The impact of individual factors on being exposed to workplace bullying in academia

TJR Thisera
Department Human Resource Management, University of Kelaniya

Background and rationale: Workplace bullying which has severe negative consequences at individual, group, organizational and societal level is becoming a growing research interest. Individual and organizational factors have been studied through previous studies. However, there are inconsistent findings on individual factors and exposure to workplace bullying.

Aim: This paper examines the impact of individual factors (gender and personality) on being exposed to workplace bullying in Management faculties in state universities in Sri Lanka.

Proposed methodology: A cross-sectional survey design will be adopted and data will be collected through self-administered questionnaire. Bullying is assessed using the Negative Activity Questionnaire (NAQ). The Five Personality Factors Inventory will be used to measure the personality.

Expected Outcomes: This study contributes to the existing literature with inconsistent findings on individual factors and workplace bullying. Further, the existence of the workplace bullying in Sri Lankan academia will be revealed.

Keywords: Workplace bullying, Academia, Individual factors, Gender, Personality
Implementing Newborn Hearing Screening at the University Pediatric Unit of the North Colombo Teaching Hospital, Ragama

JMAU Chandrasekara,¹ BN Jayasena,¹ D Illeperuma,² D DeSilva,¹ E Chathurika¹

¹Department of Disability Studies, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Background and rationale: Hearing loss is a multifaceted condition with profound medical, social, and cultural implications (Smith et al., 2005). If hearing loss is not detected in infancy, it can lead to delayed speech and language acquisition, impaired social and emotional development and poor academic performance. Adverse consequences of late detection is minimized when hearing is screened by as early as 1 month of age. However, very few state sector hospitals in Sri Lanka implement hearing screening. Hence it is essential that newborn hearing screening programmes are implemented in a wider scale.

Aim: This study aims to initiate a newborn hearing screening programme at the North Colombo Teaching Hospital, Ragama by identifying hearing impairment among all newborn well-babies and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) babies - University Pediatric Unit.

Conceptual framework: The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) recommends a 1-3-6 benchmark on infant hearing. This includes screening hearing of all newborns no later than 1 month of age; those not passing screening to have a diagnostic hearing evaluation no later than 3 months of age; infants with confirmed hearing loss to receive appropriate intervention no later than 6 months of age (JCIH, 2007).

Proposed Methodology: Hearing screening will be conducted using Otoacoustic Emission (OAE) for well-babies and a combination of OAE and Auditory brainstem Response (ABR) for babies admitted to the NICU. Those who fail the initial screen will be rescreened at no later than 1 month of age. Those who fail the rescreen will be referred for detailed audiological evaluation by 3 months of age. The gathered data will be subjected to descriptive and inferential statistics.

Expected outcomes: The proposed study will provide an initiative step towards including newborn hearing screening as a compulsory component to the hospital’s newborn care services.

Key words: New born, Hearing screening, Otoacoustic Emissions, Auditory brainstem Responses

References


Critical analysis of elimination of ethical propositions of A. J Ayer and Carnap with reference to Buddhist ethics

Rev.Dapane chandaratana

In “Language truth and logic” A.J Ayer argues all the ethical statements are essentially meaningless and only expressions of emotive meaning and they are not based on empirical observation. All the statements are empirically or logically verifiable as having factual content are meaningful. The statements that are unable to verifiable as factual content are the expression of emotion and they are neither true nor false. So the normative statements are not essentially factual such as statement like “stealing money is wrong”. These kinds of statements are considered to be as ethical judgment or statement. The above statements are comprised with ethical words. These words do not express the literal meaning but expresses the emotive meanings which reinforce the emotions of the man to do only actions which considered to be good. Therefore according to A.J Ayer the ethical statements are meaningless.

Carnp also stands in the similar notion on the ethical sentences. According to him philosophical investigations of what is good and what is evil, what is right to do and what is wrong to do, are pretended be factual investigations. The purpose of this philosophical or normative ethics is to state norms for human’s actions or judgment about moral values. For instance, the statement “do not kill” has grammatically the imperative forms and will therefore it does not consider as meaningful assertion. He moreover mentioned that someone might think that “If a person kills anybody, he will have feelings of remorse”. So, the sentence “killing is evil.” would be possible to verify through the remorse. But it is only emotional reactions of the person, so ethical statements are pseudo proportions.

