



International Conference on Regeneration, Resilience, Health and Wellbeing

Conference Proceedings 2024

Editorial

Welcome to the first annual International Conference on Regeneration, Resilience, Health and Wellbeing held at the Aberystwyth Business School. We are delighted to welcome presenters and conference delegates from the UK and European Union.

The International Conference on Regeneration, Resilience, Health and Wellbeing seeks to advance research, policy and practice relating to business, public sector, and community development in contexts that include urban, semi-rural and rural. Our primary objective is to bridge the gap between policy and practice by fostering dialogue and collaboration among academics, practitioners, and research students on a broad range of regeneration, resilience, health and wellbeing activities that explore the intricate dynamics of revitalisation and the promotion of sustainable growth and prosperity for all communities.

This year's conference includes contributions exploring community leadership, costing in medicine, rural business development and growth, resilient coastal communities, rural housing, regenerative economics, amongst others. Presentations are to be delivered from colleagues representing European and UK based universities.

Conference proceedings

Editor: Dr Lyndon Murphy

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Children's epilepsy specialist nurse: An economic evaluation

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Keywords

Epilepsy; Children and Young People (CYP); Epilepsy Specialist Nurse (ESN); National Institute for health and Care Excellence (NICE); Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDUHB)

Introduction

This study aims to provide an economic evaluation of the ESN intervention provided to CYPs diagnosed with epilepsy in HDUHB (hereafter HDUHB-ESN).

Background

Epilepsy is a condition that affects the brain, causing repeated seizures.^{1,2} It is considered one of the most common and most serious of neurological disorders, affecting about 50 million people globally.³ The prevalence of epilepsy in Wales is estimated to be 11.40 per 1,000 persons/year.⁴ Epilepsy poses a significant health challenge and has considerable economic implications for affected families.^{3,5,6} Studies have shown that access to ESN services improves the lives of epilepsy patients.^{7,8} As such, HDUHB-ESN was introduced in November 2021 to help manage and bring improvement in the health outcomes of CYP with epilepsy.

Methods

The study population is CYP between the ages of zero to 18 years who have been diagnosed with epilepsy. The study used data from multiple sources: HDUHB Children's Service, HDUHB Information Services, NHS Digital and WelshPAS.

Absent data from a control group, we used as comparator an ESN intervention group taken from NICE guidance (NICE-ESN).⁸ The counterfactual cost at NICE-ESN levels of usage are calculated ($\text{col4} = \text{col3} \times \text{col2} \div \text{col1}$ in Table) then compared to HDUHB-ESN cost using Student's t test.

Healthcare services used by CYP include: (ESN-related) face-to-face visits, travel, telephone calls, text messaging and creating an Epilepsy Care Plan (ECP); (other healthcare services) Accident and Emergency (A&E) attendance, outpatient appointments, Admitted Patient Care (APC). Other healthcare services requiring imputation included: Daycare, Primary Care Doctor, Primary Care Nurse, Physiotherapist and Social Worker.

Results

Table. Average per CYP per year healthcare service use and cost

Parameter	H DUHB-ESN (n=159)		NICE-ESN (n=32)	
	(1) Average use (pppy)	(2) Cost contribution at average use	(3) Average use (pppy)	(4) Counterfactual cost
ESN contact	13.58	190.32	1	14.01
ECP created	0.5	29.84	-	0
A&E attendance	0.72	128.61	2.34	417.98
Outpatient appointment	4.45	1,046.7	2.99	703.29
APC admission	1.08	1,714.38	0.62	984.18
other		683.47		683.47
Mean total cost (2023-24 prices)		£3,793.32 (SD £5830.4)		£2,802.94

159 CYP were included in the study: 54.4% male, mean age 10 years. The difference between mean cost of HDUHB-ESN to the NICE-ESN counterfactual mean cost although substantial (£990) is not statistically significant from £0 ($p=0.38$).

The average number of ESN contacts under HDUHB-ESN is 13.6 times higher in comparison to NICE-ESN, mostly due to text messaging. Reflecting expansion is the use of telehealth.

Discussion and Conclusion

Although usage levels between HDUHB-ESN and its NICE-ESN counterfactual suggest differences, when mean total costs are formed (as weighted averages) the difference is shown to not be statistically significant. Implementation of ESN care to CYP in HDUHB comes at a cost indistinguishable from best practice NICE guidance. HDUHB-ESN therefore inherits the cost saving feature that NICE-ESN has over standard care for epileptic CYP, where the latter does not include access to ESN services.

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How do those living and working in rural locations view business development and growth?

