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UNIVERSITY OF BUSINESS AND INTEGRATED
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE, 2023

17th - 19th October 2023

THEME

Bridging the Gap Between Applied Research, Policy
Formulation, and Implementation

Organized By:

SD Dombó University of Business and Integrated
Development Studies

Editors

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND CONSULTANCIES (DRIC)



Professor Frederick Dayour
(Director, DRIC)

I would like to seize this moment to convey the Organising Committee's heartfelt appreciation to all those who contributed by presenting their papers, whether they were completed works or works-in-progress, at the SDD-UBIDS Research and Development Conference in 2023. We sincerely appreciate your support as we take steps to inculcate a culture of research by creating a conducive environment for research, collaboration, and knowledge sharing. The papers showcased at this year's conference demonstrated a commendable level of quality, having successfully undergone a rigorous double-blind review process. I encourage authors to use the feedback received to improve them for publication in our institutional journals and other credible outlets of your choice.

We look forward to receiving your 2024 SDD-UBIDS Research and Development Conference abstracts.

EDITORIAL NOTE

This year marks the third Research and Development Conference, which is scheduled in Wa from October 17 - 19, 2023. Like previous years, the conference received enormous interest from students, senior staff, and senior members across various universities in Ghana and abroad. In total, the conference received 104 abstracts for review. At the close of the review process, 84 abstracts were revised by the authors and re-submitted for consideration and presentation. All these 84 abstracts have been revised and edited for this book of abstracts. In total, 90 people registered for this year's conference. Presentations will revolve around the following themes: ICT and sustainable development, urban development and spatial planning, gender, conflict, and social inequalities, teaching pedagogies in contemporary education, climate change, sustainable agriculture and disaster management, environmental policy and natural resource governance, capital development and financial economics, social policy and social work, poverty, livelihood and development, and indigenous knowledge systems, among others. The theme for the conference is focused on "bridging the gap between applied research, policy formulation, and implementation". The keynote for the 2023 Research and Development Conference is to be delivered by Professor Ransford Edward Van Gyampo, who is expected to shed light on the theme of the conference on how applied research can influence policy formulation and implementation in Ghana and globally. To facilitate the smooth scheduling of accepted abstracts for presentation, 13 parallel sessions are organised for authors whose abstracts are due on October 18, 2023, while 8 parallel sessions are organised on October 19, 2023. Each session will be moderated by a session chair based on his/her expertise and working knowledge of the thematic areas of the conference, and he/she will be assisted by a room rapporteur. All abstracts included in this book of abstracts are of very high quality and touch on various relevant areas of research. The editorial team is grateful to all the authors and reviewers for their submissions and critical comments on the abstracts, respectively. We are hopeful that the comments from the parallel sessions will help improve your manuscripts for publication in a credible outlet. Best regards from us.

Editors:

Prof. Elias Danyi Kuusaana

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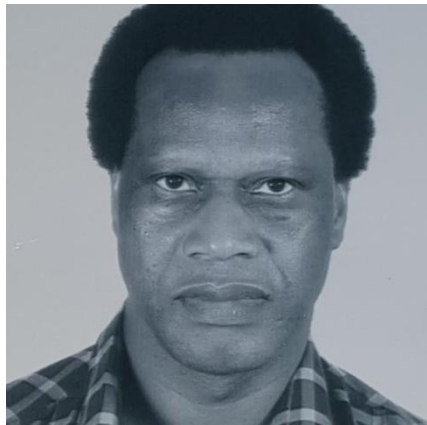
List of Organising Committee Members and their Profiles

Prof. Frederick Dayour



Prof. Frederick Dayour obtained his BSc. and MPhil degrees in Tourism Management at the University of Cape Coast and a PhD in Tourism and Hospitality at the University of Surrey, United Kingdom. He is a Senior Research Fellow at the School of Tourism and Hospitality, University of Johannesburg, South Africa. He has also won numerous research and travel grants and scholarships, the most recent one being a 1-year DAAD postdoctoral research scholarship. He has consulted for and collaborated with many international development organizations including MEDA, GIZ, JICA, Participatory Development Associates (PDA), and the Mastercard Foundation. In addition to his contribution to teaching/learning, and community service, he has demonstrated sufficient expertise in scholarly writing, with about 45 published journal articles (<https://scholar.google.co.uk>). He has exhibited adeptness in securing grants along with providing consultancy services. Furthermore, he has played a pivotal role in organising and supporting research events, designed to enhance the experiences of both faculty and students and the visibility of the University.

Prof. Maurice Oscar Dassah



An alumnus of Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), Professor Maurice Oscar Dassah studied and lectured for a combined fifteen years in this Cape Town-based university, from which he holds a doctoral degree in Public Management. Appointed Associate Professor and Research Coordinator for the Faculty of Business and Management Sciences in January 2015, he sat on the university and faculty Higher Degrees Committee and also ran the Postgraduate Office, which was mainly responsible for developing the research capacity of more than seven hundred postgraduate students, through workshops, from admission and registration, allocation of supervisors, thesis writing to graduation. Prior to that, he was Lecturer in English for Academic Purposes at Walter Sisulu University (then University of Transkei) in Mthatha from 1992 to 2003. Professor Dassah served as Senior Lecturer in Public Governance and Academic Leader for the Department of Public Governance, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, from 2012 to 2014. Lately, he was one of twenty members globally who served on UN Commission on Prevention of State Capture hosted by Guernica Centre for International Justice, New York University Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice, which produced the State Capture Report in 2022. His main research interests lie in the intersection of good governance and development, the developmental state phenomenon, ethics and anti-corruption, and state capture.

