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Regional differentials of Annual Average Humidity over Bangladesh

Mohammad Mohidul Islam

Abstract

The annual average humidity of 30 meteorological stations of Bangladesh has been studied over the period (1981-2008). Trends, periodicities and frequency distribution of the annual average humidity are found by the standard statistical techniques. The test of normality of the frequency distribution of the annual average humidity is done by the method suggested by Geary (1935, 1936). It is seen that the frequency distribution of most of the stations of Bangladesh follow normal distribution. Positive trends are shown for the data of Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Ishurdi, Jessore, Madaripur, Satkhira, Hativa, Sitakunda, Teknaf & Patuakhali, while Dhaka the capital of Bangladesh has negative trend. The periodogram analyses of the annual average humidity of most of the stations show a significant cycle of range 8 to 12 years.

Service Quality: An Empirical Study of Private Hospitals in Dhaka City

Mst. Joynab Siddiqua & Md. Ariful Haque Choudhury

Abstract

Service quality has been viewed as a determinant of patient satisfaction. Different dimensions of service quality have been considered by various researchers. This study identifies components of service quality of private Hospitals in Dhaka city. The study is exploratory in nature and uses chi -square test to find out the relationship between different variables to identify the most important factors of customer satisfaction with service quality. The research methodology is empirical and a survey of patients (customers) was conducted. The findings reveal that the overall service quality regarding private hospitals are providing satisfactory service to the patients without discriminating by income or occupation.

**TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY PERFORMANCE OF RICE FARMS
IN NORTHERNBANGLADESH: A COMPARISON OF
INPUT- AND OUTPUT-ORIENTED DEA MODEL**

Md. Abdul Wadud and Md. Nurunnabi Miah

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the technical efficiency performance of 251 rice farms in Northern Bangladesh using farm level cross sectional field survey data of 2009 for aman season and 2010 for boro season. We apply input- and output-oriented constant returns to scale (CRS) and variable returns to scale (VRS) data envelopment analysis (DEA) model to estimate technical efficiency. Results of the input-oriented CRS and VRS DEA model indicate that the average technical efficiencies are 86 and 88 percent respectively in aman season and are 83 and 85 percent respectively in boro season. Further, average technical efficiencies obtained from output-oriented CRS and VRS DEA model are 86 percent and 89 percent respectively in aman season, and 83 and 89 percent respectively in boro season. An efficiency analysis shows that VRS DEA provides slightly higher level of average efficiency and the efficiency of farmers, on an average, could be increased by 11 to 17 percent and consequent output gain could be achieved if the farmers could operate at full efficiency levels.

**MEDICINAL HERBS DIVERSITY AND THEIR APPROPRIATE
COLLECTION, UTILIZATION AND CONSERVATION**

Md. Yousuf Harun Bhuiyan and Rafiqul Islam

ABSTRACT

Bangladesh has a great treasure of medicinal plants. Still now, 80% of our rural population depends directly on medicinal herbs or traditional remedies for the treatment of various ailments. But, unfortunately no exhaustive and systematic surveys of the medicinal plant resources, their usage and conservation status of the whole country have ever been undertaken officially. Due to easy availability, less or no side-effects and sometimes only source of health care, the demand, usage and popularity of medicinal plants are increasing in both developing and developed countries. Increasing demands for medicinal plants locally, nationally and internationally have resulted in the indiscriminate over-exploitation and non-sustainable harvesting practices of medicinal plants in natural habitats. But, for continued survival and production of valued plant drug sources, it is needed for ex situ and in situ conservation of medicinal plants. In order to conserve medicinal plants, all types of conservation methods and sustainable management of natural forests and other biodiversity-rich habitats should be adopted. It should be done together with all conservationists, traditional medicine proponents, manufacturers, local communities and other stakeholders of the country. In this paper, the diversity, appropriate collection, utilization and conservation status of medicinal plants particularly in perspective of Bangladesh have been highlighted on the basis of literature review and our own experiences.

Money Economy and Contemporary World Economic Order: A Challenge of Identity and Survival for Islamic World

Hamza Adesola Dawood

Abstract

The emergence of 'money economy' is awesome in the course of human development. The inspiring corollary of this historic development is the institutionalization of Banking and Finance as well as the jaundiced 'interest' economy and its consequences. It is argued that Banking and Finance are rooted in the Islamic jurisprudence and thus, not an invention of this century's Islamic political movements. Ijtihad mechanism has thus become an effective tool in finding rightful conceptual and practical frameworks especially now that the world economy is being confronted with endless crisis. Specialists and stakeholders are struggling to proffer solution; the Muslim world is challenged by a world economic order that is beyond its sway while its intellectuals are pre-occupied in disentangling the cob-web of definitional point of 'riba'. In a challenge of identity and survival what is way forward?

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN URBAN TRANSPORT AVOIDING, SHIFTING, IMPROVING IN KARACHI

Abstract

Sustainable urban transport practices have economic, social, and environmental aspects. This paper emphasizes the social aspect of such practices arguing that conventional transport policy tends to overlook equity and social justice concerns. The ASI paradigm is used here to highlight those practices that are people centered and inclusive as they are targeted for those who do not own cars

BIFURCATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH ALMOST A FAIT ACCOMPLI

Trinadh Nookathoti

Abstract

Andhra Pradesh (AP), the first state formed on the linguistic basis in India, is on the verge of bifurcation. The reasons and factors for this development might be many, but even after coexistence of 57 long years; the sense of same language has failed to keep the people of the state united. The only conclusion is that the "conditional formation" of a state based on language appears to be a failed experiment. I am not from Telangana; I hail from Vijayawada, located in the coastal Andhra region. Having spent almost 10 years as a student in Hyderabad, I would like to put forward some of my observations with regards to the issue of state bifurcation.