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This research aims to identify how growth, in terms of business and community development, is perceived by those living and working in rural towns in Wales. Case studies of Llanidloes (Mid Wales) and Llangefni (North Wales) are used to explore perceptions of growth and how enterprise can be supported in these locations, through a better understanding of what growth and development means to those living there.

Traditional notions of small business growth often focus on the presence, or absence, of factors such as resources (Dobbs and Hamilton, 2007), effective decision making (Kudyba et al. 2020), conducive environment (Sieja and Wach, 2019) and the skills of the business owner/entrepreneur (Grebel, Pyka, and Hanusch 2003); leading to the ability, or otherwise, to maximum profits or achieve business expansion. This is expressed in growth models such as the "growth-profitability" model proposed by Steffens, Davidson, and Fitzsimmons (2009, pp. 125-148). Perceptions of growth, however, are not confined to profitability and expansion for all businesses, particularly those operating in rural locations where these motives may be juxtaposed against the desire for quality of life (Bennett et al, 2018). For example, Sofer and Saada, (2017) identified the need to develop new economic activities, or products, that can respond to potential demand outside the immediate location, as necessary for business expansion; yet lifestyle business and local businesses in rural communities do not necessarily view growth in this way. The question posed, therefore, is whether those living and working in rural locations have differing perceptions of business development and growth?

This presentation will discuss the initial findings of this identifying perceptions of growth from stakeholders including Community organisations, Third sector/Social Enterprises, Local Residents, Local businesses, Local support organisations and Council members.

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The Role of Purposeful Ecosystems in Regenerative Economies: A Case Study of South West Wales

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Keywords: Purposeful ecosystems, regenerative economies, well-being, sustainable development.

The concept of regenerative economies has garnered significant attention in recent years as a response to environmental threats and social and economic inequity. There is widespread recognition that businesses have a crucial role to play in leveraging sustainable regeneration (Bowen et al., 2017), yet alone they are ill-equipped to address such challenges (Stubbs et al., 2022), requiring a broader systems-level shift and mobilisation of multi-stakeholder networks. This research paper explores the role of purposeful ecosystems (Burvill et al., 2022) through the lens of regenerative economies, aiming to highlight their significance in fostering sustainability, resilience, and inclusive growth.

Whilst the discourse on environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors is well documented to drive long-term growth, recently there has been a shift to consider a regenerative approach to business. This approach acknowledges the key principles of sustainability but transcends those principles (WEF, 2023) and aims to consider the broader aspect of “well-being” (Gibbons, 2020). Literature in this area is starting to explore the concept of regenerative sustainability (RS) which focuses on “whole system health and well-being” and continual improvement (Gibbons, 2020). Whilst the literature lacks a clear singular definition of regenerative economy, it is often aligned to the literature on circular economy (Morseletto 2020). The research in these areas acknowledge its growing significance and the need for a paradigm shift in our approach to well-being and regenerative business and the impact on socio-economic success (Walls & Vogel, 2023). According to the WEF (2023) “the goal of a regenerative business is not merely to limit the impact that it has on the planet and society but to contribute positively to the economy and the world around it – achieving a net positive impact as a result”.

This paper examines how purposeful ecosystems serve as essential components in the regeneration of economies at a local level. This is conceptualised as an environment whereby actors and their networks promote favourable and supportive infrastructures to enable purpose-driven activities (Hervieux & Voltan, 2018; Stubbs et al., 2022). This work considers the micro interventions of ecosystem actors and the combined impact of these interventions in influencing regional development. The paper aims to inform future research, policy-making, and practical initiatives aimed at harnessing the potential of purposeful ecosystems for building more resilient, equitable, and sustainable local economies.

This research undertook an exploratory case study approach (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011), analysing the work undertaken at a micro and local level within South West Wales that contributes to the development of a regenerative economy. One focus group was undertaken with five participants drawn from the local ecosystem. Two in depth interviews were also undertaken with a B-Corp business owner and a change leader within the well-being of future generations act commissioners office. The latter was undertaken to position the research within the context of the Well Being of Future Generations Act (2015) legislation that is evident within Wales.

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Costing Same Day Emergency Care in Withybush General Hospital

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Keywords

Same Day Emergency Care, Withybush General Hospital, NHS reimbursement, Hospital Episode Statistics, Emergency Care Data Set, Health Resource Group

Introduction

In April 2022, the Welsh Government introduced plans to improve urgent and emergency care services, including the provision of new Same Day Emergency Care wards (SDEC).[1] In response, Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDUHB) proceeded to set up a new, consultant-led medical SDEC in Withybush General Hospital (WGH), Pembrokeshire. SDEC works alongside a general hospital's Emergency Department (ED), with aim to discharge emergency patients to home on the day of their attendance if clinically safe to do so.