A.J Ayer and Carnap reject the normative ethics in order to the method of verification. Nevertheless their method of elimination of ethics can not be employed to reject the ethical statements made by the Buddha as its basis comprises with empirical content. The method adopted by the Buddha to verify the ethical statements is “inference by oneself” (attanan upamankatva). All the ethical statements made by the Buddha would be possible to verify through the above method such as very common statement for ethics is “killing is evil” can verify. Suppose, someone stabs you with purpose to kill you, but with the medical treatments you get cure. Now you have an experience on harmfulness as you experience the suffering. Then you should infer that if such an action is harmful to me, it is common to all other beings. In this way one can verify the meaningfulness of an ethical statement. Therefore, the method adopted by A.J Ayer and Carnap to eliminate the ethical statements as meaningless would not be possible to employed for the rejection of Buddhists ethics.

Key words-normative ethics, verification, Attanan upamankatva

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1 Lecturer(probationary),Bhikshu University of Sri Lanka, dapanechandima@gmail.com
Modeling snakebite risk in Sri Lankan community

DS Ediriweera
ICT Centre, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Background and rationale
Snakebite is considered as a neglected tropical disease (WHO, n.d.). Sri Lanka has one of the highest snakebite incidence (SBI) rates in the world and according to hospital statistics about 37,000 patients are admitted to government hospitals annually as a result of snakebite (Kasturiratne et al., 2005; Kasturiratne et al., 2008). Incidence data are usually modeled with the use of generalized linear models. The aim of the present study is to develop a snakebite risk model for Sri Lanka.

Methodology
Incidence data was obtained from “National Snakebite Study”. Generalized additive and linear models were considered to model snakebite incidence. Individual-level variables namely gender, age, ethnicity, religion, income, education and employment were considered as explanatory variables. The goodness of fit statistics and standardized residuals of the fitted model were used to assess the model fit. Empirical variogram was calculated on standardized residuals to determine spatial dependence. Statistical analysis used the R programming language.

Results
In the fitted generalized linear model, age was considered in quadratic form; gender, employment, ethnicity, and income were considered as factor variables, with significant interaction was noted between ethnicity and income groups. The goodness of fit statistics showed fitted model is adequate to represent snakebite incidence data. According to the fitted model, highest snakebite risk groups were 30 to 59 years age group, males, field workers, low-income non-Sinhalese and Sinhalese compared to middle-income and high-income non-Sinhalese. Map of the standardized residuals of the fitted model, at each sampled locations showed, visually identifiable geographical pattern in the standardized residuals of the fitted model. Empirical variogram calculation on the standardized residuals showed the presence of spatial dependence.

Discussion and conclusions
Although the fitted model was good enough to represent snakebite incidence data, underline geographical distribution of snakebite incidence was not represented. Further spatial analysis is needed to be done to model snakebite incidence in Sri Lanka community.

References:

Abstract

Categories of ancient Social Groups revealed by Batticaloa Brahmi Inscriptions

P.Gowry
Dept. of History, Eastern University, Sri Lanka

Background of the study: The history of Batticaloa remains a closed chapter on the annals of Sri Lankan history. The discovery of majority of Brahmi Inscriptions in the archaeological researches undertaken by Prof.S.Paranavitana in the middle of the 20th Century Culminated in the revelation that on the basis of history, Batticaloa region to be considered as region of much importance. There had been no full comprehensive Studies relation to ancient Societies of Batticaloa region up to now, the Study seeks to discover the Social Groups found within 700 years from BC Third Century to AD fourth Century, on the basis of reliable and ancient Brahmi inscriptions.

Aim: This study aims is to discover ancient social Groups through studying the Batticaloa Brahmi Inscriptions written from the BC Third century.

Theoretical underpinning / Conceptual framework: Based on the research objectives and literature survey conceptual model has been constructed for this study as follow: Identify the ancient social groups, Pattern of the occupation.

Proposed methodology: This study will be undertaken according to principles of historical methodology under competent guidance and in conformity with the principles of rational investigation and analytical examinations of the source materials.

Expected outcomes: The findings of this study will be filling the gap of the knowledge about ancient society of the Batticaloa.

