

ANNUAL RESEARCH REPORT 2025



RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, THE MALDIVES NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



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It is with great pleasure that I present the Research Report 2025 from The Maldives National University. This report reflects the continued dedication and achievements of our academic community, highlighting the progress we have made in strengthening a dynamic and impactful research culture within the University.

At MNU, our academic community has continued to advance the quality, scope, and relevance of research. The sustained growth in university-funded research grants, together with the increasing success of our researchers in securing external funding, underscores the commitment, innovation, and collaboration that define our efforts. Our researchers have continued to contribute meaningfully to addressing both national priorities and global challenges, while further shaping and strengthening the academic and research landscape.

DR. MARIYAM SHAHUNEEZA NASEER

Dean of Research



RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Research Development Office was established originally as “The Postgraduate Research Centre” following a University Council decision on 30 January 2012 regarding the development of research at MNU. It was renamed in 2015 as “The Research Centre” and later “The Research Development Office” in November 2020.



INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS



INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2025

Social Economic Predictors of Low Fertility Rates in the Maldives



This study, conducted by The Maldives National University with support from UNFPA, examines the key socioeconomic factors driving the decline in fertility rates in the Maldives. Using a mixed-methods approach, it analyses existing demographic data and incorporates surveys, focus group discussions, and expert interviews to generate evidence-based insights and policy-relevant recommendations aimed at supporting sustainable population growth.

Knowledge, Attitude, and the Practice of Antibiotic Use among the Public in Maldives

In partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), The Maldives National University completed the research project **“Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Antibiotic Resistance and Antibiotic Use Among the Public in the Maldives,”** with a total grant value of MVR 231,300. The study assessed public knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to antibiotic use and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through a nationally representative cross-sectional survey. Findings provide critical local evidence to inform the National AMR communication strategy and support targeted interventions to promote responsible antibiotic use in the Maldives.

Prevention of Marine Litter in the Lakshadweep Sea (PROMISE)



The **PREVENTION OF MARINE LITTER IN THE LAKSHADWEEP SEA (PROMISE)** project, a four-year initiative (2020–2024) supported by the European Union under the SWITCH Asia Programme, was successfully completed during the reporting period. Valued at USD 1.2 million, the project addressed marine litter originating from tourism-related activities by promoting sustainable consumption and production practices. Implemented across tourism clusters in the Maldives, Sri Lanka, and India, the project aimed to prevent land-based waste leakage into the Lakshadweep Sea. The Maldives National University served as the lead implementing partner.

“Strengthening Research on Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability for Small Island Developing States at The Maldives National University” Initiative

Under the Canadian TAP-EDM program, the collaborative project “**Strengthening Research on Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability for Small Island Development at the Maldives National University**” was successfully completed. Implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, the project focused on capacity building through knowledge exchange, resulting in the co-development of a gender-responsive and inclusive institutional framework for climate and sustainability research, delivery of targeted training, and enhanced coordination to advance climate policy and financing in the Maldives.

ONGOING INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Resilience to climate vulnerability and environmental risk (RECOVER) - focus on small islands

The two-year project **“Resilient to Climate Vulnerability and Environmental Risk (RECOVER) - Focus on Small Islands”** is being implemented under the CLARE program with a grant of USD 1.2 million. The project aims to strengthen small islands’ capacity to adapt to climate change by fostering inclusive, research-informed decision-making. Through four pilot studies across Mauritius, the Maldives, and Fiji, scalable climate resilience approaches are being co-developed to enhance understanding of adaptation possibilities in small island contexts.

Exploring the use of Satellite Imagery for shoreline monitoring, and farmland mapping: A case study of change analysis



Under the Australian Awards, the project **“Exploring the Use of Satellite Imagery for Shoreline Monitoring and Farmland Mapping: A Case Study of Change Analysis”** is underway and scheduled for completion by March 2026. The study leverages Sentinel satellite imagery to map shoreline changes and coastal erosion in the Maldives, providing critical insights into impacts on agricultural land and farming communities. Findings will support climate-adaptive measures, inform coastal zone management, and contribute to SDG 2 (food security) and SDG 13 (climate action), offering a cost-effective and scalable approach to sustainable coastal and agricultural management.

