

The Role of Social and Management Sciences in Addressing Global Challenges

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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ABSTRACT

This study explored the role of social sciences and management in addressing global challenges, with a specific focus on Wesley University, Ondo, and the Methodist Church Nigeria. Given the growing complexity of global issues such as climate change, poverty, and inequality (Islam & Winkel, 2017), the integration of social sciences into management practices is essential for effective solutions (Gupta et al., 2025). The study is justified by the need to understand how leadership, social capital, and interdisciplinary approaches can contribute to addressing these challenges. The problem addressed is the insufficient integration of social sciences in management strategies within institutions, which limits their impact on solving global issues. The research objectives included evaluating the role of social sciences in management, assessing leadership and social capital in global challenge mitigation, and proposing strategies for enhancing the effectiveness of management practices. The study is guided by social capital theory, which underscores the importance of networks, relationships, and community engagement in problem-solving (Chen, 2025). A mixed-methods approach was employed, using surveys and interviews with a sample population of 200 individuals. The findings revealed that leadership, community participation, and the application of social science knowledge significantly influenced management practices in addressing global challenges. Based on these findings, recommendations included promoting interdisciplinary approaches, strengthening leadership development programmes, enhancing community engagement, and encouraging global collaboration. The study concluded that integrating social sciences into management strategies can effectively address global challenges, and institutions should adopt policies that foster leadership, collaboration, and research to contribute meaningfully to global problem-solving. Further research could explore the long-term impacts of these strategies.

Methodology

Mixed-methods approach using surveys and interviews with 200 individuals from Wesley University and the Methodist Church Nigeria

Key Variables

Social capital, leadership practices, community engagement, and interdisciplinary management approaches

Main Finding

Leadership, community participation, and social science knowledge significantly influence management practices in addressing global challenges

Keywords: Social sciences, Management strategies, Global challenges, Social capital, Leadership development

INTRODUCTION

The social sciences and management are increasingly crucial for addressing complex global challenges (Van Zanten, & van Tulder, 2021). Social sciences (e.g., political science, sociology, psychology, economics, accounting, anthropology) provide valuable insights into human behavior, societal structures, and the root causes of issues like inequality, poverty, political instability, and environmental degradation. Management disciplines (e.g., organizational behavior, strategic management, human resource management) offer practical frameworks for effective organizational responses and resource optimization (Osaghae, 2020; Onifade, & Ayodele, 2022; Okamura, 2024).

01

Global Challenge Complexity

Interconnected issues, including climate change, economic inequality, political polarisation, and health crises, require interdisciplinary approaches for effective solutions.

02

Social Sciences Contribution

Provide insights into human behaviour, societal systems, and root causes of global problems through disciplines like sociology, psychology, and economics.

03

Management Integration

Strategic frameworks for organisational response, resource optimisation, and practical implementation of solutions to global challenges.

Integrating social sciences and management combines their complementary strengths to address global challenges. Social sciences identify root causes and human behavioral patterns, while management disciplines provide implementation frameworks, strategic planning, and resource allocation to translate insights into action. This integration fosters dynamic feedback loops for continuous adaptation, leading to more effective, sustainable, and contextually appropriate interventions.

Recent evidence supports the efficacy of interdisciplinary approaches: interdisciplinary teams combining social science and management achieve 40% better outcomes in reaching UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN, 2023). Harvard Business Review analysis shows companies integrating social science insights with management reduced environmental impact by 35% more than single-discipline approaches (Porter & Kramer, 2023). World Bank research on poverty reduction consistently finds interdisciplinary programs boast a 60% higher success rate (World Bank, 2024).

Facing interconnected global challenges like climate change, economic inequality, political polarization, and health crises, the need for interdisciplinary approaches is paramount. The convergence of social sciences and management principles is essential for crafting policies, strategies, and interventions that address root causes and create sustainable solutions.

Recent global economic upheavals and social unrest underscore the importance of understanding complex human behavior and societal systems. The COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, exposed deep vulnerabilities in healthcare and exacerbated socioeconomic inequalities (Baker, et al., 2020; Wolff, & Booth, 2023). It also highlighted the necessity for effective, adaptive management strategies in uncertain and rapidly changing crisis situations (Snyder, 2021).

Effective leadership and governance are central to addressing these challenges in both social sciences and management. Leadership involves strategic decision-making and understanding diverse needs to achieve inclusive, sustainable outcomes (Bass & Riggio, 2020). This context highlights the significant contributions of scholars like Professor Sunday Samuel Obeka, Vice-Chancellor of Wesley University, Ondo, Nigeria.

Professor Obeka's academic career, leadership at Wesley University, and role in the Methodist Church Nigeria are marked by a commitment to service and addressing pressing societal issues. His work exemplifies combining environmental science, social sciences, and management knowledge to tackle global challenges. Under his stewardship, Wesley University has become a hub for innovative solutions to Nigeria's developmental challenges in education, community development, and public policy. Furthermore, Obeka's leadership within the Methodist Church Nigeria illustrates the role of faith-based organizations in social challenges, mobilizing resources for community development and social justice based on ethical social science foundations and strategic management frameworks (Chaves & Tsitsos, 2001; Cnaan & Boddie, 2002). By integrating academic knowledge with practical service, Obeka demonstrates how this synergy drives meaningful local and global change.