Key words: Brahmi Inscriptions, ancient social Group, Donation

References:

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Proposed methodology: A cross-sectional survey design will be adopted and data will be collected through self-administered questionnaire. Bullying is assessed using the Negative Activity Questionnaire (NAQ). The Five Personality Factors Inventory will be used to measure the personality.

Expected Outcomes: This study contributes to the existing literature with inconsistent findings on individual factors and workplace bullying. Further, the existence of the workplace bullying in Sri Lankan academia will be revealed.

Keywords: Workplace bullying, Academia, Individual factors, Gender, Personality
The impact of Corrective Feedback (CF) for ESL (English as a Second Language) learners on Second Language (L2) phonological errors

K Premarathne

ITUM, University of Moratuwa

Background and rationale: Communicative Language Teaching, which emerged in 1980s, emphasizes accuracy over fluency. As a result, correcting pronunciation errors has become a debatable topic among the Second Language facilitators and it is incorporated in the syllabus as a personal interest of the teachers (Harmer, 1993). However, unrepaird errors lead to early fossilization (Lightbown & Spada, 2013).

Aim: Therefore, this study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of peer and teacher lead corrective feedback on pronunciation errors.

Theoretical underpinning / Conceptual framework: Six types of CF techniques have been introduced in the literature: recast and explicit (teacher lead techniques) and elicitation, clarification request, repetition, metalinguistic and paralinguistic cues (self and peer correction techniques) (Lyster & Ranta, 1997). Even though student oriented feedback enhances learner autonomy, cooperation and interaction, several related psychological issues can be identified (Sultana, 2009).

Proposed methodology: A sample of ninety high proficiency learners will be divided equally into three groups: Group 1 (feedback by peers), Group 2 (feedback by teachers) and Group 3 (no feedback). All will be exposed to pre and post tests. In the pre and post tests, they will be asked to readout a list of words and to develop a conversation respectively targeting the most common phonological error identified at the pilot test. Groups 1 and 2 will be given feedback. The results of the two tests of all three groups will be compared for significant statistical difference.

Expected outcomes: The findings of this study will be helpful in deciding the contribution and the most effective means of corrective feedback for phonological accuracy. Educational programs can be improved accordingly.

Key words: Phonological errors, English, Second language, Corrective feedback

References:


Value Relevance of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in Sri Lankan Listed Companies

KGP Senani

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Background: Accounting was well known as a record keeping method and then evolved up to a decision making tool. Therefore information which is generated through a systematic process plays a vital role in decision making process, known as value relevance information. Accounting standards direct the accounting function and IFRSs were implemented to have consistency of that information around the world. Sri Lanka transformed from Sri Lanka Accounting Standards to IFRS since 01st January 2012. Studies from many countries have been focused to measure the value relevance with their transformation and concluded with different results. Hence this study will be a value creating study in Sri Lankan context.

Aim: Accordingly this study attempts to identify the value relevance of IFRS adoption in Sri Lankan listed companies.

Conceptual Framework: This study will evaluate the value relevance of IFRS adoption in Sri Lankan listed companies. Therefore accounting information is taken as the independent information and market price is considered as the dependent variable. Year-end book value per share and earnings per share are used as the value relevant accounting information and share price at the date of publishing annual reports to the public is taken as the market value. Size, growth and leverage of organisations are considered as control variables which could have an impact on share price other than accounting information.

Proposed Methodology: Population of the study consists 294 companies which is the total number of companies listed in Colombo stock exchange as at 05th August 2015 and 167 companies are qualified for the sample. Study period covers five years from 2010/11 to 2014/15 which is divided into two namely pre-adoption period and post-adoption period to the IFRS implementation. Study will execute price model in valuation to express the impact of accounting information to the market value and the explanatory power of this model will be compared for above two periods.

Expected Outcome: The findings of this study will be beneficial for the users of accounting information in common and specially for the investors who are mainly depend on available information. Further study will be useful for regulators to measure the effectiveness of this implementation in Sri Lankan context.

Key Words: Accounting Information, Explanatory Power, IFRS, Value relevance
Impact of employee and employer behaviour on work performance with the mediating effect of employee relationship: reference to the sigala sutta, worshiping to six directions

MKD Padmasiri

Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies, University of Kelaniya

Background and rationale: This study is deductive in nature because researcher will test established concept in religion perspective. In sigala sutta preached by Lord Buddha invented worshiping six direction (Sadisa Namaskaraya) including employee employer (management) behaviour in down direction within six directions. Sutta describes how should be the behaviour of employee and employer.

