EIA in Zimbabwe. After an extensive study, the authors recommend that Zimbabwean authorities should move away from the 'new normal rhetoric' and modernize the public participation process with inclusive consultative platforms. This research recommends future researches to assess how Covid-19 restrictions had affected access to substantive environmental rights and environmental democracy.

Some of the controversial aspects of the FTLRP are revealed by **Mutanda and Simatele**. In a study based in Chiredzi District, the authors argue that despite the heralded success of the FTLRP, the programme also left the so-called beneficiaries with a feeling of increased disenfranchisement, loss of civil liberties, insidious political victimizations and abuse among A1 beneficiaries. In view of this, it is argued that for the FTLRP to realize its intended socio-economic outcomes, there is an urgent need for Zimbabwean authorities to realize that access to the right to agricultural land makes 'incomplete' citizens in the absence of civil liberties since the later are empowerment rights to achieve other rights.

In another paper that probes the benefits of the FTLRP, **Mutanda, Zinhiva and Mudyazhezha** examines the effect of the FTLRP on the incidences of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC). The scholars conclude that the resettlement programme can be blamed for the increase in HWC over the years owing to the settling of people in areas close to areas reserved for wildlife.

In support of the agricultural revolution in Zimbabwe, **Mabika** examines the role of the NGO sector in promoting fish farming in Zimbabwe. The paper identifies the prospects of NGO support in fish farming in Zimbabwe and also reveals some of the impediment for this symbiotic relationship.

Ruombwa adopts a legal perspective and examines the application of the constitutional promise of a fair hearing and the twin concepts of substantive justice and procedural justice in labour disputes in Zimbabwe. In this elaborate paper, the author articulates the meaning of the terms, *Substantive justice* and *Procedural justice* in the work place in Zimbabwe and concludes that the provision of justice in the leads to an equitable working environment and the achievement of the sustainable development goals of the nation.

The final paper in this issue adopts a gendered perspective in introspecting to concepts of the Queen Bee in the banking sector in Zimbabwe. In the paper, **Mubango** seeks to discover what motivates women in leadership positions to promote or welcome fellow women in those leadership positions. The findings of the study suggest that women remain the major stumbling bock in achieving equal representation in leadership positions. These



findings is likely to spark debate among scholars as it seems to be diverging from the traditional gendered perspective of viewing women as victims and not as villains.

Dr Willard Nyamubarwa

Research Chair, School of Social Sciences (Great Zimbabwe University)

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