

Editorial

Researching into real-world issues has time and again proven to be useful to the issue at hand and subsequently the community at large. Thus, encouraging new age research to focus more fervently on its contribution towards the society, in addition to disciplinary significance and relevance. The constant aim as well as challenge upheld by our researchers now, is how their research implications could positively serve the betterment of the communities they engage with. At NSBM too, the academia as well as the management strive to investigate into areas that have proven to be both a challenge as well as a contributing aspect towards its surrounding environment and society at large.

This issue, which is the first issue of the year 2020 of the NSBM Journal of Management, focuses on finding inventive and efficient solutions to challenges faced in various industries. Consisting of 5 papers from diverse areas, the topics covered range from sustainability both in terms of reporting and the environment, the impact of inflation, social support, professional empowerment and political communication.

The first study conducted by authors, A.Dilini Dissanayake, T.D.S.H Dissanayake, Roshan Ajward questions if board independence moderates the association between sustainability reporting and performance, and goes on to indicate via their study that sustainability disclosures have a significant positive association on firm financial performance. And furthermore, proves that greater availability of independent directors positively moderated the relationship between sustainability disclosures and financial performance of firms. Thereby, offering productive insight for policymakers to make well informed decisions on enhancing their monitoring role of corporate boards.

The second paper in this issue, authored by D M S Gayanika, examines the association between young Facebook users' social and entertainment expressive Facebook use and their interactive political expression as an alternative model to traditional citizenship models. The findings posed to be contrary to prior work suggesting that the use of digital media for social or recreational purposes may distract citizens from public engagement, and further goes on to prove that the young generations' political communication is through non-political social media.

The third paper, co-authored by M.A.P.S Hemakumara and D.M.K.T Dissanayake discusses the impact of industrialization on environment sustainability in Sri Lanka, and proceeds to probe into the actions which can be taken to mitigate the impact on environment due to industrialization. The study concludes that although industries have proven to be one of the major factors which helps economic development in the country, it is equally important that industries adapt sustainable processes in order to mitigate the damages to the environment.

The fourth paper written by VPR Kannaragara, SGUS Chandrarathne, and JMDP Jayasundara investigates the relationship between inflation and short-term interest rates across South Asian countries and individual country context over the period of

past 30 years. This study reveals that treasury bill rate which represents the nominal interest rate is significant at 1% level of significance in South Asia with a negative relationship, and further substantiates that there are country wise differences in predicting inflation for South Asian countries.

The final study featured in this issue, is co-authored by H.P. Sashini R. Caldera and Prof. Ganga Karunathilaka. The paper examines the relationships among the social support towards the professional empowerment of the registered female nurses in Sri Lanka who are currently following their undergraduate studies. The results indicated that all three factors- family support, workplace support and community support - have moderate association to professional empowerment.

The earnest hope of this issue is that emerging scholars, both local and international benefit from the valuable research experiences and initiatives of the featured authors. Further, the Editorial Board takes this opportunity to place on record their appreciation and sincere acknowledgement for the various contributions and support by all those involved in this endeavour, including the Board of Management of NSBM.

Executive Editors

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