The recording of SDEC activity is currently being standardised in England and, possibly, Wales too.[2] The main proposal is for activity hitherto recorded as Admitted Patient Care in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) to be migrated to an Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS; see [3]). Despite this, SDEC data from WGH remains in a HES format which we exploit to study costing the NHS reimbursement due to SDEC activity tied to Health Resource Group (HRG) codes (see [4]). As reimbursement to the providers of new SDECs is undecided in Wales, we consider 3 approaches to costing by unit of activity:

- Day case
- Reduced short stay emergency adjustment
- Type 1 A&E attendance (VB01Z)

The latter reimburses an SDEC attendance at the maximum price in the A&E schedule of the (English) national tariff (HRG=VB01Z; guide price of £429 in 2023-24 prices).[5]

Methods and Materials

Data: HDUHB Information Services provided HES data on N=326 SDEC patients for a selected pilot period (September 2023) at WGH, for which there were n=385 SDEC attendances. Of these, 102 were reattendances booked for purposes of follow-up review or diagnostic scans. Data by attendance included diagnosis codes (ICD-10) and procedure codes (OPCS4), enabling assignment of a HRG code using the 2023/24 NHS Payment Grouper.[6]

Costs: The 2023-25 NHS Payment Scheme expressed in 2023/24 prices is the cost schedule.[5] Booked reattendance to SDEC was costed as the equivalent of an outpatient visit (HRG=WF01A). Finally, only costs attributable to SDEC activity were included. ED costs for patients pulled into SDEC were not added, nor were any follow-on ED costs should the patient on discharge from SDEC transfer into ED.

Results

Table 1. NHS reimbursement for SDEC activity by costing method

Method	Mean \pm SEM (£)	Sept 2023 (£)	Annualised (£million)
Day case	525.6 \pm 26.5	202,347	2.428
Reduced Short stay	530.0 \pm 16.9	204,037	2.448
Type 1 A&E	350.6 \pm 6.8	134,979	1.620

Discussion and Conclusion

Evidently, for WGH there can be variation in revenue income generated by SDEC activity due to costing methodology, dropping substantially under even the highest of the A&E tariffs. With the move now underway to record SDEC activity through ECDS rather than HES, the likelihood increases that NHS reimbursement for the work done in SDEC will be pegged to A&E tariffs. Should that occur, the consequences of a decline in income to SDEC providers may again spark the warning issued in 2021 by the Society for Acute Medicine, namely of a lack of investment serving to stall plans to support SDEC.[7]

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The rural housing crisis in Wales: A community-led solution.

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Keywords: - almshouse, communities, community-led ventures, housing, poverty

Introduction: Bangor Business School are currently supporting Menter Elusendai Penmynydd with their project that aims to develop the 400-year-old almshouse properties in Penmynydd, Anglesey.¹ Once completed, these properties will be managed by the local community and offered as affordable housing for local young people and support their aspirations of achieving homeownership.

Relevant background information/context: According to the 2021 Census, there was an increase in the proportion of households that rented their accommodation in Wales, from 30.6% (399,000) in 2011 to 33.5% (451,000) in 2021. Of those that rented in 2021, 17.0% (229,000) rented their accommodation privately while 16.5% (222,000) were in the social rented sector, for example renting through a local council or housing association. For most renters, homeownership has become an impossible dream, and renting has a considerable impact on their standard of living. Data from the Welsh Government shows that the risk of being in relative income poverty was 31% for those that rented their accommodation privately, 46% who rented from the social sector, and 13% for owner occupiers.²

Research approach e.g. primary research methods utilised, desk-based research etc.: A case study research strategy is adopted to describe in detail the work done by Menter Elusendai Penmynydd and their experience in re-developing the almshouse properties (Priya, 2021).

Key findings: There is a need to progress the academic debate on the role of communities in addressing local issues. This paper focuses on Bangor Business School's ongoing collaborative research with Menter Elusendai Penmynydd. The case study will describe the work done to date (both property and non-property related) and the experience of all stakeholders during this collaboration.

Discussion: The notion of communities taking ownership of local assets, whether by purchase, lease, management, or even by creating something entirely new, is not a recent (Gurney, 2013). Early charitable organisations owned land and buildings to support poor people. The collective ownership of assets also had roots in the co-operative and mutual tradition of shared ownership by members (Woodin et al., 2010). Settlements and social action centres, community centres and village halls have frequently managed a building as part of

¹ This collaboration is funded through the Skills and Innovation Voucher (SIV) program which is funded through the Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) scheme. The SPF scheme is part of the UK Governments Levelling Up Agenda, to support local business, people and skills.