Aim: Therefore the purpose of this study is finding how employee and employer behaviour impact on work performance with the mediating effect of employee relationship.

Theoretical underpinning/ Conceptual framework: As the independent variables employee and employer behaviour impact on work performance but through employee relationship. Through this study researcher’s attempt was create a bridge between management and religious concepts. The employer’s behaviour; give duties based on capability, provide sufficient food and pay, provide medical treatment, share any extra profit with employee, and grant holidays and special allowances and employee has certain behaviour; be punctual, leave from work after the employer left, be sincere and trustworthy, complete duties, don’t take things without acknowledgement of employer and speak in praise about his employer.

Proposed methodology: To measure these each variable researcher will use standard questionnaire to collect data form machine operators of selected Apparel sector organization. Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and Structural Equation Model will use to measure collected data.

Expected outcomes: Intended outcome is there is a positive relationship between employee and employer behaviour on employee relationship resulting on work performance.

Keywords: Employee behaviour, Employer behaviour, Employee relationship, Work performance,

References:
Lord Buddha, Sadisa Namaskaraya, Sigalovada sutta, Diaga nikaya.


Knowledge on effects of alcohol among medical undergraduates in Sri Lanka

KMN Perera
Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Background: Alcohol is a major determinant of morbidity and mortality (WHO, 2004). Medical profession plays a key role in controlling alcohol related problems. Global evidence suggest medical undergraduates have inadequate knowledge on effects of alcohol, leading to impaired control of alcohol related problems in the society and increasing risk for themselves to become addicted (Jeremy et al, 2001; Smit et al, 2009; Odeyemi et al, 2014).

Aim: To describe the level and gaps of knowledge on effects of alcohol among medical undergraduates of Sri Lanka

Theoretical underpinning: It is documented that inadequacy of knowledge generates a vicious cycle resulting in poor knowledge and attitudes among medical professionals. This will lead to poor knowledge, skills and attitudes among teachers, resulting in inadequate curricula and lack of role models to the undergraduates in the profession (Miller et al, 2001).

Proposed Methodology: A descriptive cross-sectional study would be conducted among 500 fourth year undergraduates registered in state medical faculties, recruited using a multi-stage cluster sampling method. A self-administered questionnaire, developed based on World Health Organization guidelines on expected competencies from medical professionals at primary health care level and expert opinions of a multi-disciplinary panel will be used to assess the knowledge level. Prevalence of ‘good knowledge’ would be calculated and presented with 95% Confidence Intervals and knowledge gaps would be identified based on pre-determined questions.

Expected outcomes: If the knowledge level is found to be low, it can be used as an advocacy tool to improve attitudes of the medical professionals. Identified knowledge gaps would be shared with the curriculum development committees of all the Faculties of Medicine. A model curriculum will be developed based on the findings, available literature and expert opinion and will be disseminated to the Faculties of Medicine in Sri Lanka.

Key words: Knowledge; Alcohol; Medical undergraduates; Sri Lanka

References:

A Critical Inquiry into the Concept of Art

Rev. Wilgamuwe Piyananda¹

Art is the medium of entertainment which should be experienced within an awaken mind. There are various forms of art including drama, poetry, music, sculpture, dance, literature, films etc. The modern day scholars have classified all these forms of art into numerous categories such as Visual Arts, Auditory Arts, Verbal Arts, Mix Arts, Fine Arts and Applied Arts. All these forms of art used for the same purpose, i.e. providing an aesthetic experience in order to heighten the wisdom.

Various factors and incidences in society make contributions for a production of art to be made. Among them, people's life styles, beliefs, religion, the need to address the mental excitements of artists and environmental as well as geo-political factors are of enormous importance. Hence, it could be safely argued that a production of art is inevitable a property of the whole society and that such productions of art should address the conditions of the contemporary society. Since, art is one of the most important moving factors of culture, any study of the historical background of any country could not disregard art.

Even though the primary purpose of art is to enlighten the mind, it appears that in the present society, it is primarily used only for personal satisfaction and entertainment. Given this background, the present study seeks to inquire into the phenomenon of art in a comprehensive way especially with regard to the functions and purpose of art and the ways in which forms of art could be used for the betterment of the society.