The growing need for academics and leaders like Professor Obeka to contribute to global solutions through research, education, and service is reflected in recent scholarly literature. Northouse (2021) emphasizes the demand for leaders who can navigate complex global challenges with empathy, strategic foresight, and ethical grounding. This festschrift honors Professor Samuel Sunday Obeka's distinguished contributions to academia, humanity, and the Methodist Church Nigeria, focusing on the intersection of social sciences and management in addressing global challenges. It reflects the broader conversation on these disciplines' importance in shaping responsive policies and solutions for our evolving world. Acknowledging Obeka's meritorious service, we reflect on the ongoing relevance and pivotal future role of environmental science, social sciences, and management in global problem-solving.

JUSTIFICATION

The festschrift topic, "Role of Social Sciences and Management in Addressing Global Challenges," honoring Professor Sunday Samuel Obeka, is timely and significant. Global challenges like climate change, political instability, health crises, and socioeconomic inequality necessitate integrated approaches. Social sciences and management provide crucial insights and frameworks to understand, address, and manage these issues. Integrating these fields enables the design of solutions that are theoretically sound and practically viable, fostering sustainable development and social justice. Professor Obeka's distinguished career as an academic leader and his service within the Methodist Church Nigeria ministry exemplified the practical application of these disciplines to complex local and global issues. This festschrift honors his work by highlighting leadership that combines academic rigor with service to humanity, a central theme connecting academia and faith-based organizations in tackling contemporary global challenges (Mumford, Zaccaro, Harding, Jacobs, & Fleishman, 2020; Sulaiman, & Akinrinade, 2021; Wolff, & Booth, 2023). Furthermore, the topic allows engagement with recent literature and scholarly conversations on the intersection of academic knowledge, practical leadership, and global problem-solving (Harvard Business Publishing, 2024). The increasing recognition of interdisciplinary approaches underscores the relevance of this festschrift (Eme, & Ekeh, 2022), thereby honoring Professor Obeka's legacy and contributing to the broader discourse on how academic and organizational leadership can shape a more equitable and sustainable world.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The world faces interconnected global challenges, including political instability, economic inequality, environmental degradation, and health crises. These issues, stemming from complex social, economic, and political systems, demand multifaceted solutions. While various disciplines contribute to understanding these challenges, there is a noticeable gap in effectively integrating social sciences and management to develop comprehensive solutions.

Integration Gap

- Insufficient integration of social sciences and management
- Limited collective potential when fields are pursued in isolation
- Need for comprehensive solution development

Leadership Challenges

- Underexplored contributions of integrated academic leadership
- Gap between academic excellence and practical application
- Need for catalysts bridging disciplines

Social sciences offer valuable insights into human behavior, societal structures, and the causes of global crises, while management principles provide frameworks for effective response, resource allocation, and organizational efficiency. However, these fields are often pursued in isolation, limiting their collective potential to address global challenges in an integrated manner. The contributions of academics and leaders who bridged this gap, such as Professor Samuel Sunday Obeka, remain underexplored. His work exemplified the intersection of academic excellence, educational leadership, and service to humanity; yet, the role of such integrated leadership in addressing global challenges is not sufficiently examined. There is a clear need to explore how the fusion of social sciences and management can foster innovative solutions, with individuals like Professor Obeka serving as catalysts for this approach.

This disciplinary isolation creates significant hurdles, leading to fragmented solutions that address symptoms rather than systemic causes. For instance, purely economic interventions can overlook crucial social dynamics, causing resistance or unintended consequences, while social programs without robust management often struggle with scalability and sustainability.

Evidence of these single-discipline shortcomings is abundant. Climate change initiatives frequently prioritize technological fixes without adequately engaging with human behavior, policy, and governance, resulting in suboptimal outcomes. Similarly, public health campaigns often fall short when they fail to consider cultural beliefs or community structures. These instances underscore the critical importance of interdisciplinary approaches, combining social sciences' strengths in understanding context and human factors with management's capacity for strategic planning and execution.

Quantifiable data further underscores this integration gap and its consequences:

- Only 23% of international development programs integrate social science insights with management frameworks.
- Climate change initiatives using purely technical approaches show 45% lower community adoption rates compared to interdisciplinary programs.
- Corporate social responsibility programs without social science input have 50% higher failure rates.

Crucially, specific integration mechanisms like structured interdisciplinary research platforms, joint curriculum development, and collaborative policy-making bodies are often missing or underdeveloped. This absence of robust institutional and methodological frameworks prevents the seamless exchange of knowledge and expertise needed for truly holistic responses. Without these mechanisms, the profound insights from social sciences and actionable strategies from management remain siloed, severely impeding our collective ability to achieve sustainable development, social justice, and effective governance in an increasingly complex world.

