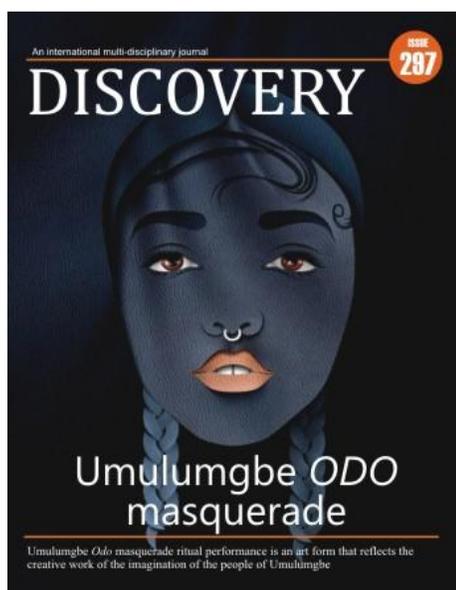


# DISCOVERY

## About the Cover



Umulumgbe *Odo* masquerade ritual performance is an art form that reflects the creative work of the imagination of the people of Umulumgbe. It is an art form, characterized by the imitation of action that is serious and of great magnitude. *Odo* masquerade performance is a drama that deals with the social lives of the people of Umulumgbe, and their belief in afterlife which is being transmitted through time from one generation to another. It is also a performance that gives them the avenue to dramatize on how their belief system has contributed to their social wellbeing and on how they deal with the difficult situations that happen in life, especially the situation that has to do with the loss of a loved one. Umulumgbe *Odo* masquerade performance is a social drama because of its ability to occupy the space between the real and the imagined, mainly as a result of the belief that death is not the end of life but its continuation in the other world that is, the spiritual world. It is a ritual performance that represents and incorporates all the belief and the thoughts expressed in connection with death and afterlife (Ref: Gloria Nwandu Ozor, Chesaina Ciarunji, Masumi Odari. Umulumgbe *ODO* masquerade traditional ritual performance as a social drama. *Discovery*, 2020, 56(297), 589-602); (Image: EikoOjala).

**Umulumbe ODO masquerade traditional ritual performance as a social drama**

Gloria Nwandu Ozor, Chesaina Ciarunji, Masumi Odari

Umulumbe *Odo* masquerade ritual performance is an art form that reflects the creative work of the imagination of the people of Umulumbe. It is an art form, characterized by the imitation of action that is serious and of great magnitude. *Odo* masquerade performance is a drama that deals with the social lives of the people of Umulumbe, and their belief in afterlife which is being transmitted through time from one generation to another. It is also a performance that gives them the avenue to dramatize on how their belief system has contributed to their social wellbeing and on how they deal with the difficult situations that happen in life, especially the situation that has to do with the loss of a loved one. Umulumbe *Odo* masquerade performance is a social drama because of its ability to occupy the space between the real and the imagined, mainly as a result of the belief that death is not the end of life but its continuation in the other world that is, the spiritual world. It is a ritual performance that represents and incorporates all the belief and the thoughts expressed in connection with death and afterlife.

*Discovery*, 2020, 56(297), 589-602

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**An investigation of rural infrastructural resources and sustainable rural expansion in India**

Balamurugan P

Rural infrastructural resources are crucial for agriculture, agro-industries and overall economic development of rural areas such as, credit absorbing capacity, enhancing the productivity of crops and livestock, generating employment, increasing farmers' income, etc. and it makes a direct attack on minimizing the incidence of rural poverty. Rural development mainly depends on the existing infrastructural resources for all existing sectors for social, economic and cultural development of rural masses. India has a wide range of infrastructural resources devoted to nation's development, in the form of road and transport, electricity, postal and telecommunication, education, health and sanitation, drinking water facilities, etc. In this context, the present paper is intended to conduct status analysis on the rural infrastructural resources in India and the need for their modernization for sustainable rural development. It also highlights the recent scenario on the rural infrastructural resources and their potentialities to the development of various rural sectors in India, which include agriculture, rural industries, banking and all other essential sectors of social and economic development of India. It is therefore concluded that the rural infrastructural resources are the backbone of the sustainable development of various rural sectors of our country.

*Discovery*, 2020, 56(297), 603-610

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**Impact of macroeconomic variables on the growth of insurance companies in Nigeria**

Ponjul B. Gonji, Angyak Jonathan Ahan, David M. Zamdayu, Pam Bitrus J. Pam

This study is an empirical analysis on the effect of macroeconomic variables on the growth of insurance companies quoted on Nigeria Stock Exchange from 1990-2019. Data for the study was obtained from the statistical review of Central Bank of Nigeria and the annual reports of the nine (9) insurance companies used for the research work. The variables used are gross domestic product (GDP), exchange rate, inflation rate interest rate and unemployment rate. Return on asset was used as the proxy for the independent variables. STATA 13 was used to analyze the data. The study discovers that among the five macroeconomic variables used for the study, only GDP, inflation rate and exchange rate significantly affect the growth of insurance companies in Nigeria for the period under consideration. The study recommends that Nigerian Government should make and implement policies that can boost the economy so that the profitability of insurance companies can be enhanced. Nigerian Government should introduce programs that will reduce the inflation rate and unemployment rate in Nigeria in order to encourage the growth of businesses like insurance firms. Insurance companies in Nigeria should watch out for macroeconomic variables that can threaten their growth.