An Exploratory Study on Perceptions and Awareness About State-Funded Subsidies and Welfare Programs in Maldives

Funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the Ministry of Finance, the project **“An Exploratory Study on Perceptions and Awareness About State-Funded Subsidies and Welfare Programs in Maldives”** is currently underway. The study investigates public awareness and perceptions of state-provided financial benefits, subsidies, and welfare assistance, examining program design, accessibility, and institutional trust. Insights from this research will inform future welfare reform and communication strategies, aiming to enhance public understanding and engagement with state-funded programs.

Digital Transformation of Asian Higher Education



The Erasmus-funded project **“Digital Transformation of Asian Higher Education (DIGITAsia)”** is a two-year initiative currently in progress, involving the Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia. The project promotes innovation in higher education through Education 5.0, training 150 educators to redesign and pilot 130 hybrid courses across seven universities. DIGITAsia will develop a Digital Teaching Transformation Framework and toolkit to support sustainable digital teaching, while fostering regional collaboration and capacity-building to enhance learning experiences, lifelong learning, and Industry 5.0-ready competencies.



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#MNUBuilding1975

MNU PROJECTS

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THE MALDIVES NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

INVESTIGATION OF THE USE , ATTITUDE AND ADOPTION OF GENERATIVE AI IN TEACHING AND LEARNING LAW IN MALDIVES: A MIXED METHOD STUDY

The study examines how generative artificial intelligence (AI) is being integrated into legal education in the Maldives. With AI tools like ChatGPT, Lexis+ AI, and others transforming legal practice globally, the legal profession is expected to face significant disruption. In response, law schools are beginning to incorporate technology into their curricula.

Using a concurrent mixed-methods approach, the research collects data through semi-structured interviews with law academics and an online survey targeting both academics and students from three major institutions: Maldives National University, Islamic University of Maldives, and Villa College.

The study aims to provide insights into the current and potential use of generative AI in Maldivian legal education, as well as assess institutional readiness and inform future curriculum development and teaching strategies.

THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SUPPORTING LIFELONG LEARNING: AN INVESTIGATION OF ADOPTION PATTERNS AND INFLUENCING FACTORS AT UNIVERSITY

The study aims to examine the current state of AI adoption among lifelong learners at universities, identify the key factors influencing this adoption, and generate evidence-based strategies to support and enhance the integration of AI into their learning processes.

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN THE MALDIVES

Climate change can potentially reverse global progress in the health of the populations gained over the last 50 years, presenting as a major threat to global health achievements, with increase in poverty and contributing to the existing health inequalities among communities. It is forecasted to dismantle universal coverage by enhancing the barriers to healthcare access that are currently existing within health systems. (WHO, 2024). The purpose of the proposed research is to study the impact of climate change in the Maldives in relation to communicable diseases in the Maldives. For the same purpose, we have selected the reported diseases, from the health centers to the Health Protection Agency, which include dengue fever, conjunctivitis, viral fever, hand-foot-mouth disease, acute gastroenteritis, acute respiratory illness and chickenpox.

THE PERCEPTION OF FINAL YEAR NURSING STUDENTS' READINESS ON ENTERING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE: A DESCRIPTIVE QUALITATIVE STUDY

The study explores the readiness of final-year nursing students for their transition into professional practice as registered nurses. Adopting a descriptive qualitative phenomenological approach, it uses unstructured face-to-face interviews with purposively selected participants, with data analyzed through interpretive phenomenological analysis. The research aims to examine students' confidence, competence, and perceptions prior to entering professional practice, while also identifying key enablers and barriers affecting this transition. The findings are expected to contribute to strengthening nursing education and developing appropriate support mechanisms to better prepare students for their professional roles.