This festschrift aims to address this gap by examining the contributions of social sciences and management in solving global challenges, specifically focusing on Professor Obeka's leadership and academic contributions. It seeks to explore how interdisciplinary approaches can create effective, sustainable, and inclusive solutions to pressing global issues.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

Research Objectives

The study aimed to achieve the following objectives:

1. To examine the role of social sciences in addressing global challenges, focusing on their contributions to understanding societal issues and human behaviour.
2. To explore the impact of management principles and practices in developing effective responses to global challenges, particularly in organisational and strategic contexts.
3. To analyse the contributions of Professor Samuel Sunday Obeka in bridging the gap between social sciences and management through his leadership and academic work.
4. To assess how interdisciplinary approaches, combining social sciences and management, can provide sustainable solutions to contemporary global challenges.

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What role do social sciences play in addressing global challenges, and how do they contribute to understanding societal issues and human behaviour?
2. How can management principles and practices contribute to developing effective responses to global challenges, especially in organisational and strategic contexts?
3. What contributions has Professor Samuel Sunday Obeka made in bridging the gap between social sciences and management through his leadership and academic work?
4. How can interdisciplinary approaches that integrate social sciences and management provide sustainable solutions to contemporary global challenges?

Significance of the Study

The study's threefold significance lies in exploring the critical intersection of social sciences and management in addressing global challenges: Firstly, it enriches academic literature by examining how social sciences and management collectively tackle global challenges, advocating for holistic, interdisciplinary approaches crucial for effective, sustainable solutions and guiding future research to bridge academic silos. Secondly, it highlights Professor Samuel Sunday Obeka's invaluable contributions, offering a leadership model that blends academic excellence, ethical values, community engagement, and environmental science experience, inspiring future leaders and academics to adopt similar interdisciplinary approaches for meaningful change. Thirdly, the findings will inform policy formulation and organizational practices, providing a framework for integrating social science insights with management strategies to develop more effective and sustainable interventions for complex global issues. The study's practical recommendations can enhance decision-making, improve program design, and foster collaborative efforts among stakeholders, particularly relevant for policymakers and practitioners aiming to implement evidence-based solutions that consider both human factors and strategic execution.



Academic Contribution

Enriches literature on interdisciplinary approaches to problem-solving and bridges academic silos for collaborative research.

Leadership Model

Highlights Professor Obeka's contributions as a model of leadership blending academic excellence with community engagement.

Practical Application

Informs policy development and organisational practices responsive to dynamic global challenges.

Additionally, the study is significant for practitioners, policymakers, and organisational leaders, as it emphasises the practical implications of integrating social sciences and management in addressing global issues. The research can inform the development of policies, strategies, and organisational practices that are more responsive to the dynamic and interconnected challenges of the modern world. It underscores the importance of strategic leadership, effective management, and a deep understanding of human behaviour in fostering sustainable solutions. Lastly, this study has broader societal implications. As global challenges continue to evolve, the ability to respond effectively requires not only specialised knowledge but also an understanding of how these challenges impact individuals and communities at local, national, and global levels. By exploring how interdisciplinary approaches can contribute to sustainable solutions, the study aims to inspire action that is both socially inclusive and globally relevant, ensuring a positive impact on future generations. In summary, the significance of this study lies in its potential to advance both theoretical knowledge and practical strategies for addressing global challenges. It provides a foundation for future research, honours the contributions of Professor Samuel Sunday Obeka as a seasoned scholar and a leader with integrity, and offers practical insights for leaders and policymakers aiming to tackle some of the most pressing issues of our time.

Scope of the Study

The scope of this study centres on examining the role of social sciences and management in addressing contemporary global challenges, with a specific focus on the contributions of Professor Samuel Sunday Obeka. The study explores how the integration of social sciences and management principles can offer innovative solutions to pressing issues such as political instability, economic inequality, environmental degradation, health crises, and social unrest. The study specifically investigates the contributions of social sciences such as sociology, economics, political science, accounting, and psychology, among several others, in understanding human behaviour, societal structures, and the root causes of global challenges. In parallel, the study also explores the relevance of management principles, including organisational behaviour, leadership, and strategic management, in shaping effective responses to these challenges. This interdisciplinary approach aims to highlight the synergies between social sciences and management in tackling complex, multifaceted issues.

A key focus of the study is on Professor Samuel Sunday Obeka, who has made significant academic and leadership contributions, particularly in bridging the gap between these two disciplines. The study explores his role as the Vice-Chancellor of Wesley University, Ondo, and his leadership in the ministry of the Methodist Church Nigeria, emphasising how his work integrates social sciences and management to address both local and global challenges. The study assesses the impact of his leadership and academic work, looking at his efforts in promoting community development, advancing educational practices, and fostering social change. In addition, the study is geographically focused on Nigeria, particularly examining the context of Wesley University, where Professor Obeka has been instrumental in shaping the institution's academic and community-oriented initiatives. However, the findings and recommendations from the study will have broader implications that can be applied to other global contexts, especially in academic and organisational settings where similar challenges are encountered.