*Discovery*, 2020, 56(297), 611-619

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**Econometric analysis of air passenger demand in Nigeria**

Oladun, Emmanuel A, Ayantoyinbo, Benedict B

Broadly, transport economics and air transport economics in specific can be considered to be the engine of economic activity because of its derived nature. It is pertinent to note that an increase in economic activities will inevitably result in an increasing need for transport. The study aimed at examining the econometric analysis of air passenger transport in Nigeria. The study adopted a combination of descriptive and inferential statistics, and it relied on information obtained from secondary sources especially published relevant government institutions and agencies in Nigeria. Econometric model was employed to estimate the contributions of air passenger demand on the economy. Observatory data were gathered on international and domestic air passenger demand between year 2009 and 2018 (10 years) from the FAAN. Also, observatory data were collected on GDP and GNI between the same periods. The study found a weak correlation between air passenger travel demand and economic indices. Also air passenger travel demand contributes little to GNI and GDP by 9.4 percent. This is an implication that air passenger travel has little or no contribution to the nations' GNI and GDP. It is therefore recommended that there should be better fare policies which will enable more passengers to travel.

*Discovery*, 2020, 56(297), 620-627

## SCIENCE

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### **Limnological study of Dwarkeshwar river water in the downstream at Arambagh, Hooghly district, West Bengal, India**

Nilu Halder

Water is an important essential element for survive of life and it is directly linked with human civilization and welfare. The present work deals with the analyses of fifteen limnological parameters of water for the assessment of present water quality status of the river Dwarkeshwar in Hooghly district, West Bengal, India from two consecutive years 2009 and 2010. This river is a valuable resource of water for multifaceted purposes to the mankind. Increase of human population activity, urbanization, dumping of domestic sewages at the river shore or in the river and several anthropogenic activities threatening the physico-chemical characteristics of the river water. Still now, dissolved oxygen (DO) content, the most important parameter of river health is good and lied above the permissible limits between 4.0 to 6.0 mg/l prescribed by water quality standard (WHO, 1993) and, water is found to be alkaline throughout the period of investigations. The total dissolved solids (TDS), chlorides (Cl<sup>-</sup>) and sulphates (SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>) were observed comparatively in higher amounts which indicated the presence of sufficient organic substances of animal origin in the river water.

*Discovery*, 2020, 56(297), 628-633

## MEDICINE

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### **Assessment of the renal function status in persons occupationally exposed to lead in lead acid battery manufacturing factory in Nnewi**

AN OKPOGBA, EC OGBODO, GI MUONEKE, CN CHINAKA, SO NWOKO, EP MOUNMBEGNA, IC EJIOGU, CG IKIMI, AO OKEZIE, AK AMAH

Lead is a naturally occurring toxic metal with widespread use which has resulted in extensive environmental contamination, human exposure and significant public health problems in many parts of the world. This study assessed the renal function status in persons occupationally exposed to lead in lead acid battery manufacturing factory in Nnewi. A total of 38 apparently healthy individuals working in lead acid battery manufacturing factory aged between 19 and 56 years and 79 control subjects (comprising of 39 control subjects from Nnewi (N) and 40 control subjects from Elele (E) respectively) aged between 18 and 44 years were recruited for the study. 5ml of venous blood sample was collected from each subject for the determination of biochemical parameters (potassium, sodium, chloride, bicarbonate, urea and creatinine levels) using standard laboratory methods. Results showed increased levels of sodium and chloride ( $p < 0.05$ ), decreased bicarbonate, urea and creatinine levels ( $P < 0.05$ ), with a non significant change in potassium level ( $P > 0.05$ ) in lead acid battery factory workers than in control subjects respectively. Therefore, this study revealed no deleterious effect on the kidney function of the factory workers studied.

*Discovery*, 2020, 56(297), 634-641

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

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### **An evaluation of fraud risk management activities in government boards and parastatals in Nigeria**

Abubakar Saidu, Yohanna Gyang Jugu, Mary Ada Ogenyi, Tosin D Bodunde

The continuous occurrence of frauds in government parastatals has become a matter of concern among researchers; this paper therefore was set out to evaluate fraud risk management activities in government boards and parastatals in Nigeria. The descriptive method of data analysis was adopted. Kendall's W – Test was used to test the rate to which fraud prevention, detection and response strategies can enhance fraud risk management activities. The sample size for purpose of completing the research questionnaire was 45, and 15 copies of the research instrument was administered in each of the sampled board and parastatals (HMB, PSIRS & PRTV). This paper revealed that fraud prevention, fraud detection and fraud response are effective strategies in fraud risk management activities in government boards and parastatals. This paper hereby recommended that in order to ensure fraud prevention, government should employ strategies such as installing culture/ policy of fraud risk awareness in place; provides fraud awareness training to staff; include fraud risk in the overall risk assessment process; and government organization should have a formal reporting system on fraud risk exposure. To detect frauds, strategies such as fraud detection controls should be developed and instituted. In conclusion, fraud detection can be a meaningful mechanism and can detect risky situations early, before a fraud actually occurs or at least before the losses becomes high. When fraud prevention and detection controls are incorporated in the operating procedures, such as segregation of duties, monitoring of adherence to policies and procedures, the result is usually minimal fraud case incidence.

*Discovery*, 2020, 56(297), 642-654