Prof. Elias Danyi Kuusaana



Elias Danyi Kuusaana led the coordination and compilation of all abstracts for the Research and Development Conference_2023. He is an Associate Professor in Land Management at the SD Dombo University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (SDD-UBIDS) – Ghana. He is currently the Head of - Department of Land Management (DLGM) and the Coordinator of Academic Programmes at the West African Centre for Sustainable Rural Transformation (WAC-SRT). He holds a PhD in Agricultural Science from the University of Bonn, Germany (2016), an MSc. in Land Management and Land Tenure from the Technical University of Munich, Germany (2011) and a BSc. in Land Economy from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana (2007). He has over the years built his competencies around land tenure research and has particularly published on land tenure and gender disparity, land dispute resolutions touching on customary tenure systems with family land resources. He has over 40 peer-reviewed research papers published in top journals including Land use Policy, Environmental Research Letters, Rural Studies, Resource Policy, Urban Forum, Land Journal, Urban Governance, Commonwealth Journal of Local Governance, and Journal for Development Studies among others. He also provided consultancy services to some organisations in land management such as the International Land Coalition (Land Matrix) and the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV). Several of the journal publications he produced were supported by various small grants and fellowships from organisations such as the International Foundation for Science (IFS), Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship (QES), the German Academic Exchange Services (DAAD), and the Foundation for African Real Estate Research (FAFRER). He is a professional member of the Ghana Institution of Surveyors as a Valuation and Estate Surveyor. Since 2022, he has successfully completed 4 Curriculum review assignments on behalf of the Ghana Tertiary Education Council (GTEC) in both the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR) and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST).

Prof. Elijah Yendaw



Prof. Elijah Yendaw is an Associate Professor in the Department of Governance and Development Management, and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Public Policy and Governance (in charge of academics) at the Simon Diedong Dombo University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (SDD-UBIDS), Ghana. He holds a PhD in Population and Health from the University of Cape Coast. Prof. Yendaw has robust grounding expertise in population and migration studies. He has a firm disciplinary grounding in both social science and interdisciplinary research using qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods. Over his 12-year academic journey, he has to his credit 27 published peer-reviewed journal articles in highly ranked journals. He has also supervised and assessed several postgraduate

theses and participated in several local and international funded research projects. He has attended over 20 local and international conferences where he presented academic working papers. He has contributed significantly in the area of peer review work and has reviewed for several top-notch local and international journals. He is currently directing the Centre for Environment, Migration and International Relations at the SDD-UBIDS. Prof. Yendaw is also a staunch unionist and served as the Secretary of the University Teachers Association of Ghana-UTAG for two consecutive terms.

Dr. Alfred Dongzagla



Dr. Alfred Dongzagla is a Lecturer in the Department of Planning at the Simon Diedong Dombo University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (SDD-UBIDS), Ghana. He holds a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Nottingham, England; MSc. in Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (with specialisation in Urban Planning and Management) from the University of Twente, Netherlands; and B. A in Integrated Development Studies from the University for Development Studies, Ghana. Positions currently held in the University include Editorial Assistant of the Journal of Planning and Land Management, and Coordinator of Long Essays and Practical Training Programme in the Department of

Planning. He also served on many committees including the SDD-UBIDS Consultancy Policy Committee and Department of Planning Welfare Policy Committee. His primary research interest is in understanding and addressing socio-spatial inequalities in access to livelihood services, especially water, sanitation and health. He has over 18 peer-reviewed articles in reputable journals like Science of the Total Environment, Energy, Cities, Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development, Urban Governance, GeoJournal and Heliyon. In addition to lecturing and academic research, Dr. Dongzagla also provides consultancy services to both governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations in the areas of baseline and formative studies, project evaluations and sustainability, preparation of Environmental and Social Safeguard Plans, and Geographic Information Systems. Notable institutions he has consulted for include the World

Bank, UNICEF, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), GIZ, Catholic Relief Service, Care International, Oxfam Ghana and West Gonja Municipal Assembly.

Dr. Felicia Naatu



Felicia Naatu holds a PhD in International Business from an AACSB accredited university, the University of Agder in Norway along with over 10 years of experience in teaching Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Management courses at the university level. She did both her first degree and master's at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana. The first degree was in B.A. Industrial Art, and the master's in MBA Marketing. She has a strong commitment to service and her service philosophy is founded on a dedication to fostering excellence, collaboration, and inclusivity. She has served in a variety of capacities, including Head of Department, Graduate Programs Coordinator, Technical Trainer, and Department Quality Assurance Officer as well as Chairing and being a Member of committees in several academic and professional contexts. In terms of community service, she has served as a consultant to many institutions including Kosmos Innovation Center, Global Shea Alliance and Plan Ghana. She has also spearheaded training sessions for a number of entrepreneurial and professional development programs to empower youth. Her work has appeared in reputable journals, including Technological Forecasting and Social Change, Journal of Social Entrepreneurship, and Competitiveness Review as well as the Journal of Promotion Management.

Mr. Ophelius Mhaaneh Yinyeh



Ophelius M. Yinyeh holds a Master's Degree in Computational Mathematics from the University for Development Studies Tamale, Ghana. A computer software engineer with over 14 years of combined field and practical experience as well as in teaching Programming, Electronic Commerce, Multimedia, File Organization, Web design, and Database courses at the university level. An IBM Big Data Engineer v2 Mastery Award for Educators 2018. He did his first degree at the University for Development Studies in Tamale, Ghana with a BSc. in Computer Science. He has an extreme interest in management information systems, institutional automation, and ICT adoption. He has served in a variety of capacities, including Director of Information Management Services, IT Manager WAC-SRT and coordinator for the Centre for Business Incubation and Professional Information Technology Studies: He Chaired, and was a member of several committees in several academic and

professional circles. In terms of community service, He has served as a consultant to many institutions including Vodacom, AUF, R.I.P.S, CUG, DHLTU, NMTC and Kosmos Innovation Centre. A Member of the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH), International Association of Computer Science and Information Technology (IACSIT), and International Association of Engineers (IAENG). He is a researcher with an interest in Biometrics, Algorithm design, and software engineering. His work has appeared in reputable peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Francis Nangbeviel Sanyare



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Boosting SME Growth Through Digital Business: The Role Of ICT Access and ICT Usage