ACCESS BARRIERS AND LEGAL PROTECTIONS IN MIGRANT HEALTHCARE: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON SAFE ACCESS, ANTIDISCRIMINATION MEASURES, AND ADVOCACY FOR INCLUSIVE HEALTH POLICIES IN THE MALDIVES

The study examines barriers to healthcare access faced by migrant workers in the Maldives, who make up a significant portion of the population. Using a qualitative doctrinal approach that combines legal analysis and interviews with key stakeholders, it explores existing legal frameworks, identifies gaps in protections, and assesses alignment with international human rights standards. The research aims to evaluate implementation challenges and develop evidence-based legal and policy recommendations to improve migrant healthcare access.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS OF THE READINESS FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ACROSS THE MALDIVES

In collaboration with UNICEF, the study “**Landscape Analysis of the Readiness for Digital Transformation in Government Schools Across the Maldives**” was completed, with a grant of MVR 728,670. Commissioned by the Ministry of Education under the THAIBA Project, the study assessed technical infrastructure, organizational capacity, behavioral readiness, and financial sustainability to provide evidence for developing a comprehensive and sustainable digital learning policy for Maldivian schools.



STRENGTHENING GENDER INCLUSIVE INITIATIVES (SGII)

The Strengthening Gender Inclusive Initiatives Project aims to increase access to sustainable gender-responsive social services in Maldives by (i) improving gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) statistics; (ii) integrating gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) into government systems; (iii) strengthening the capacity of the social service system for aged care, early childcare, and domestic violence and gender-based violence (DV/GBV) services; (iv) establishing partnerships to support DV/GBV prevention, access to DV/GBV services, and aged care; and (v) constructing three climate-resilient shelters for DV/GBV survivors in Addu, Hulhumale, and Raa-Ungoofaaru. The project and attached TA will benefit women DV/GBV survivors and their dependent children and reduce the unpaid care burden on women caring for older family members and young children.

MALDIVES ATOLL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (AEDP: P177768) - CAPACITY BUILDING OF SECONDARY MATHEMATICS TEACHERS ON TEACHING STUDENTS WITH COMPLEX LEARNING PROFILES

The project aims to enhance secondary Mathematics teachers' confidence and competence in supporting students with complex learning profiles (SCLP). It focuses on developing a comprehensive training package that equips teachers with effective instructional strategies tailored to diverse learner needs.

Through targeted awareness sessions and structured professional development, the consultancy will ensure that all secondary Mathematics teachers are informed about, and trained in, these evidence-based teaching approaches for SCLP.



UNIVERSITY RESEARCH GRANTS



Under the two calls announced for the 2025 Research Grant, a total of **20** applications were received. Of these, **13** applicants were selected for funding. The total value of grants awarded across both calls amounted to **MVR 2,283,549.00.**

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH GRANT AWARDEES - 2025



Principal Investigator: Dr. Asiya Ibrahim

Develop and Evaluate the Effectiveness of a Mobile App for Acquisition of Triage Knowledge and Skill in Undergraduate Nursing Students



Principal Investigator: Uza. Batool Zahoor Qazi

Investigation of the use, attitude and adoption of Generative AI in teaching and learning law in the Maldives: A mixed method study



Principal Investigator: Mariyam Hudha

Navigating the Future: Insights on Telenursing from Undergraduate Nursing Students in the Maldives



Principal Investigator: Agleema Ahmed

Death and Dying: Teaching an Innovative End-of-Life Nursing Course: A Three-Stage Program



Principal Investigator: Aishath Hassan

Investigating Factors Contributing to Low Enrolment in Public Health Courses at the Maldives National University: Perspectives of Secondary School Graduates and Key Stakeholders