² All data taken from <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue>

delivering their service. Today, there are plenty of examples of community-owned ventures in Wales that provide an invaluable service and benefit to local people (Saunders & Jones, 2024). More communities are initiating the purchase of assets of local interest and ensuring their long-term operation for the benefit of those communities. The community in Penmynydd has come together to lead the development of almshouse properties that have been vacant for several decades (Tomkins, 2004). Upon completion, the dwellings will be made available for rent at an affordable rate, aimed at aiding local young people in their quest to become homeowners. This venture stands out because of its local ownership and operation, specifically catering to the rural community.

Conclusions/Policy Implications/Recommendations for practice development: The findings of this paper have important implications for policy development and practice. The outputs of this paper are threefold: it provides an illustrative case study of how the University can work with a community group to help address a local social issue, it deepens our understanding of community-led ventures in Wales, the opportunity for communities to address the rural housing crisis and help homeownership, and it identifies research priorities that emerged as a result of engagement with the community. All three are critical to improve our understanding of how best to help communities succeed, thereby supporting governments' commitment to developing cohesive and sustainable communities (Welsh Government, 2023).

¹ This collaboration is funded through the Skills and Innovation Voucher (SIV) program which is funded through the Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) scheme. The SPF scheme is part of the UK Governments Levelling Up Agenda, to support local business, people and skills.

¹ All data taken from <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue>

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Interpretations of leadership praxis in community development, the case of Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog

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Keywords: Community leadership, social enterprise, community development, Wales

Introduction

The aim of this paper is to understand the role of leadership in community development enterprises within 'left-behind' places such as Blaenau Ffestiniog. Changing political, social, and economic conditions and approaches over the last thirty years have created significant challenges for these areas and those who operate within them. 'Left behind' places (MacKinnon et al, 2022) may have multidimensional, poorly performing economic and social indicators including adverse performance in average pay, poor productivity, and comparatively low levels of educational attainment.

Background information

Blaenau Ffestiniog is a small town in North Wales which has a high degree of deprivation. Formerly a slate quarrying area, by today there are many examples of successful social enterprises. To avoid competing for funding from external organisations, community enterprises have formed a network based on co-operation and partnerships. The co-ordination of the fund-raising activities by Cwmni Bro is a model which avoids duplication of activities and has been disseminated to other clusters of social organisations in Wales and elsewhere.

Leadership in communities is multi-faceted, it involves individuals who can manage the practicalities of strategy implementation and also have the courage to speak 'truth to power' (Local Trust, 2018). The nature of community leadership encompasses bringing different people together, engendering a common purpose (Kirk and Shutte, 2004) to create and implement a solution to a shared problem has connotations of an archetypal political process (Zanbar and Itzhaky, 2013). Communal leadership as described by Kirk and Shutte (2004) necessitates connecting individuals' values and desired outcomes with the desired outcomes and values of a wider group of individuals. Effective community leaders encourage community independence at the expense of losing their control of the community (Kirk and Shute, 2004). Conflict management, encouraging open debate is a desirable characteristic of a community leader (Local Trust, 2018). To help resolve conflict, openness in communication, surfacing community member assumptions, and ensuring all voices have opportunities to be heard are considered prerequisites (Kirk and Shutte, 2004). The creation of an easily understood strategy and vision are key facets of community leadership (Lamm et al, 2017). Effective communication skills are a recurring theme in the extant community leadership literature (Kirk and Shutte, 2004; Ricketts and Ladewig, 2008). Humility is another recurring characteristic (Coetzer et al 2017; Gandolfi et al, 2017). Effective community leadership necessitates a praxis recognising the importance of adaptability considering the circumstances and requiring context appropriate leadership styles, plus a tolerance for ambiguity (Lamm et al, 2017; Local Trust, 2018).

Kleinhansa et al (2023) identify collective leadership where members of the local community become actively engaged in the work of the community enterprise and encourage leadership at different levels of the organisation. Such collective leadership practices may contribute to the sustainability of the organisation aiding succession planning (Kleinhansa et al, 2023).

Research approach

The methodology adopted was qualitative, interviews were held with individuals who held leadership, management, and volunteer roles. A follow-up focus group was also conducted with community members to discuss and building upon findings from the interviews. The data collected was coded using the six-step approach to thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2006).

Conclusions/implications

The role of leaders or managers in community enterprises takes on a different meaning than in a profit-making entity. It was clear that the interviewees did not want to be labelled as leaders, and they saw their roles as coordinators who shared the responsibility of leading their organisation with a group of people. There are similarities with the collective leadership praxis surfaced by Kleinhansa et al (2023). They felt that the term leadership had political connotations and that it was overused, and difficult to reconcile in the context of a community enterprise. This view is encapsulated in the following interviewee statement.