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Abstract

SMEs are a significant part of the Ghanaian economy, accounting for most businesses. This study aims to investigate the role of ICT access and usage in boosting SME growth through digital business in Ghana using a partial least squares structural equation modelling (PLS-SEM) approach. Convenient sampling was employed to collect survey data from 230 respondents, primarily SME owners, managers, and employees. The participants were conveniently sampled by sharing a Google Form link of the questionnaire, allowing for a broad reach and ease of participation. The findings revealed that ICT access positively influences the use of ICTs, confirming the importance of adequate access to technology for SMEs. The study demonstrates that ICT usage positively influences the adoption of digital business, indicating the crucial role of utilizing ICT tools effectively. The results also confirmed that adopting digital business mediates the relationship between ICT usage and SME growth, indicating that SMEs' ICT usage leads to significant growth outcomes only when channelled through digital business. Access to ICT was found to significantly impact SME growth, emphasizing the significance of ensuring widespread access to technology resources. The study contributes to the existing literature by providing empirical evidence on the relationship between ICT access, usage, digital business adoption, and SME growth. It highlights the mediating role of digital business in driving SME growth through ICT usage. The findings emphasized the importance of prioritizing digital business strategies to leverage ICT tools effectively and foster growth. Policymakers should focus on improving ICT infrastructure, promoting digital literacy, and facilitating SMEs' adoption of digital technologies.

Keywords: Digital Business, Small and medium enterprise (SME), ICT Access, ICT Usage, SME growth

Effect of Financial Innovation on Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Abstract

The region of Sub-Saharan Africa remains one of the most underdeveloped and poorest in the world. Financial innovation plays an important role in economic growth and development. Financial innovation has the potential to influence inclusive growth and drive down poverty. However, the finance and economics literature has yet to fully examine its effect on poverty, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. This study, therefore, investigates the empirical relationship between financial innovation and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. The study adopted the three-stage least squares (3SLS) in the analysis using data from the World Development Indicators and Global Financial Development Indicators from 46 countries for the 1978-2020 period. The results show that financial innovation has a significant and negative relationship with poverty. The policy implication is that countries in sub-Saharan Africa will have to invest in financial innovation to reduce the prevalence of poverty in the sub-region. Therefore, it is recommended that financial institutions and governments in Sub-Saharan Africa should vigorously pursue financial innovation as a poverty reduction strategy.

Keywords: Poverty, Financial Innovation, Three-stage Least Squares, sub-Saharan Africa

Legal Pluralism and Indigenous Conflict Adjudicatory Mechanisms: The Theory and Practice in North-Western Ghana

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Abstract

Traditional approaches to conflict adjudication among the Dagara ethnic group in Ghana are dominant but not effectively-known, documented, and utilized within the realm of judicial jurisprudence partly due to the dominant role of the formal realm. Hence, the paper sought to unearth the applicability of the Dagara traditional conflict resolution mechanisms in contemporary times. The Theory of Legal Pluralism was used to establish the theoretical framework as part of the legal anthropological archetype in the resolution of conflicts, its outcome implication in contemporary times and policy options for an alternative path that can be more cooperative and complementary in the resolution of conflicts. A qualitative research approach was relied on in the data collection. A survey, involving 344 household heads, 22 in-depth Key Informants interviews and 6 Focus Group Discussions were held with participants. Qualitative data were thematically analyzed. The study results showed that several traditional resolution mechanisms through Ululation of women, inter-clan jokes and marriages, Norokpukpub (“Mouth Washing”), ritualistic role of the Earth Priests, dirges among others existed and were used to successfully resolve conflicts. The study concludes that the Dagara conflict resolution mechanisms existed, and it is part of legal anthropology as theorized by scholars in legal pluralism and should be recognized as such. The study as a matter of policy, recommended that constitutional reform is needed to give more recognition and powers to actors of indigenous approaches to conflict resolution to act more effectively and basic training given to adjudicate on conflicts in a consistent manner with the process across the communities in consonance with basic formal adjudicatory processes.

Keywords: Dagara, conflicts, conflict resolution, legal pluralism, indigenous approaches, Ghana

Indigenous Knowledge and Climate-Smart Agriculture in Rural Ghana

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Abstract

Climate change imposes risk on the livelihood of smallholder farmers in most rural communities since farmers depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Climate variability over the years has resulted in low productivity and poor livelihood among smallholder farmers. Thus, smallholder farmers over the years have adopted traditional climate change adaptation strategies for improving resilience to climate risk. Although these traditional climate change strategies may not have effectively addressed the challenges farmers are facing in their production; they appear to exhibit some elements of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), a connection less investigated and understood particularly in Africa. This study seeks to identify the indigenous climate change adaptation strategies and determine the socioeconomic factors influencing the intensity of adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture practices among smallholder maize farmers in the Wa East District of Ghana. A concurrent triangulation mixed-method research design was used for data collection and analysis. These methods included a survey of 350 smallholder maize farmers, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. The result identifies that planting along riverbanks, multiple farms, traditional weather prediction, seeds staggering, planting of resilient drought indigenous crops, and off-farm livelihoods are the indigenous climate change adaptation measures farmers apply. The results further revealed that age, sex, years of education, household size, livestock ownership, farming experience, and participation in extension training are key drivers of CSA adoption. The study underscores the significance of education in rural communities to help increase the rate of adoption of new CSA practices among smallholder farmers.