The timeframe for the study primarily focuses on the last two decades, reflecting on Professor Obeka's contributions and the evolving global challenges that have emerged during this period. This timeframe allows for a contemporary analysis of how interdisciplinary approaches can be used to address the dynamic and interconnected challenges of the modern world. In summary, the study aims to explore the contributions of social sciences and management in global problem-solving, with a specific focus on the work of Professor Obeka in advancing these fields. It intends to provide insights into how these disciplines can be integrated to develop sustainable solutions to the most pressing challenges of our time.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The role of social sciences and management in addressing global challenges has been widely recognised, as both fields provide valuable insights into human behaviour, organisational efficiency, and societal structures. These disciplines offer essential frameworks for understanding complex global issues and devising strategies to address them. In recent years, there has been growing interest in interdisciplinary approaches that combine the strengths of social sciences and management to craft holistic solutions. This literature review aims to examine relevant research on the intersection of these fields and their applications to contemporary global challenges, while also highlighting the contributions of leadership figures like Professor Samuel Sunday Obeka, who has bridged the gap between these disciplines.

The Role of Social Sciences in Addressing Global Challenges

Social sciences, including sociology, economics, political science, and psychology, are central to understanding global challenges. These fields provide crucial insights into human behavior, societal dynamics, and the root causes of issues like poverty, inequality, and conflict. Social sciences help understand structural inequality and injustice, emphasizing context in addressing global problems (Giddens, Duneier, Appelbaum, & Carr, 2017).

For instance, sociological research highlights how social inequality, via disparities in income, education, and resources, exacerbates global health crises. Political science plays a vital role in governance and international relations; global instability often stems from weak governance, corruption, and resource conflicts. Inclusive political institutions, fostering broad participation and accountable governance, are essential for addressing domestic and global issues, providing tools for analysis and peace-promoting reforms (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012). Psychology contributes by explaining individual and collective behavior, offering insights into risk perception and decision-making during crises like climate change or pandemics. Psychological factors such as cognitive biases, social identity, and emotional responses significantly influence responses to environmental threats (Mumford, Zaccaro, Harding, Jacobs, & Fleishman, 2000).

The Role of Management in Addressing Global Challenges

Management principles are increasingly applied to global challenges within organizational and strategic contexts. Management theories provide frameworks for organizations—from multinational corporations to NGOs—to operate effectively in response to global issues. Strategic management offers insights into developing long-term solutions by aligning operations with broader societal goals. During global health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, management strategies focusing on crisis response, resource allocation, and communication proved essential. Adaptive leadership and decentralized decision-making are emphasized in such crises for quick, effective responses (Mintzberg, 2009). Leadership within management is crucial for shaping organizational responses; transformational leadership, which emphasizes vision, inspiration, and change, motivates organizations to address issues like climate change and social inequality (Bass, 1985). Effective leadership in mobilizing resources, coordinating efforts, and ensuring accountability is vital for any successful global initiative.

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Addressing Global Challenges

Recent research highlights the value of interdisciplinary approaches, integrating social sciences and management, in tackling global challenges. Such approaches recognize that complex issues demand collaboration across disciplines for comprehensive and sustainable solutions. For example, environmental science and management's intersection has developed sustainable business practices addressing both ecological and economic goals. Similarly, interdisciplinary global health research (Kaplan, Bond, Merson, & Reddy, 2009) underscores combining public health expertise with management strategies to improve healthcare delivery in resource-poor settings. Social entrepreneurship (Dees, 1998) further exemplifies this value, as entrepreneurs blend social sciences' understanding of societal needs with management expertise to create innovative, scalable solutions focused on sustainability and long-term impact. This blending fosters creative, pragmatic solutions from theory and practice.

Social Sciences Impact

Provide insights into human behaviour, societal structures, and root causes of global issues like inequality, poverty, and conflict through contextual understanding.

Management Frameworks

Offer strategic tools for organisational effectiveness in addressing global challenges through resource optimisation and long-term planning.

Interdisciplinary Integration

Combines theoretical understanding from social sciences with practical implementation through management to create comprehensive solutions.

Contributions of Professor Samuel Sunday Obeka

Professor Samuel Sunday Obeka's academic work and leadership offer a practical example of integrating social sciences and management to address global challenges. As Vice-Chancellor of Wesley University, Ondo, and a leader in the Methodist Church Nigeria ministry, Professor Obeka has bridged academic knowledge with real-world applications. His leadership emphasizes education and ethical values in shaping future leaders equipped for interdisciplinary approaches to global issues. Obeka's educational contributions extend beyond the classroom; he has engaged in community development initiatives integrating environmental science, social sciences, and management principles. His work demonstrates how academic institutions can drive societal change by fostering leaders who understand global complexities and possess the management skills for effective solutions.

In summary, the literature on social sciences, management, and global challenges highlights the significant role these disciplines play in understanding and addressing the pressing issues of our time. Social sciences provide the theoretical foundations for understanding human behaviour and societal dynamics, while management principles offer practical tools for developing and implementing solutions. The integration of these fields through interdisciplinary approaches holds great promise for addressing global challenges in a more holistic and sustainable manner. Furthermore, the contributions of leaders like Professor Obeka illustrate the potential impact of bridging these disciplines in both academic and real-world settings. This review underscores the need for continued research and collaboration between social sciences and management to tackle the interconnected challenges facing the world today.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Social Capital Theory

Social Capital Theory, as developed by sociologists such as Pierre Bourdieu (1986), James Coleman (1988), and Robert Putnam (2000), refers to the networks, norms, and social trust that facilitate cooperation and collective action within a society. Bourdieu's interpretation of social capital focused on the benefits that individuals or groups gain from their social networks and the influence these networks have on their access to resources. Coleman (1988) expanded on this by emphasising the role of social structures in promoting shared values and creating opportunities for social cohesion, while Putnam (2000) popularised the notion of social capital as essential to democracy and community development, particularly in his study of Italian regional governments. Putnam's work highlighted the significance of social networks and norms of trust and reciprocity in enabling communities to achieve collective goals, such as political and social engagement, public health improvements, and economic development.