'I think that the term leadership has been hijacked in a way so I'm not keen on using the word leader in the context of community work but that's probably what it is recently' (Interviewee A1).

There is also an element of group leadership in the community enterprises in Blaenau Ffestiniog. They have a clearly structured approach to decision making and strategic leadership from the board of directors and the chairs and this provides a strength in that they are rooted in the community and can provide a measured approach to risky activities.

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Governing sustainability in Wales: a decade of the Well-being of Future Generations Act

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Keywords: well-being, sustainability, formal institutions, experimentalist governance, learning, innovation

Introduction

The purpose of the paper is to contribute knowledge of how *The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* (WFG Act) has been implemented, and what lessons can be drawn from the existing evidence base for understanding how formal law works, as opposed to softer forms of governance such as policy instruments, in terms of realising ambitions to move Wales onto a more sustainable path.

Relevant background information/context

Several inquiries by Senedd committees, the Future Generations Commissioner, and Auditor General for Wales have collected evidence on the implementation gap: a discrepancy between the integration of the Act in policy design and on-the-ground practice.

Research approach

This paper uses a desk-based research approach to reviewing the existing evidence base about the operation of the WFG Act. The review is organised using a conceptual framework which combines institutionalist insights into policy learning with those from the growing research programme in experimentalist governance (Stinchcombe 2001; Morgan 2021; Sabel and Zeitlin 2011). Specifically, effective formal legal institutions require being based on abstract concepts that are useful representations of problems and solutions and map onto the 'reality' that they are meant to govern. Other conditions for effectiveness are that formal legal requirements need to be communicable to those subject to them and must have feedback systems that allow them to be updated based on experimentalist approaches such as data reporting as formative feedback, provisional and corrigible objective setting and peer review to promote policy learning.

Key findings

Evaluative inquiry into the WFG Act and its role in shaping policymaking for sustainable development in Wales can be conceptually arranged into different levels: legal architecture; strengthening governance; implementation. At the implementation level are more frequently used future-focussed strategies and decision-making by public organisations under the Act. The dynamics of implementation play out in the 'shadow' of the other levels of the Act. There is a presumption that implementation approaches at the base level will be tried until they fail and require escalation up towards more formal sanctions. Such escalation is done reluctantly and only when dialogue fails. Weaknesses of these implementation approaches might then be covered by the strengths of strategies higher up the multi-level structure and closer to the formal legal dimensions of the Act. Signalling to stakeholders the capacity to escalate to more formal legal sanctions higher up the pyramid may motivate cooperative problem solving in implementation, using the Act's five ways of working, at the base of the multi-level governance structure.

Discussion

Within the commitment to embed the sustainable development principle in everything that devolved Welsh public bodies do, outcomes are likely to be provisional and corrigible and subject to development as experience accumulates: the path to sustainability is not imposed by the Act but rather discovered through learning, knowledge sharing and capability development.

Recommendations for practice development

Further evaluation of how the WFG Act shapes public sector decision-making in Wales is needed.

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Transformative Actions for resilient Coastal Communities (TRACC)

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This presentation will introduce the recently started £3m TRACC project (2024-2028), co-lead by the University of Greenwich and Aberystwyth Business School, and funded by UKRI, Defra and Natural England. TRACC will explore and implement new transformative place- and values-based governance structures to support coastal resilience and sustainability across Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England. Resilience is place specific, determined by complex interrelations between biophysical, sociocultural, and economic circumstances. We will co-develop Resilience Collectives (RCs): regional partnerships between researchers, communities and stakeholders to investigate and address pressing, interrelated resilience issues facing coastal communities.

Whilst the eventual focus of the RCs will be determined by their members, the four locations are characterised by diverse issues. In the Firth of Clyde RC (Scotland) challenges include how to transform marine planning to establish effective conflict resolution and better bridge the divergent values and problems felt by the diversity of communities around the Firth. Key challenges relevant to the Lough Foyle RC (Northern Ireland) include access to and quality of services, ownership of natural resources, deprivation, transboundary politics, and post-Brexit issues. Contextual challenges for the Humber estuary RC include deprivation, industrial transition, transboundary challenges, coastal change, and nature recovery. The mid-north Wales RC is faced with diverse challenges relating to climate adaptation and coastal change in the area, with a potential focus on cultural and emotional aspects of resilience, nature-based solutions, and integrated approaches linking the coast and uplands. Each RC will co-develop a deep understanding of the systemic barriers and opportunities to achieve transformative change, developing Transdisciplinary Actions Plans (TAPs) to support place-based community resilience and governance. The learning and experiences of each RC will be drawn together and shared nationally via a newly created UK Resilience Assembly, supported by the Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN) and other TRACC partners to maximise project impact and legacy.