Keywords: Indigenous knowledge, climate change, climate risks, smart agriculture, rural Ghana

Economic Well-Being of Environmental Policies: A Global Analyses of Threshold Effects of Environmental Taxes and Green Incentive on Climate Adaptation

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Abstract

From a nomothetic approach, this paper examines how the promotion of climate change adaptation impacts the economic well-being of citizens. Employing Arellano-Bover/Blundell-Bond estimator, Cross-sectionally Augmented Auto-regressive Distributed Lag estimator, Method of Moment Quantile Regression estimator, Panel Threshold Regression estimator, and Causal Mediation Analysis, to regress a panel dataset of one hundred and four countries over a twenty-six-year period. The results demonstrate that fostering climate change adaptation promotes economic well-being in the short-run and in the long-run, and across different distributions of well-being. Also, the implementation of environmental taxes and green incentive are found to promote economic well-being through adaptation, although the threshold effect of green incentive is higher than that of environmental taxes. Policy wise, emphasis should be placed on green incentive in the design of environmental governance frameworks, as it generates better distributional effect. This study contributes to research by being first study that examines the linkages between environmental taxes and green incentive, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Keywords: Economic wellbeing, Environmental taxes, Green incentive, SDGs, Climate adaptation

The Nexus between Instructional Effectiveness of Teachers and Students' Academic Performance: A Survey of Senior High School Accounting Teachers

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Abstract

Teachers are essential in the education process, as they are the eyes of the students and see them as nothing without them. They are responsible for determining what subject matter suits each group of learners and making the learner appreciate the subject matter. Some scholars view teachers as a pivot in the education process, with instructional effectiveness being a dimension of an analysable unit. Instructional effectiveness is a complex construct that includes knowledge, preparation, skills, and attitudes that lead to effective teaching and student learning. Various scholars have highlighted the significant impact that teachers have on students' academic achievements. Learners' achievements are drawn from the effectiveness of their teacher, while a teacher's measure of success is what is revealed through the learners' success as a coach. Instructional effectiveness of teachers goes a long way to determine the academic performance of the student. The relative fall in the performance of the WAEC financial accounting examination could be attributed to fallen standards in the instructional effectiveness of teachers teaching financial accounting subjects in senior high schools. The study assessed the instructional effectiveness of Senior High School Accounting teachers and the effect their instructional effectiveness has on their students' academic performance. The study used questionnaires and a census technique to collect data from 198 accounting teachers in Ghana. SPSS was used to analyse the data, and it was found that senior high school teachers were instructionally effective in their communication, use of questioning and discussion techniques, and students' engagement. The effectiveness level of teachers should be sustained through various forms of teacher professional development programs. The Ghana Education Service should consider teacher effectiveness as the yardstick for the deployment of accounting teachers to senior high schools.

Keywords: Instrumental effectiveness, school performance, accounting teachers, high school, student engagements, Ghana.

Integration of E-Participation into Decentralized Planning in Northern Ghana: Perspectives of Development Planners

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Abstract

E-government activities are critical for global planning practice in an era of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), following the shift in planning processes. In line with the global e-governance agenda, there has been an increase in interest in e-participation processes and models throughout Africa. In sub-Saharan Africa, e-participation has become essential for stakeholder engagement in governance and development processes. Despite increasing awareness of the relevance of e-participation, comprehensive and scientific studies on the uptake of e-participation in decentralised planning across African countries remain limited. Therefore, this paper examines the current state, barriers, and potential for e-participation in decentralized planning in northern Ghana. The study used a qualitative research approach to collect data from 24 Development Planning Officers in 19 Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies (MMAs) and 5 Regional Planning Officers in northern Ghana through key informant interviews. The research revealed a limited adoption of e-participation tools among the MMAs studied. WhatsApp was the most frequently used and preferred e-participation platform among stakeholders due to its widespread use. The research findings suggest that e-participation is known at the assembly level albeit on a limited scale. The widespread use of smartphones, high literacy rates and ICT skills, as well as the availability of ICT infrastructure and network connections, were all critical potentials that could be leveraged for e-participation implementation. The study concluded that integrating e-participation into decentralized planning in Ghana is feasible. Such integration is essential for facilitating and enhancing the public's participation in decision-making and collaboration with planning professionals for inclusive development in the public interest. The study recommends creating a clear policy framework and implementation guidelines for integrating e-participation into decentralised planning to encourage its widespread adoption and support the communicative discourse in planning.

Keywords: E-participation, e-governance, decentralised planning, MMAs, ICT, northern Ghana



Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention and the Incidence of Malaria Among Children Under 5 Years in Ghana: Evidence from the Wa Municipality in the Upper West Region

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Abstract

Malaria poses a threat to children under five years especially in sub-Saharan Africa. About 1200 deaths occur each day among these children due to malaria in Africa. In Ghana seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) is one of the major interventions implemented to reduce the incidence of malaria in children under 5 years. However, there is little evidence of the impact of SMC program. This study therefore assessed the SMC intervention and the incidence of malaria among children under 5 years in the Wa Municipality, Upper West Region of Ghana. Mixed methods design was deployed in the study. Quantitatively, the incidence of malaria before and after SMC intervention was assessed using interrupted time series analysis. Quantitative data from 2008 to 2021 were extracted from DHIMS-2 in February 2023 and exported into SPSS, for analysis. Qualitatively, drawing on purposive sampling, data were collected from 30 respondents using focus group discussion and key informant interviews to explore the knowledge, treatment, and socio-cultural factors inhibiting the implementation of the program. The qualitative data were audio-recorded, transcribed, and manually analysed. The results from the quantitative analysis showed a reduction in the incidence of malaria in children under 5 years from 29.2% in 2021 to 24.3% in 2022 due to SMC while the qualitative results revealed that caregivers have appropriate knowledge on malaria. Some socio-cultural factors like the side effects of drugs and religion were identified as roadblocks to the uptake of SMC. The SMC has proven to be effective in reducing malaria incidence in children under 5 years. Health education on the side effects of the drugs, engagement with communities and religious leaders could attenuate the barriers to the uptake of SMC in the study area. It is recommended that the Ghana Health Service upscales the SMC to other areas in Ghana.