Exile, Cosmopolitanism and the Diasporic Intellectual: The Example of Edward Said

Fakrul Alam

Abstract

This paper is an attempt to study Said 's career as a literary critic and theorist stimulated by creativity by not being "quite right" and inspirational because "out of place. " It will range throughout his works, taking in everything from his first work, Joseph Conrad and the Fictions of Autobiography (1967) to his posthumously published final books, Humanism and Democratic Criticism (2005) and On Late Style (2006) to demonstrate how he has made out of his uprooted condition and diasporic imaginings a contrapuntal mode of criticism, a skeptical engagement with the western world and a constant, restless quest for the right to be engaged with the world because he finds it out of place and because he would like to intervene in it to draw attention to at least some of the places where he finds it is askew if only to change it

Performance Analysis of an Inverted Pendulum System with Robust Control

Ehsan Deruchi, Chowdhury Akram Hossain, Fabio Baroni,
Nicola Incampo and Amedeo Sabp

Abstract

In this paper we have proposed the robust control scheme for an inverted pendulum. Normally for the case of 2 degree of freedom inverted pendulums, the system is not considered much stable with variations in the parameters. Our goal of this paper is to present the robust control, with which it is possible to get more desired stability in worst case scenarios. For our case we have focused on the mathematical model and also designed the control system with variable pendulum masses and other parameters. We have compared the system with LQR (Linear Quadratic Regulator), for a proper understanding of the differences we have found. In the last part we tried to relate our mathematical model with variations Theorem to find the stability of our proposed model with variations of different parameters.

Slavery, Sugar and Sex: David Dabydeen's Slave Song and the Colonial Experience

Syed Manzoorul Islam

Abstract

The Caribbean region, consisting of a group of islands scattered across a large area of the Atlantic saw the beginning of slave trade after Christopher Columbus 'second visit in 1496. The slaves were brought mainly from the west coast of Africa, but later, when the need grew from India and China as well. By 1836, when Emancipation brought an end to the slave trade, the number of slaves had risen to 428,000 out of the total population of 500,000. Most of the slaves were employed in the lucrative sugarcane cultivation. The slaves were routinely brutalized by their white masters to break their spirit and prevent any unrest. In the process the male slaves were de-gendered and became unfit to play any social role. Many of them turned to alcohol and sex for relief and indulged in violence. The body thus became the site of colonial control and resistance. The slaves used their body and the liberating effect of sex as weapons of resistance, often annihilating themselves in the process. David Dabydeen, an Indo-Guyanese poet and fiction writer; picks up the interrelated themes of slavery sugar and sex which together define the Caribbean colonial experience for his award winning book *Slave Song* (1984), a collection of 14 poems written entirely in Creole. The article examines Dabydeen's treatment of the provocative race relations and the legacy of slavery in the Caribbean as well as the slaves 'negotiation of the liberating power of sex and the body.

TRENDS IN OVERSEAS MIGRATION AND ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS: BANGLADESH PERSPECTIVE

Brigadier General Md Abdur Razzaque, ndc, psc

Abstract

Overseas workers' remittance is considered as one of the key drivers of our emerging economy and getting a larger space in the socio-economic developments of Bangladesh. Manpower export started in 1976 and large scale labour migration gained its momentum in early 1990s. It turned into an important effective tool for poverty alleviation and reduces the pressure of unemployment at domestic sectors. This paper examines the trends in the Bangladeshi workers migration and the impacts of remittance inflow primarily on the social and economic developments. Majority of the migrant workers 'are unskilled and less educated who work in the countries of Middle East and South East Asia. Female workers migration is negligible in percent compared to male migrants due to the government policy guidelines, but now it is in increasing trend. Remittances contributed tremendously

in improving the social and economic indicators like living condition and housing, education, health care, nutrition, social security poverty reduction and economic activities in the rural area. Bangladesh is now in the top 10 remittance receiving countries among the 48 LDCs. It is expected that if remittance contributes in maintaining a satisfactory steady economic growth of 8 percent for increasing the per capita GDP that may help Bangladesh in transforming into a middle-income country by the next decade.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND AND PERFORMANCE OF THE STUDENTS AT PRESIDENCYUNIVERSITY IN BANGLADESH

Anwar Hossainl, Annesha Zeheen, Md. Aminul Islam

Abstract

The study seeks to consider socio-economic background of the students enrolled at PU with a view to assessing individual performances and improvements. The assessment covers comparative achievements of different school of PU namely Business, Engineering and Liberal Arts and Social Science. Since performances of the students depend on the University curricula and quality of the faculties and also on parent/ guardian's income level, gender, religion, accommodation arrangement, past academic background and socio-economic and cultural status, the paper tries to statistically evaluate comparative importance of factors behind their performances. The analysis attempted to collect data through population survey (SIMS), but had to rely on random sample survey as required data were not available in SIMS, and regressions were run to evaluate comparative importance of the factors. The results showed that parents' income and father's education level have influence on academic performance of a student. Past academic track records of the students plays an important role in University achievements. Business School seems to be performing better than other schools. Further, the results recommend choice of career preferences of the students, opportunities and alternative options for better job opportunities. As most students were found to prefer job and Business students like it in banks/financial institutions and Engineering students in construction and telecommunications industries, the University may be recommended to take appropriate policy package.