Keywords: Art, Entertainment, Aesthetics, Media

¹ Temporary Lecturer, Department of Buddhist and Pali Studies, Sri Lanka Bhikkhu University, Anuradhapura. wilpiyananda@gmail.com
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Art is the medium of entertainment which should be experienced within an awaken mind. There are various forms of art including drama, poetry, music, sculpture, dance, literature, films etc. The modern day scholars have classified all these forms of art into numerous categories such as Visual Arts, Auditory Arts, Verbal Arts, Mix Arts, Fine Arts and Applied Arts. All these forms of art used for the same purpose, i.e. providing an aesthetic experience in order to heighten the wisdom.

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¹ Temporary Lecturer, Department of Buddhist and Pali Studies, Sri Lanka Bhikkhu University, Anuradhapura. wilpiyananda@gmail.com
A study on the usage of Facebook for propagation of Buddhism

Rev. Kubugoda Are Pagnnaloka

Probationary lecture, Department of social science and comparative studies

The Bhiksu University of Anuradapura

kumbugoda@gmail.com

In the 6th century B.C The Buddha who attained establishment propagate his philosophy for 45 years. The preaching method was used to spread at the philosophy by the Buddha and under of propagative methods was used to spread at Buddhism thereafter. At the present, communication in the world has become to its top level and intents is one of the sophisticated gated tools of communication by now. According to the study Problems are Lack of responsibility, Wrong information through take accounts, Difficulty to regulate and limit. Therefore, It can be concluded that it will be effective to used Facebook to propagate Buddhism if the problems can be diminished Social websites has become more faster and wider communicative took and Facebook, created by monk shorebird in 2004, can be identified as a famous social network at the moment to more than 900 million members are there in facebook by 1st December 2015 with 1.5 million Sri Lankan members approximately .About 24000Sri Lankan Facebook accounts was been considered as take ones Face book accounts related to Buddhism can be with the sensed of propagating Buddhism can be categorized into 3 groups

1. Fully functioning as Buddhist face book accounts
2. Moderately functioning as a Buddhist
3. Least functioning as Buddhist

Furthermore, 7 major methodologies can be distinguished that are used to propagate Buddhism on Facebook, Posters or images, Videos, Auditors, Dhamma books downloads, Dhamma Articles, Comparative studies Scientific findings on Buddhism. This post on face seems very interesting and attractive. Numbers of such post are at high level. Therefore it is clear that Facebook is used for propagating Buddhism in Sri Lanka by now. Here, It is mentioned some suggestions problems encountered with any research following 01. Creating new Facebook accounts dedication to Buddhism
02. Creation English and Tamil medium accounts 03. Take the utmost opportunities to propagate Buddhism face book. After that Buddhism can be communicated though face book.

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https://www.facebook.com/maharahatunvadimaga/?fref=ts
The Effect of Dowry in Hindu Wedding: A Research Based on Ampara District

Navaretnam Subaraj

1Department of Languages, Faculty of Arts and Culture, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Background of Study: Dowry is well known as a gift for bridegroom like giving house, Land, money, golden jewels and vehicle from the house of bride who is going to get marry (Rani Jethmalani & Dey, 1995). ‘Giving dowry’ is considered as very important event in Hindu wedding. But the bride’s family is only mostly affected by this dowry. So that the challenges and problems are mostly faced by bride’s side. Commonly the plays a vital role in different kind of society. However this study focuses on the affection of dowry in Hindu Society. The aim of this study was to discover the reason of increasing dowry system in Hindu Society and find the vulnerable party by this dowry system.

Methodology: This research is an inductive. Because as it gives a common result which is about the effects of dowry in women marriage life through the data from individual samples in research area. This is a qualitative research and also it is a quantitative research because it considers about assets details of affected women. This research is carried out based on primary data. The data which is collected through the questionnaire and personal interview is used for this research. And also books and articles are used as secondary data. It is an analytical and descriptive research. 200 families are taken in Ampara district as simple random sampling method is used for this research.

Results: This dowry is a status and separate property of rich people. It is being an unbrokenly beast for normal class people. So dowry appears as a big reason of violence against women.

Discussion and conclusions: There must be many advertisements published to erect this stupid tradition. ‘No need to give and get dowry’ this new practice must be established spreadily. It must be established wisely with having other opinions to make a change not only female but also the guys who cares too much on society.