Keyword: Chemoprevention, seasonal malaria, malaria prevention, Children under 5, Ghana

Implementation, Acceptability, and the Perceived Effectiveness Of Indoor Residual Spraying on Malaria Reduction; The Case of the Wa Municipality Of The Upper West Region, Ghana

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Abstract

Globally, the WHO estimated that there were 241 million malaria cases and 627, 000 malaria deaths in 2020. Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) has been identified as one of the important vector control strategies to prevent malaria. This study assessed the implementation, and acceptability of Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) and the perceived effectiveness on malaria case reduction in the Wa Municipality of the Upper West Region, Ghana. This paper forms part of an ongoing Master of Philosophy Thesis. A quantitative cross-sectional research design was employed in the study. Simple random sampling was used to select 410 household heads for interviews. A questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. The data was entered into Microsoft Excel version 16 for cleaning. Further, the clean data was exported to STATA version 16 for analysis. Preliminary results showed that a little over half (51.0%) of respondents accepted the IRS intervention. Thirty-five percent of respondents indicated they were not aware of the IRS exercise before the arrival of the spraying team and were not also educated about the benefits and side effects of the chemicals used for the spraying. About 22.7% (94) of the respondents indicated the spraying was not effective. The logistic regression test showed an association between a household's acceptability and level of education as well as household income status with a p-value of 0.003 and 0.001 respectively. The IRS enjoys good community acceptability. It is recommended that public awareness and education on the IRS programme be intensified to clear misconceptions about the programme.

Keywords: Residual spraying, indoor spraying, malaria prevention, malaria reduction, Upper West Region, Ghana

Collaborative Governance of Natural Resources Management in the Wa West District of the Upper West Region

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Abstract

Historically, Africa has been intellectually disempowered in terms of natural resource governance. While acknowledging the inadequacies of African state machinery, this disempowerment must also be acknowledged. This study examines the collaborative governance of natural resources by various stakeholders in the Wa West District of the Upper West Region. The theoretical underpinnings of the study are Artein's theory of citizen participation and the common property theory. The mixed method approach was used. Also, secondary and primary data were used. Questionnaire administration, key informant interviews, focus group discussions and GIS were the methods of data collection. Findings revealed that; woodlots, water resources, sacred grooves, a hippo sanctuary, and rocks are the major natural resources in the Wa West District. The findings also indicate that chiefs, Tendamba and opinion leaders are major local stakeholders, while Non-Governmental Organizations, Forest Services Division, Wildlife Division, National Disaster Management Organization, and the Wa West District Assembly are external stakeholders. Further findings revealed totems, traditional belief systems, training and capacity building and participatory mechanisms are strategies used by stakeholders in natural resources governance. Findings shows economic, socio-cultural, and spiritual development are the impacts of strategies used by stakeholders in the collaborative governance of natural resources. It is recommended that the Forest Services Division and the Wa West District Assembly should mainstream fines into by-laws to give actors more backing to strengthen the local strategies in natural resources governance.

Keywords: Natural Resources, Governance, Local Stakeholders, External Stakeholders Strategies, Sustainability, Impacts.

Gauging Teachers' Perceptions about Smart Classrooms as A Progressive Pedagogy: A Case Study in St. Cecilia Junior High School in the Upper West Region of Ghana

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Abstract

The chalk-and-talk mode of teaching is fast shifting to digitally oriented classrooms in the basic schools. This study therefore focuses on investigating teachers' perceptions of Smart Classrooms as a progressive pedagogy in the Wa Municipality of the Upper West Region of Ghana. The study sought responses on teachers' awareness of Smart Classrooms during teaching, the impact of Smart Classrooms on students' academic performance and suggestions for improved usage of Smart Classrooms in schools. The qualitative case study method was used for the research. Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions were used to collect the data from teachers and students respectively. The census method was employed in selecting teachers as respondents while the purposive sampling method was used in selecting the students. Therefore, all twenty-two (22) teachers in St. Cecilia Junior High School were interviewed and through the help of the Computer Technology teachers' thirty (30) digitally inclined students, five (5) students from all six (6) classes were selected. The findings indicated that though the majority of teachers were aware of Smart Classrooms, five (5) teachers out of the twenty-two (22) teachers were able to use computer-related gadgets and applications during teaching and learning in the classroom. This was affirmed by the students who admitted that though all twenty-two (22) teachers have laptops in the school, less than seven (7) teachers were able to use the laptops during teaching and learning. Many students still do not benefit from this smart teaching as traditional methods of teaching dominate among teachers. It is recommended that teacher training institutions and the Ghana Education Service should intensify the training of on-the-job and off-the-job teachers to be digitally literate.

Keywords: Perceptions; Smart Classroom; progressive pedagogy, student performance, digital inclination, Ghana.



The Multiple Streams Framework and Forest Policy Change Process: Ghana's Forest and Wildlife Policy in Perspective

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Abstract

Globally, there has been a significant policy change in many countries to safeguard defective wildlife and forest policies. To gain a deeper understanding, many scholars have contributed to this domain of study by explaining the complex policy change process from a variety of theoretical perspectives. The outcomes of these scholarly contributions are mixed making a solid case for further empirical studies in this regard. Against this backdrop, this paper seeks to adopt the multiple streams framework (MSF) to explain and deepen understanding of how policies are changed to improve forest and wildlife governance in Ghana. Specifically, the study seeks to address the following question: what does MSF say about Ghana's forest and Wildlife Policy change process? This study adopts the qualitative case study approach which presents the opportunity to examine the FWP change process in its real-life context. Both primary and secondary data were collected and thematically analysed. The study's findings revealed that the key assumptions of the MSF that posit that a policy change only occurs when a policy entrepreneur (PE) joins together the relatively independent streams of problem, policy, and politics through a window of opportunity are confirmed in the Ghanaian case. The study showed that PEs became successful because they had the buy-in of the political players. Also, the overbearing power of political leadership supported by key state actors side-lined many nonstate actors whose experiential knowledge was ignored in the policy change process. The study, however, recommends that PEs should not only focus on the political class but widen the participation net to include stakeholders at the local level who will be directly affected by the policy. Ultimately, this will lead to an impactful and workable policy.