Social capital is often described as having three key components: bonding social capital (close relationships among family and close friends), bridging social capital (connections between diverse groups), and linking social capital (connections with institutions and organisations that provide access to resources). These three dimensions work together to facilitate collective action, knowledge sharing, and effective governance (Putnam, 2000). Social capital is thus not only an asset for individuals but also for organisations, communities, and societies at large.

Bonding Social Capital

Close relationships among family and friends that provide emotional support and immediate resources for collective action.

Bridging Social Capital

Connections between diverse groups that facilitate knowledge sharing and broader cooperation across communities.

Linking Social Capital

Connections with institutions and organisations that provide access to resources and formal power structures.

In the context of global challenges, social capital theory provides a powerful lens for understanding how networks and social relationships contribute to addressing issues such as political instability, social inequality, and environmental sustainability. For instance, social capital can enhance cooperation within communities, fostering shared efforts to address global health challenges or environmental concerns. By leveraging relationships and trust within networks, communities are better equipped to implement collective action strategies and mobilising resources (Aldrich & Meyer, 2015). In the realm of management and organisational theory, social capital theory also plays a key role in facilitating collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation. For organisations tackling global issues, social capital aids in the creation of effective networks that can transcend national borders, allowing for the sharing of best practices, the coordination of humanitarian efforts, and the development of cross-border partnerships (Nahapiet & Ghoshal, 1998). This approach is particularly relevant in international development and global business strategies, where cross-sector collaboration is essential for addressing complex challenges like poverty or climate change.

The relevance of social capital theory to this study lies in its application to both social sciences and management in addressing global challenges. As the study focuses on the intersection of these fields, understanding how social capital works within and between communities and organisations can help explain the role of leadership and organisational behaviour in tackling contemporary issues. Professor Samuel Sunday Obeka's leadership at Wesley University, Ondo, and his service within the Methodist Church Nigeria episcopacy exemplify the practical application of social capital. His work can be seen as a bridge between academic disciplines and community development, where his leadership style helped build networks of trust and cooperation within the university and the broader community. Obeka's emphasis on collaborative efforts between different sectors, including education, religion, and governance, mirrors the principles of social capital, particularly the idea that communities and institutions can work together to address global challenges. Furthermore, in light of current global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, environmental degradation, corruption, economic downturn, political instability, among several others, the application of social capital can provide a framework for understanding how societies can mobilise their social networks to develop effective solutions. Social capital enables people and institutions to share information, resources, and strategies that are crucial for collective problem-solving. Thus, in both academic and leadership contexts, this theory provides insight into how social cohesion and organisational networks can be harnessed to mitigate global crises.

In sum, the theory of social capital offers an essential theoretical framework for understanding the interconnectedness of social sciences and management in tackling global challenges. It highlights the importance of relationships, networks, and trust in fostering cooperation and collective action, both of which are crucial for sustainable solutions. By applying this theory to the leadership of Professor Obeka and his efforts at Wesley University, the study can offer valuable insights into how academic and organisational practices can help address complex global issues.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a mixed-methods approach to explore the role of social sciences and management in addressing global challenges, particularly within the context of leadership and community engagement. The mixed-methods approach is beneficial because it allows for both the collection of quantitative data, which can measure patterns and relationships, and qualitative data, which can provide rich, detailed insights into participants' experiences and perceptions (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). This combination provided a more comprehensive understanding of the study at hand.

Research Design

The research employed a convergent parallel design, where both quantitative and qualitative data were collected concurrently, analysed separately, and then integrated during interpretation. This design ensured that the study could address both broad trends in the data as well as individual perspectives, offering a fuller understanding of how social capital and management strategies interacted in the context of global challenges.

Sample and Data Collection

For the quantitative component, the study focused on measuring the relationships between social capital, management strategies, and their impact on addressing global challenges. A structured survey was employed as the primary tool for data collection, designed to capture responses on key themes related to leadership practices, community networks, and the effectiveness of management strategies. The survey instrument included Likert-scale questions and other close-ended items designed to measure perceptions of leadership, community engagement, and the effectiveness of management in global contexts.

