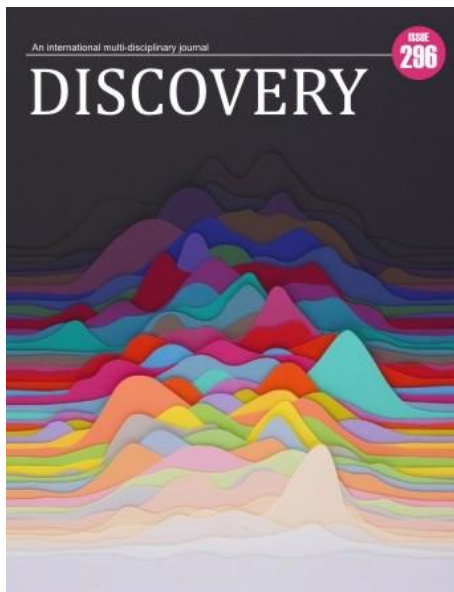


DISCOVERY

About the Cover



In the present paper, we study certain multidimensional fractional integral operators involving a general I-function in their kernel. We give five basic properties of these operators, and then establish two theorems and two corollaries, which are believed to be new. These basic theorems exhibit structural relationships between the multidimensional integral transforms. The one- and two-dimensional analogues of these results, which are new and of interest in themselves, can easily be deduced. Special cases of these latter theorems will give rise to certain known results obtained from time to time by several earlier authors. (Ref: Yashwant Singh, Nanda Kulkarni. A study of generalised hypergeometric functions with certain \overline{H} -functions of one and two variables. *Discovery*, 2020, 56(296), 433-588); (Image: EikoOjala).

Development of a scale for measuring learning stress in lower primary schools in north central Nigeria

Bamidele David ODERINDE, Babatunde Adeniyi ADEYEMI, Bamidele Abiodun FALEYE

This study developed a scale for measuring learning stress in lower primary schools in North Central, Nigeria. It identified the dimensions of learning stress in lower primary schools and as well determined the validity and reliability of the scale. It examined the relationship between learning stress in public and private schools, and also established the relationship between age and parental socio-economic status and the level of learning stress as measured by the scale. These are with a view to developing a reliable and valid scale for measuring children learning stress in lower primary schools. The study adopted descriptive survey design. The population for the study comprised all teachers in the lower primary schools in North Central Nigeria. The sample comprised 800 teachers selected using multi-stage sampling procedures. Four states were selected out of the six states in the North Central Nigeria, while two out of the three senatorial districts were selected in each state using simple random sampling technique. Also, simple random sampling technique was used to select two Local Government Areas (LGAs) in each senatorial district as well as five primary schools from each of the LGAs. Finally, purposive sampling technique was used to select the head teachers of the sampled schools and nine (9) classroom teachers from each school. An instrument titled Children Learning Stress Rating Scale (CLSRS) was used to collect data for the study. CLSRS consisted of an initial 84 items which were later reduced to 82 items after review, moderation and being subjected to the psychometric procedures of scale means, item-total correlation and Cronbach's Alpha- if-item deleted. The final scale items were then subjected to principal component analysis and other psychometric tests including scree pilot test and eigenvalues greater-than-one criteria. Internal consistency reliability investigation was also conducted while factor loading, average variance extracted and composite reliability were adopted in determining the convergent validity of the CLSRS. Data collected were analysed using frequency and percentage, factor analysis and chi-square statistics. The results showed that the Teacher (\bar{X} =3.12, SD= 0.64), Home (\bar{X} =2.93, SD= 0.46), Peers (\bar{X} =2.79, SD= 0.67), Teaching/Learning (\bar{X} =2.12, SD= 0.45) and Co-curricular factors (\bar{X} =2.06, SD= 0.65) are the five dimensions of learning stress in lower primary schools. The result further showed that CLSRS had convergent validity (AVE ranging from 0.506 to 0.583, and Composite Reliability (CR) ranging from 0.815 to 0.925). The internal consistency reliability of the scale was 0.912 (Guttman) while Cronbach's Alpha was 0.907, and Spearman Split-half was 0.704 ($p < 0.05$). Results also showed that there was no significant relationship between learning stress in public and private primary schools ($\chi^2 = 0.171$, $df = 2$, $p > .05$). The result further showed that a child's age had significant relationship with the level of learning stress ($\chi^2 = 12.723$, $df = 4$, $p < .05$) while parental socio-economic status did not ($\chi^2 = 4.863$, $df = 4$, $p > .05$). The study concluded that the Children Learning Stress Rating Scale developed in this study is capable of providing adequate and reliable information on children's experience of learning stress in lower primary schools in North Central Nigeria.

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Beyond Rhetoric: Amnesty Programme and Peace Building in Post Conflict Niger Delta

Vurasi Serebe S, Okechukwu S Amadi

The thrust of the study was to investigate the impact of the Niger Delta amnesty programme and its implication for peace building in post amnesty Niger Delta. In the discourse, we analysed the possibilities of normalizing the amnesty programme by anchoring the study in a post conflict perspective that is missing in the conceptualization and implementation of the amnesty programme, and suggest measures that best describe and serve as durable solutions to the intractable problems in the Niger Delta. The study explored various perspectives of conflict transformation theory to see the possibility of sustainable peace in post conflict Niger Delta. The study adopted the qualitative and quantitative research designs. A sample size of 900 respondents were drawn across the ex-militants, non militants, staff of the amnesty offices, government political appointees and CLOs in the nine Niger Delta states. The result showed that the Amnesty Programme or DDR implementation in the Niger Delta is too exclusive, did not meet policy objective and devoid of post conflict peace building mechanisms. Although, it temporarily stabilized peace; but failed in long term peace building. The study revealed a higher percentage of arms and resurgence of violence, militancy and criminality in post amnesty Niger Delta. As a result, there is, in other words, a need for new concepts and practices that can advance the ideals of the positive (post conflict transition to peace building) that enables individuals in post war settlement situations to share common identities, understandings, and expectations that enhance a social order, encourages inclusiveness, reassertion, resettlements and; extending of social benefits to non-militants youths, women, vulnerable groups, communities affected by the conflict, reintegration into home communities of ex-militants, community activists and the causes and triggers of conflict –the Niger Delta question (?) broad base. We recommend the need to redesign the presidential amnesty programme (PAP) goals, contents, benefit structures and breadth in such ways that they would be more inclusive and comprehensive.

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Yashwant Singh, Nanda Kulkarni

In the present paper, we study certain multidimensional fractional integral operators involving a general I-function in their kernel. We give five basic properties of these operators, and then establish two theorems and two corollaries, which are believed to be new. These basic theorems exhibit structural relationships between the multidimensional integral transforms. The one- and two-dimensional analogues of these results, which are new and of interest in themselves, can easily be deduced. Special cases of these latter theorems will give rise to certain known results obtained from time to time by several earlier authors.

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