Keywords: Multiple streams framework, forest policy, change process, wildlife policy, environmental safeguards, policy entrepreneur

Nexus between ASM and Rural Livelihoods in The Upper West Region

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Abstract

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASSGM), particularly illegal mining has attracted much attention in recent times. For instance, ASM is the tongue of the day in Ghana because of the massive environmental destruction such as water pollution, mercury contamination, diversion and siltation of major river channels, degradation of land and forest landscapes etc. associated with the operations. Drawing on the DFID's sustainable livelihood framework, the study explored the nexus of ASSGM on rural livelihood diversifications in selected mining communities in the Upper West Region of Ghana. The research is a case study which relies on a concurrent triangulation mixed method. Simple random, snowball and purposive sampling methods were employed in the selection of respondents for the study. The study selected 320 community members using a simple random sampling as well as 65 artisanal miners using a snowball sampling method across 10 mining communities. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and simple percentages, correlation and chi-square test of independence etc. The results show a positive and negative relationship between ASSGM and livelihoods. ASSGM contributes to livelihood enhancement through income generation, increased well-being, and asset acquisition (50.7%), reduced vulnerabilities (31.1%), and empowerment of people (19.2%) to establish other economic activities. Also, weak institutions as well as poor enforcement of laws governing illegal mining have worsened livelihoods associated with ASSGM. The study therefore recommends that licensed ASSGM operations should be encouraged and harnessed as a legitimate vocation for local economic development. Finally, alternative livelihood programmes to improve the economic condition of communities should form an integral part of the planning for small-scale mining in Ghana.

Keywords: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining, rural livelihoods, illegal mining, galamsey, Upper West Region

Freshwater Access Challenges in Rural Communities in the Jirapa Municipality – Accessing Water for Domestic Use

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Abstract

One of earth's most vital natural resources for sustaining life is freshwater. Sufficient access to fresh water supply is said to have a significant positive impact on rural livelihoods. Notwithstanding, access to adequate freshwater for domestic purposes remains a canker for many rural communities in Ghana, especially the smallholder communities in the semi-arid North where Jirapa Municipality is found. This study, therefore, examines perceived challenges of rural households in accessing freshwater for domestic use in the Jirapa Municipality. The concurrent parallel mixed-method design was adapted for this study. Besides focus group discussions and key-informant interviews, through questionnaire administration, primary data were also gathered from 152 household heads who were randomly sampled from three selected communities for the study. The quantitative data were analysed using the descriptive statistics component in the SPSS and MS Excel whereas qualitative data were manually subjected to thematic and content analysis. The results show that borehole was found to be the major source of domestic water supply with surface water bodies (dams and ponds), and rainwater as alternative sources. Challenges to freshwater accessibility include unreliable water systems, far distances (av. distance 1km) to water sources (boreholes & dams/ponds), longer time spent (av. time 1hour) to get water due partly to the mode of access as women often walk to haul water, and partly due to overcrowding because major sources of freshwater are limited. Consequently, households often reduce the use of freshwater, especially during dry seasons, and instead resort to rainwater harvesting during rainy seasons. The study thus recommends for the provision of adequate and robust freshwater infrastructure systems in the rural communities to improve freshwater supply.

Keywords: Freshwater access, fresh water supply, rural communities, domestic use, Jirapa Municipality, Ghana

To What Extent has the Presence of Tertiary Institutions in Wa Influenced Rental Values of Purpose-Built Hostels: Review of Student Hostels in Bamahu

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Abstract

The establishment of tertiary institutions has an influence on its community and rental values of properties including hostel facilities due to the high influx of students. This study aimed at quantifying the change in rental values resulting from the number of educational institutions and ascertaining the economic rent gained by owners of purpose-built hostels in Wa. The study adopted both quantitative and qualitative approaches using the cross-sectional survey method with the help of questionnaires and interview guides. The quantitative method gave a numeric presentation and specific data while the qualitative method helped to get narratives that explained the meanings behind the quantitative data. In total, ninety-eight (98) hotel users and fifty-six (56) purpose-built hostels were systematically selected for the study. The quantitative data was analysed using descriptive statistics and presented using pie charts, bar graphs and frequencies, while the qualitative data was analysed according to themes with direct quotations from respondents. The results of the study statistically proved that the presence of SDD UBIDS and Dr. Hilla Limann Technical University in Wa has influenced the rental values of purpose-built hostels in the township. Landlords and landladies opined that the high demand for housing due to the high number of students in the town has brought about the increase in labour cost and building materials and hence the need to increase the rent to cover costs and meet profit margins. If increases in rental values continue unabated, it will stress student budgets and make the institutions unattractive, thereby reducing the number of new applicants. The study brings to light the need to intensify the rent control systems in the Wa township and encourages educational institutions to provide more on-campus accommodation for its students at affordable rates.

Keywords: Tertiary institutions, rental values, affordable rates, purpose-built hostels, housing demand

Climate Change and Organizational Performance: The Mediating Role of Supply Chain

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Abstract

This study discussed the implications of climate change on businesses' value chains and how climate change-related catastrophes affect the overall performances of manufacturing organizations in Ghana. Climate change relates to long-term variations in temperature/weather. Supply chain engagement looks at the company's carbon management initiatives to reduce carbon emissions with up and downstream suppliers. The main objective of the study was to evaluate the effect of climate change on organizational performance, looking at the mediating role of supply chain engagement. This study used quantitative research method with a target population of 704. The study sampled 248 participants (consisted of procurement and operations managers and officers of manufacturing firms located within the Accra, Tema, Kumasi and Takoradi metropolises) using Cohen sample determination table. The study used structured questionnaire to collect the data. The results indicated a connection between climate change and the profitability of manufacturing firms, as financial performance is negatively impacted by climate change. The study also established that, operational success of businesses is negatively correlated with natural disasters. It recommended that businesses must develop practical and efficient carbon management strategies that will encourage cooperation within the supply chains to combat climate change. The study contributed and expanded climate change, organizational performance, and supply chain engagement literature.

Keywords: Climate change, organizational performance, supply chain engagement.