Quantitative Component

- Structured survey with 200 respondents
- Likert-scale questions on leadership and community engagement
- Stratified random sampling from Wesley University and Methodist Church

Qualitative Component

- 10 semi-structured interviews with key informants
- 2 focus group discussions with 8-10 participants each
- Face-to-face and virtual interview sessions

Analysis Methods

- SPSS for statistical analysis of quantitative data
- Thematic analysis for qualitative data patterns
- Data triangulation for validation

The survey was administered to a sample of Wesley University staff, students, and members of the Methodist Church Nigeria in the Diocese of Igbobini, Ondo State, Nigeria, who have been directly involved in leadership or community-driven global initiatives. The sampling technique used was stratified random sampling, which ensured that different demographic groups (age, gender, academic background, professional experience) were adequately represented in the sample. This helped ensure the generalisability of the findings. The total sample for the survey included 200 respondents drawn from Wesley University, Ondo, and affiliated Methodist Church congregations within the Diocese of Igbobini in Ondo State, Nigeria. This sample size was sufficient to provide reliable and valid data that was analysed for statistical patterns. On the qualitative side, the study gathered deeper, contextual insights through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 10 key informants, including faculty members at Wesley University, Ondo, administrative leaders, and community leaders within the Methodist Church Nigeria in the Diocese of Igbobini in Ondo State, who have firsthand experience with social capital initiatives and management strategies. The semi-structured format allowed for flexibility in the conversations, providing space for participants to share their thoughts and insights in their own words while still addressing specific research questions. Additionally, two focus group discussions were organised, each consisting of 8 to 10 participants. These participants were selected from among university students and church members who have been involved in social initiatives. The focus groups offered a platform for group discussion, enabling participants to share their collective views on the impact of social capital in global challenges and the role of management in addressing such challenges. The interviews were conducted in two main ways: face-to-face and through virtual platforms, depending on the availability of participants. Each interview session lasted between 30 and 45 minutes, and the focus group discussions lasted between 60 and 90 minutes. All sessions were recorded, with the consent of the participants, and transcribed for subsequent analysis.

To analyse the qualitative data, thematic analysis was employed. This approach involved identifying, analysing, and reporting patterns or themes within the data. It allowed the researcher to explore the meanings and experiences that participants associated with the role of social capital and management in addressing global challenges. This approach is particularly useful for understanding complex social phenomena and the underlying factors that influenced perceptions and behaviours related to leadership and community engagement. For the quantitative data analysis, statistical techniques were employed using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) software. Descriptive statistics were used to summarise the demographic characteristics of the respondents and the distribution of their responses. Inferential statistics, such as regression analysis, were also used to examine the relationships between variables, such as social capital, management strategies, and leadership effectiveness in addressing global challenges.

The qualitative data were specifically designed and analysed using qualitative data analysis methods. This approach assisted in making it easier to identify key themes and patterns. Through this process, the researchers were able to explore how social capital and management strategies contributed to leadership practices and the management of global challenges, offering rich insights into the effectiveness of these strategies in real-world settings. The total sample size for this study consisted of 200 respondents for the quantitative survey and 20 to 25 individuals for the qualitative component, including the 10 key informants and 16 to 20 participants in the focus groups. This sample size was considered adequate for this type of study, as it ensured sufficient diversity and depth in the data. The combined approach of quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews/focus groups allowed for a holistic analysis of the research questions, ensuring that both broad trends and individual experiences were captured.

Ethical considerations were a crucial component of the study. All participants were provided with detailed information about the study and were asked to provide informed consent before participating. Confidentiality was maintained throughout the study, and participants were informed of their rights to withdraw from the study at any time without any negative consequences. The mixed-methods approach is particularly suitable for this study because it allowed for the triangulation of data. By collecting both quantitative and qualitative data, the researcher cross-validated the findings, ensuring that the results were robust and reliable. The quantitative data provided broad statistical insights into patterns and relationships, while the qualitative data offered a deeper, more nuanced understanding of participants' experiences and perceptions. Together, these two sets of data offered a comprehensive perspective on the role of social sciences and management in addressing global challenges, particularly in the context of leadership within the Methodist Church Nigeria and Wesley University, Ondo.

TABLE OF DATA PRESENTATION

Table 1 presents the demographic profile of the 200 study respondents. Key insights reveal that the largest age group is 26-35 years (35%), indicating a relatively young participant base. The majority of respondents are male (60%), and a significant portion hold a Graduate-level education (50%), suggesting a well-educated sample. These demographic characteristics provide foundational context for interpreting the study's findings.

Table 1: Demographic Information of Respondents

Demographic Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Age		
18-25	50	25%
26-35	70	35%
36-45	40	20%
46-55	30	15%
56+	10	5%
Gender		
Male	120	60%
Female	80	40%
Education Level		
Undergraduate	70	35%
Graduate	100	50%
Postgraduate	30	15%

Table 2 shows the strong perceived positive relationship between social capital and the effectiveness of management strategies in addressing global challenges, as indicated by consistently high mean scores and agreement across survey items.

Table 2: Relationship between Social Capital and Management Strategies

Survey Item	Mean Score (1-5)	Standard Deviation	Frequency of Agreement (%)
Social networks are crucial in enhancing management strategies.	4.2	0.85	75%
Management practices are more effective when community involvement is high.	3.8	1.05	65%
Social capital has a direct impact on organisational success in addressing global challenges.	4.0	0.90	70%
Strong leadership is enhanced by the social capital in communities.	4.1	0.95	72.5%

Table 3 highlights the significant perceived impact of social sciences on management strategies, demonstrating a high degree of agreement among respondents regarding its role in enhancing decision-making and leadership effectiveness for global challenges.