Key words: Dowry, Hindu wedding, Women, Vulnerable party, Violence

References
A research on the ancient monastic architectural methods revealing in Tripita

ven. Radawane Siri Sumangala

According to the advice of Lord Buddha Biksu community could have reside in various kinds of buildings. They are categorized as Vihāra, Addayōga, pāsāda, hammiya and guhā in the sēnāsanakkhandaka of chullavagga pali. These monasteries included various building plans with upstairs in general. In this research we mainly focus our attention about the shapes of those five kinds of monasteries and try to reveal them by ancient monastery plans in Sri Lanka. Here the ancient building plans which were unearthed by the earlier investigators are being used and the explanations which were appear in the vinaya pitaka also being studied

Lord Buddha advised to erect colorful buildings with portal, walls, ponds, meditation walk ways, cells, wells and colorful ways in all kind of buildings. In the same advised Lord Buddha mentioned that monastery can be erected vividly using colourful images.

The unearth ruins of main monasteries like Abhayagiri, Mahavihara, Situlapavwa and Ritigala are some of them that can be studied in accordance with those Vinaya Pitaka textere.

Those advices of Lord Buddha for architecture can be summarized as

Erecting the building Maintenance, Conservation, Neatness and clearness are some considerable factors of this research. In the archaeological discoveries of former scholars have mentioned with variety of views in their researches about these matters.

Department of Social science and Comparative studies, Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka.

Sirisumangala80gmail.com
Deep learned Visual Model for Human Computer Interaction (HCI)

B M Thosini Kumarika, N G J Dias

Department of Statistics and Computer Science, University of Kelaniya

Background and rationale: The modern hand gesture recognition approaches can be classified as ‘contact’ and ‘vision’ based. Contact based approaches like Data Glove require a physical contact which can cause health issues and uncomfortable for some users. In contrast, users wear nothing in vision-based approaches where camera(s) capture the images of hands interacting with computers (Dan & Mohod, 2014). Therefore, vision-based approach is simple, natural and convenient. However, challenges to be addressed include illumination change, varying sizes of hand gestures, background clutters in visual pattern identification (Symonidis K, 2000).

Aim: Therefore, the practical application of computer vision-based hand gesture recognition systems necessitates an efficient algorithm capable of handling those challenges.

Theoretic al underpinning / Conceptual framework: As a solution to the complexity of the problem this research proposes Deep Neural Network (DNN) as robust, deep learned visual model. Deep learning attempts to model high-level abstractions (features) in data by using a biologically inspired model. In deep learning, the visual cortex of our brain is well-studied and shows a sequence of areas each of which contains a representation of the input, and signals flow from one to the next. Thus, each level of this feature hierarchy represents the input at a different level of abstraction, with more abstract features further up in the hierarchy, defined in terms of the lower-level ones where classification will be easy.

Proposed methodology: Created database of the hand gesture images is used for training and testing. Greedy layer-wise training is used to avoid the problems of training deep net in supervised fashion such as slow training, over fitting and unlabelled data. The results will be compared with test data which is a 15% of the data set. The results of the two tests of traditional networks and deep network will also be compared.

Expected outcomes: This will provide a robust Deep Neural Network as an efficient visual pattern recognition algorithm for real time hand gesture recognition.

Key words: Visual Pattern Recognition, Deep Neural Network, Human Gesture Recognition

References:


The decline of Instrumental fields in music Education in Sri Lankan Universities

T Vaheesan

Department of Music, Vipulanada Institute of Aesthetic studies, Batticaloa.

**Background:** This survey is based on Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic studies. In university department of music subject like, Vocal music, Violin, Mruthangam and Veena are taught and special degree in the fine Arts is given in special (course) subjects and Bachelor of fine Arts degree is given to them. In these fields many students follow courses to these music fields about 70 to 80 students are admitted. Among them, most of the students choose vocal music instead of Violin, Mruthangam, Veena fields. When we consider the music field, the musical instruments also play a major role.

Music is praised to be equal to God (Panchapakesalyer, 1953) while considering Carnatic music, it not only includes Vocal music, it includes instrumental music as well. Any music which sanctifies it with swarams and varnams and give a pleasant feeling to the ear, is a sacred music (Ramanuja Iyangar, 1986) In today’s musical world instruments not only remain as helping instruments like veena and violin have become so popular as to conduct main music recitals Music is beyond language (Sundaraam1993). Its soul depends on composing music.

