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EDITORIAL

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our readers to the first issue of the *TUDARCo Journal of Humanities and Education* (TJHE). TJHE was established in February 2022 after it was deemed necessary to have a journal that caters for the humanities, social sciences, education and human development disciplines. The response to our first call for papers that was circulated in March 2022 was received very positively by the potential contributors and readers. With such a response, the Editorial Board is looking forward to a long, healthy and bright future for TJHE.

We have noted with concern the trend of the reduced interest in publishing and reading culture, both in Tanzania and beyond. If we do not turn the tide soon this trend is likely to cause a lot of harm, especially for higher learning institutions. It goes beyond imagination that a university can operate for five years without producing a single research output! Such a university is not very different from a “glorified” secondary school. Although research and publications are one of the three pillars of university functions, many reasons make academic staff uninterested in and not attracted to doing research and publishing. These include economic reasons (you cannot be busy publishing while your kids have nothing to eat), social reasons (research and publications take a lot of quality time during the peak of our careers), promotion from one level to another is no longer as attractive as it used to be, and lack of consequences (what do I lose? my salary will still be paid whether I publish or not) among others. Of course, the economic factors lead the way because people believe that there are other easy and quick ways of making money compared to the route of research and publications.

The reasons presented above for not doing research and publishing are short-sighted. I wish to remind researchers that publishing is a very lucrative business. Professor Pravin Choubé’s dozen benefits of publishing a research paper are very much in order here to motivate our researchers. He argues that publishing a research paper improves writing skills; helps in knowledge up-gradation; keeps the researcher updated; teaches one about literature survey; makes one happy; creates a set of knowledge for others; appreciates one's work; publicizes one's work; adds value; keeps one alive as a researcher; motivates others to do research; and gives chance to externally access ones work. It is difficult to get a researcher who does not see value in these benefits!

The only consolation that we are getting now is that many governments are beginning to introduce measures to correct the trend. Recently, Prof Adolf Mkenda (Minister of Education, Science and Technology of the United Republic of Tanzania), in his address to the academic community at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, announced a reward of 50 million TShs (equivalent to USD 21,496) for any Tanzanian academic, regardless of his/her institutional affiliation, who publishes in top journals such as *Nature* or *Lancet*. Although this announcement mainly targets science and health professionals, it is an excellent starting point for the entire elite fraternity. This announcement has been repeated in various fora since then, evidence that the government is very serious about it. I commend this effort and see it as a challenge to the management of the universities and other tertiary institutions to follow suit by establishing implementable motivational factors that will promote research and publications in their institutions. We need to keep our academic members of staff in their profession without being worried about petty issues.

Professor Akim J. Mturi

Editor-in-Chief