Perceptions of Biosecurity Measures, Destination Safety, and International Travel Behaviour

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Keywords Biosecurity measures, Destination safety, Tourist behaviour, Theory of Planned Behavior, Travel intentions, Place attachment, Subjective norms, Travel experience

Abstract

This research explores the relationship between international tourists' perceptions of biosecurity measures and destination safety and their subsequent travel behaviour. The primary purpose is understanding how these perceptions and attitudes influence travel intentions and decisions.

In recent years, the tourism industry has faced significant challenges due to global crises such as pandemics, natural disasters, and socio-political instabilities (Aydogan et al., 2024; Sampaio et al., 2023; Sofyan et al., 2022). These events have highlighted the critical importance of biosecurity measures in ensuring tourists' safety (Chaudhary & Islam, 2024). Biosecurity measures include policies and protocols to protect visitors, wildlife, plants, and the environment from invasive species and harmful pathogens (Melly & Hanrahan, 2021). Despite their importance, there needs to be more understanding of how tourists perceive these measures and how such perceptions affect their travel behaviour.

A quantitative online questionnaire was employed to gather data from a diverse sample of international tourists. The questionnaire assessed perceptions of biosecurity measures, destination safety, place attachment, subjective norms, and travel intentions. Initial findings from research have revealed the following:

1. Many respondents (64.78%) have altered their international travel plans due to concerns about biosecurity measures, such as public health protocols and disease outbreaks.
2. Over half of the respondents (54.49%) agreed that biosecurity measures implemented in international travel destinations are necessary and practical.
3. Opinions of family and friends significantly influence perceptions of biosecurity measures and destination safety during international travel, with 32.56% rating this influence as moderately influential and 24.92% as very influential.
4. Nearly one-third of respondents (31.56%) have altered their international travel plans due to concerns about the destination's safety, including crime rates and terrorism threats.

These findings highlight the critical role of biosecurity measures in shaping international travel behaviour and emphasise the significant influence of social circles and safety concerns on travellers' decision-making processes. This research also offers several practical implications:

1. **Policy Development:** Policymakers should emphasise the importance of biosecurity measures and develop comprehensive communication strategies to inform tourists.
2. **Tourism Management:** Destination managers should focus on enhancing the perceived safety of destinations by implementing and effectively communicating biosecurity protocols.
3. **Marketing Strategies:** Marketing efforts should highlight biosecurity measures to attract safety-conscious tourists.
4. **Future Research:** Further studies should explore the long-term impacts of biosecurity perceptions on travel behaviour and the potential differences across various tourist demographics.

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Analysing agency praxis in Welsh community development projects

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Key words: Agency, community development, Wales

Introduction

The concept of community development is multi-faceted and can be interpreted through different lenses. For instance, a political economy model of community development may focus on wealth accumulation (Barseghyan and Coate, 2021). A comparatively early interpretation refers to community development as a process which focuses on developing the prerequisites for community based 'economic and social progress' (United Nations, 1955 (cited by Gilchrist, 2004)). Each place has its own history, legacy and institutions that contributes to the evolution of its development and is a lens which politics, sustainability and culture are viewed (Pike et al, 2006).

The primary purpose of this research project is to analyse the role of agency in community development in Wales. This analysis is expected to produce insights into the policy requirements to support community development organisations in their community regeneration work. The research project explores community development stakeholder views of agency. The creation of an effective interpretation of stakeholder views will contribute to greater stakeholder involvement in policy making designed to increase levels of agency amongst community stakeholders.

Background information

The context for this research project is community development/regeneration activity in Wales. Welsh area-based initiative (ABI)/regeneration policy has its roots in the land reclamation schemes of the 1960s and 1970s (Welsh Government, 2016). However, land reclamation and property-based regeneration schemes are comparatively expensive. Adamson et al (2012) describe regeneration programmes in Wales as being expensive and charged with achieving an 'uphill task'. Further, their economic and social knock-on effects may be limited (Gripaios, 2002). Welsh policy developed into property-based regeneration and subsequently in the late 1980s into education and training. Welsh ABI policy further evolved with the 2001 launch of the Communities First programme.