Principal Investigator: Aishath Shaheen Ismail

National Micronutrient Survey 2026



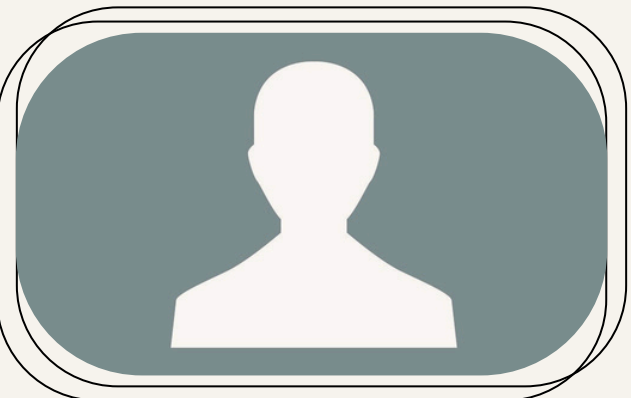
Principal Investigator: Dr. Aishath Shaira

An Investigation of Microplastics in Commercially Available Bottled Water in the Maldives



Principal Investigator: Dr. Athaulla Ahmed Rasheed

Securing Fisheries and Food Systems in Small States: Mapping IUU Fishing Threats and Enhancing Maldives' Maritime Interoperability in the Indo-Pacific



Principal Investigator: Hassan Shuabee

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Area-Wide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Melon Fly Containment in Ha. Kelaa, Maldives



Principal Investigator: Dr. Mausooma Mohamed

A Tracer Study of Foundation Students' Preparedness, Academic Outcomes, and Progression in Degree Programs at Maldives National University



Principal Investigator: Dr. Mohamed Sam-aan Hussain

A Cancer Profile of Breast, Thyroid, and Head & Neck Cancers at IGMH, Maldives: A Retrospective Analysis (2021–2025)



Principal Investigator: Mohamed Zaidh

Prevalence and Risk Factors of Cardiovascular Disease Among Maldivian Adults: A Cross-sectional Study



Principal Investigator: Dr. Shuaib Rasheed

Estimating Ocean Wave Heights Using Atmospheric Model Forcing and Buoy Observations at Dhaalu Atoll, Maldives - Towards an island scale wave forecasting model

UNIVERSITY BOOK WRITING GRANTS



Under the the two calls announced for the 2025 University Book Writing Grants, a total of **09** applications were received. Of these, **05** grants were awarded. The total value of grants disbursed under this grant amounted to **MVR 344,250.00.**

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Securing Fisheries and Food Systems in Small States: Mapping IUU Fishing Threats and Enhancing Maldives' Maritime Interoperability in the Indo-Pacific



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Principal Author: Asma Rushdy