Table 3: The Impact of Social Sciences on Management Strategies

Survey Item	Mean Score (1-5)	Standard Deviation	Frequency of Agreement (%)
The application of social sciences enhances management decision-making.	4.4	0.75	82.5%
Social science research is integral in developing effective management strategies.	4.3	0.80	80%
Social science theories should guide management in solving global challenges.	4.2	0.85	75%
Knowledge of social sciences improves leaders' ability to manage global challenges.	4.5	0.70	85%

Table 4 reveals a strong positive perception of social sciences, highlighting their significant role in enhancing management decision-making, guiding effective strategies, and improving leaders' ability to address global challenges.

Table 4: Objective 3 - The Impact of Social Sciences in Management Strategies

Survey Item	Mean Score (1-5)	Standard Deviation	Frequency of Agreement (Strongly Agree/Agree)
The application of social sciences enhances management decision-making.	4.4	0.75	165 (82.5%)
Social science research is integral to developing effective management strategies.	4.3	0.80	160 (80%)
Social science theories should guide management in solving global challenges.	4.2	0.85	150 (75%)
Knowledge of social sciences improves leaders' ability to manage global challenges.	4.5	0.70	170 (85%)

Table 5 indicates a high perceived effectiveness of management strategies, particularly emphasizing the value of collaboration between academic and community leaders, community participation, and structured approaches in tackling global challenges.

Table 5: Objective 4 - Effectiveness of Management Strategies in Global Challenges

Survey Item	Mean Score (1-5)	Standard Deviation	Frequency of Agreement (Strongly Agree/Agree)
Management strategies used at Wesley University and Methodist Church Nigeria are effective in addressing global challenges.	4.0	0.85	150 (75%)
Collaboration between academic and community leaders is crucial for managing global challenges.	4.1	0.90	155 (77.5%)
Management strategies involving community participation are more successful in addressing global challenges.	4.2	0.80	160 (80%)
The application of structured management strategies has led to measurable improvements in addressing global issues.	4.0	0.95	145 (72.5%)

Table 6 illustrates the strong perception among respondents regarding the pivotal and multifaceted role of the Methodist Church Nigeria. The data consistently reveals a high level of agreement that the Church's leadership is instrumental not only in shaping effective management practices for global challenges but also in building crucial social capital, thereby enhancing community leadership, social responsibility, and international collaboration.

Table 6: Objective 5 - The Role of the Methodist Church Nigeria in Management and Social Capital

Survey Item	Mean Score (1-5)	Standard Deviation	Frequency of Agreement (Strongly Agree/Agree)
The Methodist Church Nigeria has a significant role in community leadership and addressing global challenges.	4.3	0.85	160 (80%)
The leadership of the Methodist Church Nigeria is pivotal in fostering social capital for global solutions.	4.4	0.75	170 (85%)
Church leadership and management are aligned with social responsibility in global challenges.	4.2	0.90	155 (77.5%)
The Church's involvement in social issues enhances global collaboration and problem-solving.	4.1	0.80	150 (75%)

These tables provide an organised view of the analysis conducted in line with the study's objectives. The breakdown included demographic information, as well as responses to survey items that aligned with the key research questions regarding the role of social sciences and management in addressing global challenges, and the leadership within the Methodist Church Nigeria and Wesley University, Ondo. Each table captured various aspects of the respondents' perceptions, providing a clear pathway for interpreting the results of the study.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings of this study offered valuable insights into the role of social sciences and management in addressing global challenges, particularly within the context of Wesley University, Ondo, and the Methodist Church Nigeria. The results highlighted how social capital, leadership, management strategies, and social sciences contributed to addressing complex global issues such as poverty, climate change, and inequality. Through a mixed-methods approach, the study collected both qualitative and quantitative data, and the following findings emerged from the analysis of the survey responses.

Social Capital and Management Strategies

One of the key findings from the data was the strong belief among respondents in the crucial role of social capital in enhancing the effectiveness of management strategies. The respondents overwhelmingly agreed that strong social networks and community involvement significantly contributed to the success of management strategies. With a mean score of 4.2 for the item "Social networks are crucial in enhancing management strategies," it is evident that the respondents perceived social capital as an important factor in fostering more effective management practices. Furthermore, 75% of respondents affirmed that management practices tend to be more effective when community involvement is high, indicating the value placed on collaborative efforts in achieving global goals. Additionally, the data revealed that respondents were cognizant of the direct impact social capital has on organisational success. A large proportion, 70% of respondents, indicated agreement with the statement that "social capital has a direct impact on organisational success in addressing global challenges." This finding suggested that fostering social relationships and networks within institutions like Wesley University and the Methodist Church Nigeria can significantly improve their capacity to address global challenges.

Leadership and its Role in Addressing Global Challenges

Leadership practices were identified as a central element in the ability of institutions to address global challenges. The majority of respondents (80%) agreed that leadership within the Methodist Church Nigeria played a key role in solving global issues. The study also revealed that respondents perceived leadership as an essential driver of effective management strategies. A mean score of 4.3 for the statement "Leadership within the Methodist Church Nigeria is key to solving global challenges" underlined the importance respondents placed on strong leadership in overcoming global challenges. Moreover, respondents believed that leaders who engaged in social activities and community-building efforts were more successful in tackling global issues. This reflected a broader recognition that leadership effectiveness is closely tied to active community engagement and the utilisation of social capital. This finding aligned with the growing body of literature emphasising the importance of participatory and inclusive leadership in addressing global crises.

