

Editorial: Fostering socio-economic research for a sustainable future

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I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the editorial board for inviting me to write this editorial message. I also take this opportunity to commend the editorial board for its outstanding efforts in establishing and managing the *Journal of Business and Socio-economic Development (JBSED)*. Their dedication and commitment have been instrumental in ensuring the journal's success and impact.

At Ahlia University, we believe in the critical role of scientific research in advancing knowledge and fostering sustainable development. The university has played a pioneering role in shaping the research landscape in Bahrain, actively encouraging both faculty members and students to engage in meaningful scholarly work. Over the past years, Ahlia University has successfully transformed research culture within the institution, positioning itself as one of the leading contributors to scientific research in Bahrain and the wider region.

The establishment of *JBSED* with Emerald was a strategic decision aimed at furthering our commitment to research excellence. Ahlia University has provided both financial resources and expert support to ensure its success. Furthermore, our decision to make the journal open access and fully cover publication costs reflects our unwavering commitment to knowledge dissemination and academic collaboration.

The *JBSED* addresses a pressing need for scholarly research in socio-economy, particularly its intersection with business, economics, and social sciences. Societies today require research that delves into social issues while integrating economic and business perspectives to achieve sustainable growth and development.

Since its inception, the journal has made significant achievements, including high readership and citation rates. One of its most remarkable milestones is its recent inclusion in Scopus, where it has been classified as a Q1 with Percentile 88th and ranked 24 out of 208 in Business, Management and Accounting, along with other prestigious indexing databases such as COPE, DOAJ and Cabell's. This accomplishment, achieved within a short period, highlights the journal's growing reputation and impact. Moving forward, the journal is actively working towards securing additional rankings, including Web of Science (WOS), ABDC and ABS.

The current issue of the journal comprises six research papers covering various aspects of socio-economic development. One paper explores the development of social enterprises in Ireland, applying actor-network theory (ANT) to understand how these enterprises form and interact with different stakeholders. Another study investigates the effect of military spending on the education sector in Africa, with a particular focus on the role of institutional quality in shaping this relationship. Additionally, a study examines the impact of effective enterprise resource planning (ERP) system utilization on economic sustainability, emphasizing product life cycle cost control as a key factor in financial stability. Another research paper delves into governance, addressing stakeholder expectations, inter-organizational coordination and procurement practices among humanitarian organizations, highlighting the importance of improving purchasing and management operations in this sector. Furthermore, one study

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analyzes how trade and foreign direct investment contribute to economic growth in BIMSTEC nations. Lastly, the issue features research on financial inclusion and the sustainability of indigenous microenterprises in Africa, emphasizing the role of financial literacy in supporting these enterprises. Collectively, these papers contribute valuable insights into the broader discourse on socio-economic development, sustainability and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As the *JBSED* continues to grow, I am confident that it will further its mission of fostering high-quality research and meaningful academic discourse. I extend my best wishes to the editorial team, authors and readers, and I look forward to witnessing the journal's continued success in advancing knowledge and shaping a better future.

Mansoor Ahmed Alaali
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