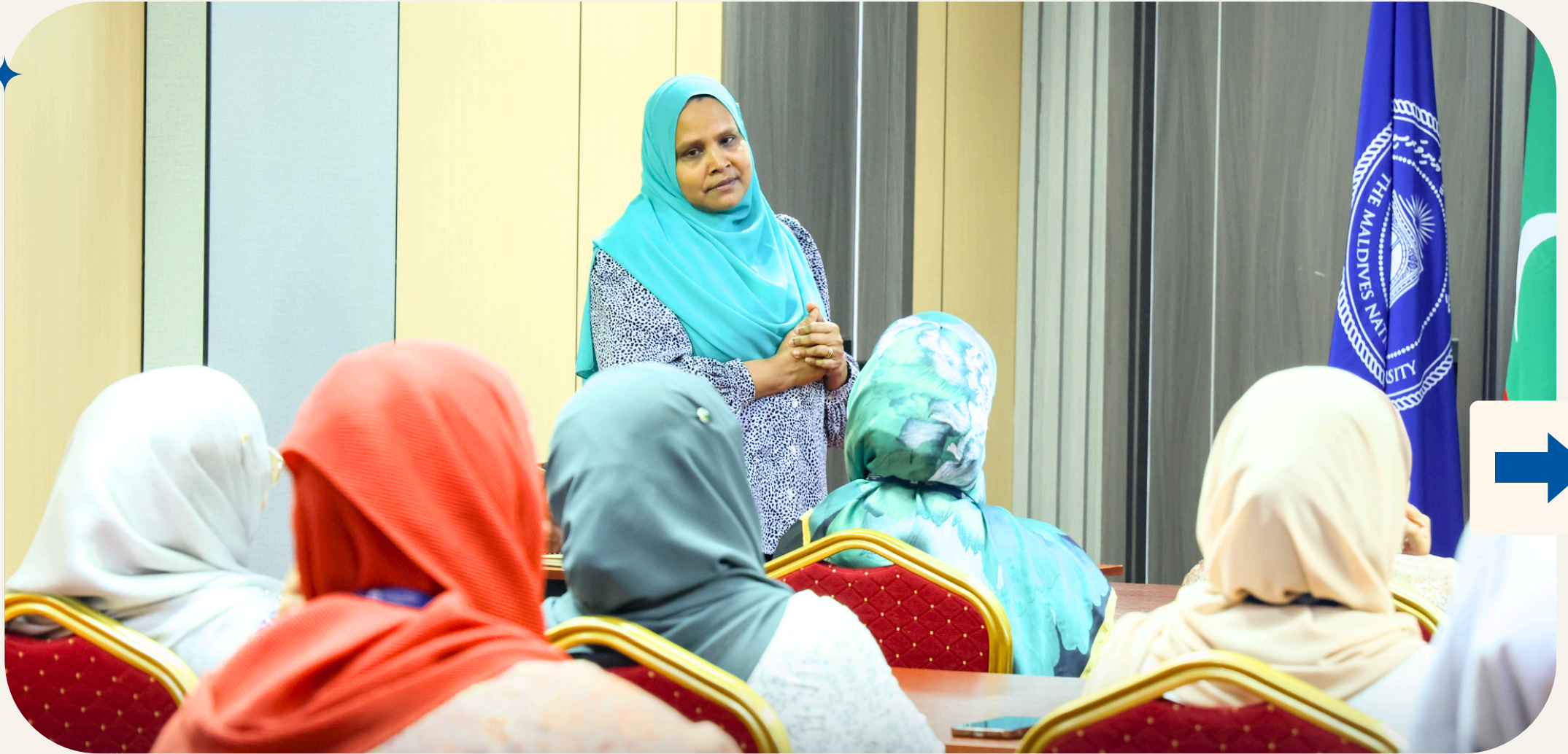
Coral Reefs to Cyber Waves: Tech Evolution of The Maldives



Principal Author: Dr. Mariyam Shahuneeza Naseer

Inclusive Mathematics Education in the Maldives: A Focus on Dyscalculia

LUNCH TIME TALK



14 SESSIONS HELD

From gangs to serious crimes : A criminological discourse of organised crime in Maldives -

Batool Zahoor Qazi, FSL

The lived experience of a woman living with breast cancer in the Maldives: A case study -

Salma Hassan, SN

A new bathymetric chart for the Maldives archipelago -

Dr. Shuaib Rasheed, RDO

“Speak Good to People/قُولُوا لِلنَّاسِ حُسْنًا”: An Analytical Study in the Light of Holy Qur’an -

Dr. Mohamed Mursaleen, FSL

Generation Distracted? Exploring the Social and Educational Implications of Digital Distraction in Gen Z -

Dr. Aminath Waseela, FE

How Math Foundation Impacts Maldivian Students in Higher Education -

Mohamed Shihab, FE

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Shiuna Ahmed, FA ދަރިވަރުންނަށް ދިނުމަށް ބޭނުންވާ ދަރިވަރުންނަށް ބޭނުންވާ ދަރިވަރުންނަށް ބޭނުންވާ ދަރިވަރުންނަށް

