

Editorial

Innovation and Quality Management Variables Need not Compete or Conflict

The world started 2021 as it started the second quarter of 2020 with the coronavirus pandemic showing little end in sight in so many countries. Every life, community and country has been affected in so many significant ways. Globally, over 3 million people have lost their lives so far and still counting, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO, 2021).

The *International Journal of Knowledge, Innovation and Entrepreneurship* (IJKIE) is not immune to the operational impact of Covid-19 but we continue to soldier on.

We welcome you to the first issue of the IJKIE in 2021, which has two papers and a book review. The first paper on innovation and quality by Stein-Peri, Suss, Dorfman-Oren & Kolonetro examines the tense, ‘uncomfortable’ and sometimes complementary relationship between the two variables. The paper extends the debates about whether innovation and quality can co-exist, complement, balance or cancel out one another.

As with Stein-Peri, Suss, Dorfman-Oren & Kolonetro’s paper, significant evidence points to positive relationship between innovation and quality. Schniederjans & Schniederjans’ (2015) assessment of the association between innovation and quality management as measured—and moderated—by variables such as organisation size, task and managerial ethics found the two to be positively related. A similarly study of 133 Spanish service organisations by González-Cruz et al. (2018) concluded that quality management strengthens—and reinforces—organizations’ innovation capability.

The conclusion from Stein-Peri, Suss, Dorfman-Oren & Kolonetro in this edition is consistent with literature—that a deep understanding of the context of the phenomenon to be investigated is very important. In other words, a one-size-fits-all approach will be most unsuitable.

The second paper by Deryn Graham entitled ‘Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence for Post-Covid Recovery’ is very timely and tied into what was earlier stated about the general impact of Covid-19. Graham’s paper assesses the impacts of the pandemic “through the lens of the Digital Society, which encompasses the domains of health, education, work and the home.” The paper raises the question as to whether data analytics and artificial intelligence can be leveraged for post-Covid recovery to provide ‘Big Data Smart Future’.

The edition is concluded with Muhammad Rafi Khan’s review of the ‘Impact of Pakistan Maritime Affairs on Blue Economy in Backdrop of CPEC’ by Mehmood Shahzad.

Enjoy.

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References

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