The concept of agency can be defined as 'the power to originate action' Bandura (2001) and the 'capacity of people to order their world' (Bhattacharyya, 2004). Power affects human agency in the efficacy of regional actors' capability to influence regional development policy

and practice (Nilsen et al, 2023). Similarly, Sen (2005) supports the need for people to have the capability to lead the lives they wish to lead, having a form of power over their own destiny. Aligned to the notion of community capability is community competence (Sites et al, 2007). To help build capacity, Hustedde and Ganowicz (2002) encourage community development practitioners to work with people to 'create their own dreams, to learn new skills and knowledge'.

Research approach

The research has been constructed via a mixed method approach. Namely, semi-structured interviews have been undertaken and an online survey will be carried out. The interviews have been held with individuals performing leadership, management, operational delivery and volunteer roles at community development organisations. Other interviewees include community development organisation stakeholders such as service recipients, project funders, local and national government officers, and partner organisations. Data will also be collected via a survey instrument designed around the different forms of agency, social capital and social innovation identified within the literature. Multiple items included in the survey are associated with each of the different aspects of agency, social capital and social innovation.

Conclusion/implications

The outcomes of the research project to date are multi-faceted. For instance, outcomes include an interpretation of the role agency in community regeneration and its relationship with both social capital and social innovation. Finally, an outcome of the research is a series of policy implications for fostering agency amongst community development stakeholders.

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Cross-Border and Cross-Cultural Exchange in Pursuit of Rural Regeneration: A Prospective Case Study between Mürzzuschlag (Austria) and Holywell (Wales). Aryan Salhenegger-Niamir (University of Applied Sciences Wiener Neustadt, Austria) and Matthew Price (Aberystwyth University)

Keywords Cross-border collaboration, cross-cultural exchange, rural regeneration, community engagement, knowledge sharing, inward investment, sustainable development, economic revitalisation

This prospective case study research will investigate the potential for cross-border and cross-cultural exchange as a stimulus for rural development and regeneration between the towns of Mürzzuschlag in Austria and Holywell in Wales. In recent decades, both towns have faced similar challenges within their own respective national contexts, such as demographic shifts, economic stagnation and decline, and a lack of sustainable development; however, the opportunity for both towns with similar populations as well as situational circumstances presents an opportunity for mutual learning and collaboration. Through these endeavours, we also aim to understand how our respective towns can aid one another in building social capital, cultivate international dialogue, and to share ideas for best practices in areas such as tourism and inward investment, rural innovation and entrepreneurship, civic engagement and local community empowerment as well as explore into other joint initiatives that could potentially contribute towards economic and social revitalisation of both regions. This prospective case study intends to highlight the benefits of knowledge sharing and collaborative effectuations in achieving sustainable development goals at a local level between two European towns with similar circumstances, which could ultimately set a framework for other rural communities throughout the continent.

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The place of community development in building resilience to polarising discourses in local Welsh communities

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Keywords: community development, polarisation, local, civil society, national discourses

Abstract

Introduction: This paper's purpose is to examine the place of community development in the discourses of how local civil society resist national polarisation. This forms part of a project that considers how the dynamics of polarisation in national society play out in local civil society.

Background: Community development theorists point to the potential for community development to contribute to the resistance of polarisation (Kenny et al 2021; Mayo 2021). When considering community responses to polarisation, the distinction must be drawn between local responses engendered by a contentious event in a community that has been politicised through politicians or the media (Seggato et al 2022; Shroeder et al 2022; Jakatyeruba 2021; Katz and Gidron 2021), and where communities more generally mobilise to build resilience to divisive politics. The different modes of community intervention should be taken into account (Rothman 1995). Responses may entail organising to promote solidarity (Kenny 2021), counter movements and protests (Pennucci 2023), or peace building communications across the divide (Rice et al. 2021). This paper considers the extent community development plays a part in how local communities resist polarisation and if so, what mode of community development is revealed in such discourses.

Research approach: A set of polarising dynamics were identified through extant literature, and utilised in a media analysis of 1200+ news reports about local-scale polarisation. Twelve mini case studies were then undertaken which included semi-structured interviews with key community protagonists, followed by three detailed ethnographic case studies in the USA, England and Wales. This paper focuses on the Welsh case study.

Key findings: There is an emergence of community development theory and practice in new civil society settings in response to polarisation. Promoting unity is a common trope, but this may lean on national identity or local community identities. A UK charity promoting community unity in multiple localities, found a distinctive partnership response emerged in Cardiff. This exhibited a complex degree of community organising engaging hyper-local communities alongside a city-wide strategic partnership which filtered into national bodies. This model demonstrated attempts to build resilience to polarisation which offered a bulwark when contentious polarising events occurred.