Understanding Marine Plastic Pollution: Awareness Among Secondary School Students in the Maldives -

Fathimath Ahlam Niyaz, RDO

Nearshore tsunami amplitudes across the Maldives archipelago due to worst-case seismic scenarios in the Indian Ocean -

Dr. Shuaib Rasheed, RDO

Living with rising seas -

Ahmed Aslam Waheed, FEST

Robogogy: A Framework for Integrating Robotics in Learning and Teaching -

Dr. Ali Fawaz Shareef, CA

Through the Glass Ceiling: Gender issues in the resort sector of the Maldives -

Hashma Adnan, FHTS

Influence of Student Well-Being on Student Academic Performance and Career Preparedness: The FHTS Experience -

Ismail Shiyar & Zuneena Habeeb, FHTS



**ILLMEE
FOAVAHI**

10

SESSIONS HELD



1. Promoting Reading - FA
2. Data Driven Decisions - MNUBS
3. Getting Ready for Ramazan - FSL
4. Cyber Security: Everyday Life - FEST
5. Empowering Women in Maritime Industry - CMS
6. Digital Wellbeing: How Important is it for Children's Upbringing - FE
7. Digital Technology and Association with Non Communicable Diseases - SN
8. Providing Information and Increasing Community Awareness on Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease - SM
9. One Team, Many Voices – Advancing Interprofessional Learning and Collaboration for Better Practice and Health Outcomes - FHS
10. Perception towards adoption of green vehicles for last-mile delivery :an exploratory study on greater male' area, Maldives - FHTS

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

BY MNU STAFFS



Abdulla Jameel

تَرَوُوهُمْ فِي سَوَاقِ الْمَوْتِ وَتَرَوُوهُمْ فِي سَوَاقِ الْمَوْتِ وَتَرَوُوهُمْ فِي سَوَاقِ الْمَوْتِ

Sheeza Ali

Pedagogical Approaches in Medical Education: A Focus on Lectures and Group A

Fathimath Ahlam Niyaz

Marine Plastic Pollution: Awareness and Practices of Secondary School Students

Rifshana Hassan

Legal Reform and the Fight Against Corruption in the Maldives: A Qualitative Analysis

Aminath Neena

Teacher stress factor impact on teaching quality

Fathimath Minna

Impact of Social Media on the Mental Wellbeing Adolescents

Dr. Shazra Ibrahim

Assessing The Financial Literacy Of Secondary Higher Education Students; A Study From The Haa Dhaal Atoll Of The Maldives

Aishath Suad

Methods and Pilot Data for the Empirical Description of Forms and Usage of English in the Maldives

Dr. Rana Ahmed Hameed

Assessing The Financial Literacy Of Secondary Higher Education Students; A Study From The Haa Dhaal Atoll Of The Maldives



Dr. Aminath Riyaz

Language Death & Decay

Health Information Literacy among Women in South Asia (Maldives, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh)

AI and Academic Information-Seeking Behaviour

Algorithmic Literacy for Democracy: Exploring University Librarians' Roles in Digital Information Literacy

Aminath Shiuna

Postgraduate student's perception of using peer review as a pedagogical tool

Hashma Adnan

Academic confidence of undergraduate students in Maldivian higher education institutions /
Through the Glass Ceiling: Challenges Faced by Women Working in the Resorts of the Maldives

Dr. Mausooma Mohamed

Assessing The Financial Literacy Of Secondary Higher Education Students; A Study From The Haa
Dhaal Atoll Of The Maldives

Noora Khaleel

Building Capacity to Improve Air Quality in South Asia: Reducing PM2.5 Through Low-Cost Sensor
Network Driven Policy Decision

Aminath Shiyama

Our Earth Our Futures

Fathimath Nasiha Abdul Muhaimin

Online Professional Development in Higher Education

Ismail Shiyar

Postgraduate student's perception of using peer review as a pedagogical tool
Influence of Student Well-Being on Student Academic Performance and Career Preparedness:
The FHTS Experience