The Nexus of Capital Flow and Environmental Sustainability in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Abstract

Capital flow (CF) is vital for emerging countries' development, but concerns arise about its impact on host countries' environment. Notwithstanding the theoretical uncertainty surrounding the CF-environmental sustainability nexus in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), there is a dearth of information in the literature on this field. This study analyses 38 SSA nations using 1998-2019 World Development Indicators data. It uses Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Private Remittance Received (PRR) as capital flow proxies, and CO₂ emissions and Renewable Energy Consumption (REC) as sustainability indicators. Employing a comprehensive approach, we integrate the System Generalized Method of Moments (SGMM), Wild Chi² and Sargan Test into our analysis framework to enhance the robustness of our findings which revealed that FDI has a negative relationship with CO₂ emissions, and this effect is significant at 10%, but PRR has a positive relationship with CO₂ emissions. FDI and PRR both have a negative relationship with REC. Furthermore, with the addition of the quadratic factor, FDI established a U-shaped relationship with CO₂ emissions and REC, demonstrating that increased FDI influx increases CO₂ emissions and REC in Sub-Saharan Africa. PRR established an inverted U-shape with CO₂ emission but a U-shape with REC. The study suggests that governments, lawmakers, and stakeholders should address the negative impact of remittance and FDI on the environment by implementing strict market regulations and investing in research and development for eco-friendly technologies and products.

Keywords: Foreign Direct Investment, Remittance, Carbon Emission, Renewable Energy and System Generalised Method of Movement.

Exploring Youth Vulnerability to Violent Extremism in Ghana

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Abstract

Violent extremism remains a threat to global security even though geographical variations exist. The Sahel region is fast predisposing West African Coastline countries to acts of violent extremism. Ghana appears multidimensionally vulnerable to incidences of violent extremism by virtue of its geographic location, weak border controls, suspected terrorists in artisanal gold mining, and the threat of home-grown terrorism among other socio-cultural and economic-related issues. Nevertheless, critical discourse on how micro-level vulnerability feeds on complements and reinforces the macro-level vulnerability in the Ghanaian context remains uncertain. This study therefore explores the risks of violent extremism that the Ghanaian youth face and further offers the best pre-emptive and preventive strategies to roll back the enablers of Ghanaian youth's vulnerability to violent extremism. Using desk study within an exploratory research design, data was collected via a critical systematic review of relevant literature in which the inclusion criteria comprised scholarly materials in the areas of youth, extremism, violent extremism, terrorism, and vulnerability. Themes were derived from the review using thematic analysis within the sphere of the Reinforcement Sensitivity Theory to explore how the incidence of poverty, unemployment, religious dogmatism, political pluralism, and the geographic nearness of Ghana to the Sahel West African countries predisposes Ghanaian youth to violent extremism. The study revealed that high levels of multidimensional poverty, rising youth unemployment, increasing incidence of religious and politically related violence and the geographic proximity of Ghana to the Sahelian West African countries endanger the Ghanaian youth to extremists' radicalization and violent extremism. The Ghanaian youth therefore appear inclined to acts of violent extremism as a countervailing effect to the severity of the multiple deprivation of youth in the country. It is recommended that the Government of Ghana, traditional/community/religious leaders, and other development partners should collaboratively act to curtail Ghanaian youth vulnerability to acts of violent extremism.

Keywords: Youth, violent extremism, terrorism, crime, vulnerability, global security, Ghana

Perceived Risks, Challenges and Coping Strategies among West African Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Ghana

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Abstract

Globally, immigrants' entrepreneurship has been identified as an important contributor towards the socio-economic development efforts of nations. Yet, studies about the risks and difficulties immigrants face in their business transactions, especially those in small-scale itinerant retail businesses, have not provided enough in-depth insight into this subject. This paper strives to fill this lacuna from the contextual perspective of a developing country by examining the risks and challenges West African immigrant entrepreneurs encounter in their business operations in Accra, Ghana. This study combines data from questionnaires of 779 respondents and in-depth interviews with nine key informants. The survey data were analysed and reported using descriptive statistics: frequency distributions, percentages, and cross-tabulations whilst the qualitative data was analysed thematically. The results show that work-related health risks and accommodation difficulties are the main challenges and risks the immigrants face in their work. It also emerges that fatigue ensuing from too much trekking and exposure to the scorching sun are the key health hazards associated with their business. Coping strategies of these immigrants include resorting to support from family and friends in Ghana and back home as the case may be, reliance on their skills/expertise to earn a living, self-medication- usually pain killers intended to overcome fatigue, relying on migrant networks and doing other menial jobs. Drawing from these findings, the study recommends that leadership of the immigrant groups should organise health education programs for their members and encourage them to be mindful of their health, especially in matters relating to their exposure to bad weather, excessive fatigue and unsupervised self-medication.

Keywords: Risks and challenges, Coping strategies, Ghana, Immigrant traders, West Africa



Integrating Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture and Disaster Management

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Abstract

To provide a major contribution to awareness creation, this study examines how disaster preparedness and improved agriculture can incorporate adaptation to climate change indicators. The study seeks to examine how flexible methodologies can be adopted to reduce the negative impact of climate change on agricultural systems while concurrently enhancing emergency relief and disaster management capabilities. By conducting a rigorous literature review, the study examines diverse case studies from various geographical regions, aiming to shed light on effective approaches to fostering resilience. The methodology employed for this research encompasses a comprehensive analysis of existing literature, evaluating a wide array of case studies that span global contexts. Key findings underscore the pivotal role of sustainable agricultural practices, such as agroforestry, precision farming, and innovative soil conservation techniques. These practices not only diminish greenhouse gas emissions but also bolster soil health, optimize water management, and bolster biodiversity conservation efforts. The study accentuates the essential nature of amalgamating early warning systems, community-based disaster preparedness initiatives, and robust infrastructure development to enhance disaster management and diminish vulnerabilities. Central to this research is the recognition of an urgent demand for a holistic approach. The integration of climate change adaptation strategies, sustainable agricultural practices, and robust disaster management measures emerges as a crucial pathway. This strategic alignment engenders enhanced societal resilience, secures consistent food production, and fortifies agricultural systems against climate-induced hazards. The research ardently calls for dynamic collaboration among policymakers, researchers, and communities to forge and execute comprehensive strategies that address these intricate challenges.