Discussion: This repurposing of community development to overcome societal division should be understood as the latest iteration of UK community development which historically undulates in prevalence (Mayo 1994; Popple 2015). The historical roots underpinning community action in Wales (Clarke et al 2002), may explain why Wales has developed its own distinctive community responses.

Conclusion/implications: This paper encourages us to theorise about the iterative relationship between seismic politicised events and subsequent community organising and the complex local-national interactions. The policy implication of this research is to rethink the relationship between national and local by recognises the complex multi-layered structures for social change at local level that have the potential to have a national impact. An implication for practice is that a model for civil society responses that resists polarised discourses is being

developed, which combines priming communities to collaborate around cohesion, and guidance on responses when contentious politicised events occur.

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Valuing the Breakaway Intercostal Chest Drain Valve: a headroom price for a new medical device

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Keywords

Intercostal chest drain (ICD); breakaway valve; medical device; headroom price

Introduction

We aim to establish a thoughtful valuation from the perspective of the NHS of a new medical device - breakaway ICD connector valve - when compared against outcomes from fitting a standard care ICD. We consider the benefit derived by the NHS patient as well as the NHS costs that are avoided when the breakaway valve is used. Currently, absent of a commercial price for the new device, our valuation serves as a headroom price as to what the NHS would be willing to pay to acquire the new technology.[1]

Background

Over one million ICDs worldwide are surgically inserted into patients each year. Chest drains are used to treat life-threatening conditions, such as pneumothorax and pleural effusion, by allowing excessive air, serous fluid, blood or pus built up in the lung's pleural cavities due to infection or injury, to be drained away. Patients inserted with ICDs are typically critically ill and must be regularly repositioned to prevent pressure sore injuries. During repositioning the ICD tube can get pulled, becoming dislodged. Not only does this safety accident cause harm to the patient, but costs mount too for recuperation typically entails performing a further operation in which the damaged ICD is removed, any wounding healed and a new ICD inserted in order that treatment may resume.

Methods

For the patient with acute disease and indicated for chest drain insertion, we establish health-related utility pathways from hospital admission to discharge to 3 settings: breakaway valve in use, standard care with no tube dislodgement, standard care with tube dislodged and reinsertion performed. Patient benefit is calculated as the monetised area under the curve, to the NICE threshold value of £20,000/QALY. NHS costing considerations are calculated to the same 3 settings.

Results

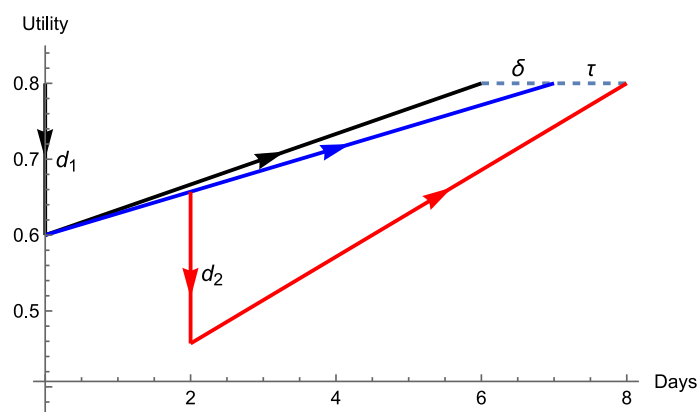


Figure. Health-related utility pathways with tube pull incident on day $t = 2$. Intervention pathway (black), standard care pathway (blue), standard care after dislodgement (red). Higher-valued utility score better than lower-valued utility score

Table of results

Disease	HRG code	Patient distribution	Breakage rate	Cost saving (£)	Per patient (£)	QALY gain (days)	Utility benefit (£)	Per patient (£)
Pleural effusion	DZ16L	0.441	0.01	3,543	15.63	1.74	95.24	0.42
	DZ16M	0.512	0.05	1,466	37.54	1.07	58.38	1.50
	DZ16N	0.047	0.07	714	2.34	0.38	20.58	0.07
Pneumo-thorax	DZ26J	0.458	0.05	2,496	57.13	1.28	70.35	1.61
	DZ26K	0.253	0.07	-86	-1.53	0.38	20.93	0.37
	DZ26L	0.289	0.07	524	10.60	0.42	22.83	0.46
Weighted total					59.18			2.14
Headroom price								61.32

Discussion and Conclusion

A headroom value exceeding £60 (2023-24 prices) on a per patient basis supports a positive decision for the NHS to commission use of a breakaway valve when fitting an ICD, provided the price that is paid does not exceed that threshold.

Equally, to ensure market affordability a breakaway valve manufacturer should look to product pricing to a level not exceeding the headroom price.

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