**Aim:** Aim of this study is creating awareness among the students to take this subject as their main field and increasing number of students to select this field as well as Artist.

**Methodology:** The first year music students who learn music at Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic students were selected for this research. The questionnaire was given to them and the answers got from them. Besides this discussions were conducted among them regarding the selection of subjects.

**Results:** For this survey while having discussions with the students and giving questions to them and getting answers from them many students have showed their liking to select Instrumental music fields but while considering job opportunities they select vocal music even though it is against their course of study they expect to get jobs in vocal music fields.

**Conclusion:** The Instrumental such as Violin, Mruthangam, veena subjects must be included in the school. That will be increase the Instrumental artists same as music artists.

**Keywords:** main subject, opportunity for jobs, Department of Music University, Vocal music, Instrumental music.

**References**

Role of Koothu performance in the process of community building

T Vivanantharasa

Dept. of Dance, Drama & Theatre, SVIAS, Eastern University of Sri Lanka.

Background and rationale: Koothu is the traditional theatre of the Tamils of Sri Lanka and currently it is in practice in the different layers of the society (Jeyasangar, 2003). Even though the war affected the people a lot at the community level, which is the bastion of Koothu, it survives with its traditional nature. The complex functions and the influences of Koothu in a community are not fully identified and studied in the Sri Lankan Tamil context.

Aim: Therefore, the aim of this study is to analyze how Koothu is prevailing in the society. Know the strategy is much needed and bring the above knowledge to use in theatre arts is the most wanted aim.

Theoretical underpinning: Community theatre is moving, pertinent, powerful and effective in strengthening the groups of people it caters to (Eugene and Van Ervin, 2001). The knowledge has been used as a guideline in this study. Ngugi Wa Thiongo’s writings on Kamirithu community theatre, Paulo Freire’s “Pedagogy of the Oppressed”, Augusto Boal’s “Theatre the Oppressed”, Sivagnanam Jeyasankar’s “Reformulation of community theatre based on Koothu are the studies discussed about community theatre as social process have been introduced in literature.

Proposed methodology: Community action research is a collaborative approach in investigation that provides people with the means to take systematic action to resolve specific problems (Stringer E.T, 1996). Survey will be conducted among the performers and people taken for the study and information will be collected about their methods of performance, staging, and observing Koothu. Intense case studies will be made to understand and interpret the experiences of the performers and audience.

Expected outcomes: The finding of this study will be used as an emerging process in reconciliation activities as per the society’s requirement in different circumstances.

Key words: Koothu, Reconciliation, Community theatre, Oppressed

References:


A Critical Inquiry into the Concept of Art

Rev. Wilgamuwe Piyananda¹

Art is the medium of entertainment which should be experienced within an awaken mind. There are various forms of art including drama, poetry, music, sculpture, dance, literature, films etc. The modern day scholars have classified all these forms of art into numerous categories such as Visual Arts, Auditory Arts, Verbal Arts, Mix Arts, Fine Arts and Applied Arts. All these forms of art used for the same purpose, i.e. providing an aesthetic experience in order to heighten the wisdom.

Various factors and incidences in society make contributions for a production of art to be made. Among them, people's life styles, beliefs, religion, the need to address the mental excitement of artists and environmental as well as geo-political factors are of enormous importance. Hence, it could be safely argued that a production of art is inevitable a property of the whole society and that such productions of art should address the conditions of the contemporary society. Since, art is one of the most important moving factors of culture, any study of the historical background of any country could not disregard art.

Even though the primary purpose of art is to enlighten the mind, it appears that in the present society, it is primarily used only for personal satisfaction and entertainment. Given this background, the present study seeks to inquire into the phenomenon of art in a comprehensive way especially with regard to the functions and purpose of art and the ways in which forms of art could be used for the betterment of the society.