Zahudha Abdul Azeez

Design Matters: A Success Story of Asynchronous Learning Through Moodle

Dr. Aishath Shanoora

Effectiveness of Group CBT in Reducing Anxiety Among Young Adults in the Maldives: A Pilot
Intervention Study

What's Your Love Language? Understanding Its Role in Relationship Satisfaction

Aminath Waseela

Investigating school leaders' perceptions on the performance of MNU graduates who join their
school after having completed a teaching degree program from the University

PUBLICATIONS

Abdul Muhaimin, F. N., & Zaharudin, T. D. R. (2025). Exploring instructor experiences with an e-module for online teaching: A qualitative case from Maldives higher education. *International Journal of Creative Multimedia*, 6(2), 48–64. <https://doi.org/10.33093/ijcm.2025.6.2.3>

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Di Biase, R., Raiula, T., Paulsen, I. K., Spratt, R., Abdul Raheem, M. A., Ali, A., Ali, S., & Ahmed, Z. (2025). Greening island schools: A multi-pronged approach across the Indo-Pacific region. In *Greening island schools* (Chapter 5). IGI Global Scientific Publishing.

Didi, M., Shiyama, A., Shafeeqa, F., & Droxler, A. (2025). Atoll and island formation in the Maldives. *The Maldives National University, Maldives*.

PUBLICATIONS

Khaleel, N., Schauer, J. J., Bergin, M. H., Jani, S. J. M., Bhave, P. V., Razzaq, T. A., & Khan, M. F. (2025). Differentiating local and regional drivers of exceedances of WHO PM2.5 standards with a low-cost sensor network in the Greater Malé Region (GMR). *Atmospheric Pollution Research*, 16(1), 102341. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apr.2024.102341>

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Mohamed, M., Ayub, A. F. M., Yasin, M., Nawi, N. R. C., & Salim, N. R. (2025). Investigating items as predictors for application of personalized mathematics learning instrument among pre-university students in the Maldives: An exploratory factor analysis. *Malaysian Journal of Mathematical Sciences*, 19(1), 53–78. <https://doi.org/10.47836/mjms.19.1.04>

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Shafeeqa, F., & Shiyama, A. (2025). Environment and sustainability education in the Maldivian Islands. In *Navigating learning, culture, and identity in island education* (pp. 83–128). IGI Global Scientific Publishing.

Shiyar, I. (2025). The managerial and operative challenges of human resources management in the guesthouse sector in the Maldives. *The Maldives National Journal of Research*, 13(Special Issue), 6–27.

Shiyar, I., & Habeeb, Z. (n.d.). Influence of student well-being on student academic performance and career preparedness: The FHTS experience [Unpublished manuscript]. The Maldives National University.

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CONFERENCE PAPERS & POSTERS

Adam, A. S., Naseer, M. S., & Abdul Raheem, R. (2025). Perceptions of ageing well: A comprehensive study on senior citizens in the Maldives.

Afeef, A., Riyaz, A., & Gnanadesikan, A. (2024, August). Finite verb clauses in Dhivehi complex sentences: A corpus analysis [Conference presentation]. Theveli International Conference, Malé, Maldives.

Adnan, H. (2025, August 18–20). Academic confidence of undergraduate students in Maldivian higher education institutions [Conference presentation]. Theveli International Conference 2025, Malé, Maldives.

Adnan, H. (2025, August 18–20). Through the glass ceiling: Challenges faced by women working in the resorts of the Maldives [Conference presentation]. Theveli International Conference 2025, Malé, Maldives.

Aminath Shiyama, A., Abdul Raheem, R., Shareef, M., & Shaahy, A. (2025, August 19–20). Assessing sustainability knowledge among academic staff at The Maldives National University [Conference presentation]. Theveli International Conference, Maldives.

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