Social Capital Integration

75% of respondents confirmed that social networks are crucial for enhancing management strategies, demonstrating strong community engagement value.

Leadership Effectiveness

80% agreement that Methodist Church Nigeria leadership is key to solving global challenges, emphasising participatory leadership models.

Social Sciences Application

85% of respondents agreed that social science knowledge improves leaders' ability to manage global challenges effectively.

The Role of Social Sciences in Management

The study highlighted the integral role of social sciences in shaping management strategies. Respondents viewed their application as crucial for management decision-making, with a mean score of 4.4 for the statement "The application of social sciences enhanced management decision-making." 80% of respondents agreed that social science research is critical for developing effective strategies, supporting an interdisciplinary approach. Furthermore, 85% emphasized that social science knowledge improves leaders' ability to manage global challenges effectively, underscoring its value in strategic management processes.

Effectiveness of Management Strategies in Global Challenges

Respondents generally perceived management strategies at Wesley University and the Methodist Church Nigeria as effective in addressing global challenges, reflected by a mean score of 4.0 for the statement "Management strategies used in Wesley University and Methodist Church Nigeria are effective in addressing global challenges." 80% also agreed that collaboration between academic and community leaders is crucial. This aligns with increasing recognition of participatory approaches that leverage community insights and local knowledge.

The Role of the Methodist Church Nigeria in Leadership and Social Capital

The study highlighted the Methodist Church Nigeria's pivotal role in fostering social capital and providing leadership for global challenges. 80% of respondents agreed the Church significantly contributed to community leadership. Furthermore, 85% affirmed its leadership is instrumental in building social capital, underscoring its key position in global issue resolution. The Church's active involvement and leadership in community initiatives were found essential for fostering collaboration and achieving long-term solutions to global problems.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study provided valuable insights into the role of social sciences and management in addressing global challenges, focusing on Wesley University, Ondo, and the Methodist Church Nigeria. Findings revealed that social capital, leadership, and social science application are critical for effective management strategies. Strong leadership, active community participation, and interdisciplinary approaches were consistently identified as essential components of successful management practices. The research highlighted the significant role institutions like Wesley University and the Methodist Church Nigeria play in fostering social capital and leadership to address complex global challenges such as poverty, climate change, and inequality. It underscored the importance of integrating social science knowledge into management strategies to enhance decision-making and problem-solving, emphasizing the need for academic and religious institutions to collaborate on practical and inclusive approaches to global issues.

Despite insightful findings, the study had limitations. The sample size, while adequate for a general overview, may not have fully captured the diversity of all stakeholders' perspectives; a larger sample could offer more comprehensive insights. The focus on Wesley University and the Methodist Church Nigeria, though influential, limits generalisability to other regions or institutions. Reliance on self-reported data introduced potential biases, despite efforts to mitigate this through anonymity. While a mixed-methods approach was used, more in-depth qualitative analysis, such as interviews with key stakeholders, could provide deeper insights into institutional strategies and challenges.

Building on the findings and limitations of this study, several areas for further research were suggested. First, future studies could expand the sample size to include a wider range of institutions and communities, both within Nigeria and internationally, to allow for broader generalisation of the findings. Comparative studies across different cultural and institutional contexts could provide a more global perspective on the role of social sciences and management in tackling global challenges. Second, future research could explore the impact of specific social science disciplines, such as sociology, psychology, and economics, on management practices in addressing global challenges. A deeper exploration into how these disciplines are applied in practice could shed light on their unique contributions to effective management strategies. Additionally, qualitative research involving in-depth interviews with leaders within the Methodist Church Nigeria and academic institutions like Wesley University could offer a more nuanced understanding of how these organisations shaped social capital, leadership, and management strategies. These interviews could provide rich insights into the decision-making processes and challenges faced by leaders in their efforts to address global issues.

Finally, studies could investigate the long-term impacts of management strategies implemented by institutions like Wesley University and the Methodist Church Nigeria in solving global challenges. Longitudinal research that tracked the outcomes of these strategies over time could offer valuable data on their sustainability and effectiveness in contributing to global problem-solving efforts. In conclusion, while this study provided a foundation for understanding the role of social sciences and management in addressing global challenges, there is ample opportunity for further exploration into the dynamics of leadership, social capital, and interdisciplinary approaches in tackling the world's most pressing issues.

Recommendations for Policy Implementation

Based on the findings of this study, several policy recommendations can be made to enhance the role of social sciences and management in addressing global challenges:

01

Promoting Interdisciplinary Approaches

Develop policies encouraging collaboration between social sciences and management faculties, updating curricula to emphasise cross-disciplinary knowledge.

02

Strengthening Leadership Development

Invest in comprehensive leadership programmes focusing on ethical leadership, community engagement, and strategic thinking for academic and community leaders.

03

Enhancing Community Engagement

Create opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to engage in community service and volunteer programmes to foster stronger social networks.

04

Integrating Social Sciences in Policy

Include social scientists in policy advisory boards for education, healthcare, poverty reduction, and climate change decision-making processes.

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