Keywords: Art, Entertainment, Aesthetics, Media

¹ Temporary Lecturer, Department of Buddhist and Pali Studies, Sri Lanka Bhikkhu University, Anuradhapura. wilpiyananda@gmail.com
Clinical reasoning and its challenges at workplace: A qualitative study with novice medical graduates in Sri Lanka

WCD Karunaratne¹, MN Chandratilake¹, K Marambe²

¹Faculty of medicine, University of Kelaniya, ²Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya

Background and rationale: Clinical reasoning is a major determinant of clinical competence among medical professionals (Barrows & Feltovich, 1987). However, even after 40 years of research, diverging opinions still persist on the diagnostic decision making process adopt by medical professionals proving the complexed nature of the phenomenon (Eva, 2004).

Aim: This study aims to explore how novice medical graduates working at four main clinical specialties (medicine, surgery, paediatrics and obstetrics & gynaecology) learn and perform clinical reasoning during internship training and the challenges encountered.

Theoretic underpinning: Theories of diagnostic decision making range from hypothetico-deductive reasoning described in 1970’s to the dual process theory, discussed recently in the medical education literature (Norman, 2005; Pelaccia, Tardif, Triby, & Charlin, 2011).

Proposed methodology: Interpretive paradigm research using phenomenology will be conducted on novice medical graduates working in medicine, paediatric, surgery and obstetrics & gynaecology wards at the North Colombo Teaching Hospital, Ragama, Sri Lanka. The study will be conducted in two phases using purposive sampling (a combined total of 16) with gender balance and equal representation of specialties. During the study each participant will undergo three (3) interviews. The first interview will be on their experience of clinical reasoning as an intern and the challenges faced. The subsequent two interviews are based on audio-recorded patient encounters using the technique of stimulated recall. Two experts from each specialty will review the audio-recordings of patient encounters and determine the relevance of questions to the diagnosis. The interviews will be anonymised and transcribed verbatim. A coding framework will be developed using the five-stage process proposed by Ritchie &Spencer (Analyzing qualitative data, 1994). Thematic analysis of the data will be done using ATLAS-ti.

Expected outcomes: The study findings will provide meaningful insights in to organizing and re-structuring medical internship training to facilitate learning and on measures for improving clinical reasoning during undergraduate medical training.

Key words: Clinical reasoning, Diagnostic decision making, Medical interns, Novice medical graduates, Sri Lanka

References:


EFFECTIVENESS OF COMPUTER BASED ACCOUNTING IN BUSINESS FIRMS OF EASTERN PROVINCE

M.S.Thayaraj

Department of Commerce, Faculty of Commerce and Management, EUSL

Background: Accounting is an important part of every company thus; businesses are required to keep proper books of accounts (Section 123 of the Companies Code (1963), Act 179). According to Omar, B (2009) Accounting refers to “The process of identifying, measuring and communicating economic information to permit informed and rational decisions”. Pacioli father of double entry book keeping system, today also his system still using. “Accounting can be divided into two basic categories: those which apply manual accounting and those which prefer Computer Based Accountings” (Weber, 2010).

Aim: Therefore, this study aims is to evaluate the effectiveness of computer based accounting in business firms of eastern province

Conceptual framework: the conceptual model proposes how effectiveness of computer based accounting in business firms impacts on performance. Accordingly, learning organization and organizational support influences to effectiveness of computer based accounting (CBA). The possibility theory is used to define the conceptual model. The contingency theory it hypothesized that organizational structure is function of context which context is simultaneously determined by the external environment, history and other organizational factors (Fiedler, 1964). Researchers have interpreted organizational structure to include the formal and informal information and decision-making methods that govern the allocation of organizational assets. The basic contingency framework consists of environment factors and firm-specific factors that affect to competitive strategy. The competitive strategy is effectiveness of computer based accounting (CBA) affected by learning organization and organizational support.

Proposed methodology: This study considers the staff who worked under the department of accounts and information technology under the selected firms. 100 organisations are the sample size in the various districts in the eastern province. The Primary data will be collect through the questionnaire. The Secondary data collect through the sources of publications, company’s annual report and internet. Data analysis in this case was done quantitatively with statistical techniques such as the statistical package for social scientists (SPSS). The use of table, frequencies and percentages was employed in the analysis so as to ensure accuracy, adequacy and completeness of the study.

Expected outcomes: The findings of this study will be helpful to the various business organization for evaluate the effectiveness of computer based accounting.

Key words: computer based accounting (CBA), Effectiveness, Accounting,

References:


Section 123 of the Companies Code (1963), Act 179, THE COMPANIES CODE, 1963 (ACT 179)