

Week 8: Problem Analysis II

Assignment Options: Problem Analysis Blog Article or Informational Video

Background:

In this assignment, you will explore critical issues related to water or energy challenges in Africa, specifically aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) or 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). You will conduct a comprehensive problem analysis (using the Pareto analysis or Problem Tree method) of a specific challenge and present your findings either in the form of a blog article or a video (3-5 minutes in length). The goal is to identify the root causes and consequences of the chosen challenge and propose potential solutions or interventions.

Instructions:

Step 1: Choose a Challenge

Select a specific water or energy challenge in Africa that aligns with SDG 6 or 7. This could include issues like access to clean water, energy poverty, water scarcity, or inadequate sanitation facilities.

Step 2: Research

Gather qualitative and quantitative data related to the chosen challenge. Utilize a variety of reputable sources, including academic journals, reports from international organizations, and government publications. Ensure that you cite your sources properly, following a recognized citation style (e.g., APA).

Step 3: Problem Analysis

Choose one of the two analysis methods: Pareto Analysis or Problem Tree Analysis, to dissect the selected challenge.

Pareto Analysis: Identify the most significant factors contributing to the problem. Use the 80/20 rule, where you focus on the 20% of factors causing 80% of the problem.

Problem Tree Analysis: Create a visual representation of the problem, illustrating the root causes, intermediate causes, and effects. Explore the interconnections between these elements.

Step 4: Proposed Solutions

Based on your analysis, propose potential solutions or interventions to address the identified challenge effectively. Your solutions should be grounded in your analysis and take into account the unique context of the issue.

Step 5: Video or Blog Article

Depending on your chosen format (video or blog article), create your content with the following considerations:

Blog Article: Write a well-structured and engaging article (minimum 200 - 250 words) that communicates your findings effectively. Ensure clarity, coherence, and proper organization of your work.

Video: Create a video presentation (3-5 minutes) that concisely conveys your analysis and proposed solutions. Use visuals, narration, and clear communication to engage your audience.

Step 6: Citations and References

Include proper citations for all sources used in your work by creating a list of references that match the citations in your work.

Grading Rubric:

Please find the rubric for your assignment below. Rubrics are an excellent tool to show you precisely the quality expected of your assignment and what your facilitator will be looking for as they grade your work.

If anything is unclear or you need further clarification, feel free to contact your facilitator.

Criteria	Excellent (3 pts)	Good (2 pts)	Fair (1 pt)	Needs Improvement (0.5 pt)	Poor (0 pts)
Problem Identification	Identifies and defines the chosen challenge exceptionally well. Clearly articulates its significance, relevance to SDG 6 or 7, and relevance to the African context.	Identifies and defines the chosen challenge well, highlighting its significance, relevance to SDG 6 or 7, and relevance to the African context.	Identifies and defines the chosen challenge with some clarity. Addresses its significance, relevance to SDG 6 or 7, and relevance to the African context.	Identifies the chosen challenge but lacks clarity in its definition. May briefly mention its significance, relevance to SDG 6 or 7, and relevance to the African context.	Fails to identify or define the chosen challenge effectively. Lacks significance, relevance to SDG 6 or 7, or relevance to the African context.
Clarity and Organization (Blog article or Video)	Demonstrates exceptional clarity and organization throughout the content. Ideas flow logically and cohesively in the blog post or video. The structure enhances understanding.	Demonstrates clarity and good organization. Ideas in the blog post or video are presented logically with a clear structure.	Presents content in the blog post or video with some clarity and organization, but improvements are needed for a smoother flow of ideas.	Lacks clarity and organization, making it difficult to follow the content in the blog post or video. The structure is unclear.	Content is disorganized and lacks coherence. Ideas are fragmented and difficult to discern in the blog post or video.

Problem Analysis	Conducts a thorough problem analysis using either Pareto or Problem Tree Analysis. The analysis demonstrates a deep understanding of the chosen challenge, explores root causes, and identifies interconnections effectively.	Conducts a comprehensive problem analysis using either Pareto or Problem Tree Analysis. The analysis effectively explores root causes and interconnections.	Conducts a problem analysis using either Pareto or Problem Tree Analysis but lacks depth in exploring root causes or interconnections.	Conducts a basic problem analysis with limited exploration of root causes and interconnections.	Fails to conduct a meaningful problem analysis.
Quality of Solution	Proposes innovative, well-reasoned, and contextually appropriate solutions or interventions. Solutions are supported by the analysis and are highly likely to address the challenge effectively.	Proposes suitable and well-reasoned solutions or interventions. Solutions are supported by the analysis and are likely to address the challenge effectively.	Proposes solutions or interventions, but some may lack clear support from the analysis or may not fully address the challenge.	Proposes solutions or interventions, but they lack clear support from the analysis and may be ineffective in addressing the challenge.	Fails to propose meaningful solutions or interventions.

Citations and References	Provides accurate citations for all sources used within the content. The list of references is correctly formatted and matches the citations.	Provides mostly accurate citations for sources used within the content. The list of references is correctly formatted but may contain minor errors.	Provides some citations for sources used within the content, but there are accuracy and formatting issues in the list of references.	Provides limited citations for sources used within the content, with multiple accuracy and formatting issues in the list of references.	Fails to provide proper citations or references for sources used within the content.
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