Keywords: Climate change, climate adaptation, adaptation strategies, sustainable agriculture,

Policy Promises and the Reality of Implementation: An Inquiry into the Implementation of Ghana's Free Education Policy in Upper West Region, Ghana

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Abstract

The government of Ghana in 2017 introduced the fully funded secondary education policy. The aim of the programme is to guarantee all children who have attained the level of attending Senior High School and have successfully passed their Basic Education Certification Examination have cost-free access to senior high education without any financial hindrance. As part of the party campaign promises to remove the barriers to access to education, the government pledged to make secondary education free in its entirety. However, the effectiveness and sustainability of the policy are of major concern to stakeholders. The study explores the viewpoints of stakeholders about the implementation of the free senior high school policy in regard to the programme dimension. The study also delves into challenges confronting the implementation of the policy and some suggested options to improve on it. This study adopted a qualitative research method approach relying on purposive sampling techniques involving the analysis of interviews and secondary information from seven public senior high schools including key stakeholders of the policy in Wa municipality. Findings from the study reveal the policy has achieved the objective of absorbing all costs related to secondary education. Evidence from the study reveals infrastructure deficit, inadequate funding and logistics remain key challenges to the smooth implementation of the policy. Also, reports from the study show the inclusion of students whose parents can afford their SHS education does not allow the government the fiscal space to run the fee-free policy in a sustainable manner. The study suggests a cut-off point to BECE grade for entry to secondary school as one of the panaceas to improve policy performance. The study concludes that focus is put on removing the cost barriers to enhance access to SHS education, while scant attention is paid to other programme elements such as infrastructure space and other expansions; opportunity cost; anticipated return on SHS education; quality (curriculum reform, better-quality teacher–student ratio learning outcomes), and knowledge and acquire skills applicable to individual and national development.

Keywords: Free Senior High School Policy, Secondary Education, Programme, Sustainability, Ghana.

Signals Driving the Growing Demand for Herbal Medicine

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Abstract

Even though orthodox medicine is conventionally recognised as the best, herbal medicine as an alternative is increasingly purchased despite its unproven efficacy and dosage. This study sought to determine the reasons for the increasing usage of herbal medicine in Africa and to establish the driving factors behind the upsurge. Covariance-based structural equation modelling was performed using 412 valid responses. The study showed that firms' marketing efforts and beliefs about the efficacy of herbal medicine in curing certain types of sicknesses are predictors of herbal medicine purchase behaviour through the theory of planned behaviour. However, while the type of sickness is both directly and indirectly related to purchased behaviour, firms' effort was only indirectly related to purchase behaviour. Also, whereas all the indirect paths to purchase intention and purchase behaviour were significant, indirect paths including perceived behavioural control were not, except for the direct effect of perceived behavioural control on purchase behaviour. The significant effect of all the variables, especially the subjective norm indicates that an upstream approach in tackling the situation is imperative. In practice, this study highlights the need for governments, the World Health Organisation, NGOs in the health sector and firms to pay attention to educating the population for positive behavioural change since that could influence the usage of alternative medicine. Theoretically, the study contributes by pointing out how behaviour is important to explaining the use of traditional medicine by combining TRA and TPB in exploring the signals driving the demand for herbal medicines. Notwithstanding the relevance of the study, the study was conducted in one African country.

Keywords: Herbal medicine, alternative medicine, planned behaviour, type of sickness, firm strategies.

Community Participation in Enterprise Development Programmes for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in Ghana

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Abstract

Existing evidence suggests that poverty in these areas is a function of rural people's over-reliance on direct agriculture, climate change impacts, as well as social and economic exclusions. Consequently, poverty reduction strategies in these areas have focused on diversifying livelihoods while promoting inclusiveness in the change process. Against this backdrop, development partners and national governments have instituted enterprise development programmes to enable rural entrepreneurs determine for themselves, the exact Business Development Service (BDS) they desire to bring about sustainable economic and social change. In ensuring that the concept of participation is not merely a wish list, the paper modified Choguill's ladder of community participation as a de facto lens to examine whether 'participation' really exists in these programmes by drawing on evidence from the Rural Enterprises Programme (REP) in the West Akim Municipality of Ghana. Using a qualitative in-depth interview grounded in a single case study design (REP), the study observed that despite the existence of structures which appear to involve entrepreneurs at all stages of the decision-making process –service selection, planning and implementation, what is expressed by beneficiaries show otherwise. Particularly, it was evident that most of the entrepreneurs who benefitted from technical training, management training and market access services were merely consulted prior to implementation whereas with alternative financing mechanisms, most entrepreneurs had to find ways of helping themselves out due to neglect of the responsible local agency. Notwithstanding, some context and power-induced factors were identified to have accounted for such discrepancies. The study is concluded with some policy recommendations to consider when designing and implementing enterprise development programmes.

Keywords: Community participation, enterprise development, poverty, social exclusion, livelihoods

Policy and Implementation: Understanding the Prospects and Challenges of Ghana's Free Senior High School Programme from the Lawra Municipality in The Upper West Region

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Abstract

The free senior high school policy is one of the best pro-poor, social and economic intervention policies introduced to reform the Ghana Education Sector in the 2017/2018 Academic Year. Key purpose was to increase enrolment into the Senior High Schools and to redeem parents from economic and financial burdens that prevent them from sending their wards to Senior High Schools. This study assessed the policy prospects and implementation challenges in the Lawra Municipality of the Upper West Region of Ghana. A Mixed Methods Approach with an explanatory sequential design (explanatory design) was used for Data collection. Following Simple Random and Purposive (Judgmental) Sampling Techniques, and questionnaires, two hundred (200) respondents consisting of 100 students, 50 teachers and Headmasters and 50 parents who has their wards in the three Senior High Schools in the Municipality were interviewed. Descriptive statistics and thematic analysis were used to analyse the quantitative and qualitative data respectively. The findings confirmed that indeed the introduction of the Free Senior High School policy may have served to relieve parents of their financial burdens, especially parents and guardians from rural areas and enrolment into Senior High Schools has increased astronomically. Nonetheless, the policy was implemented through the top-down approach hence the lack of adequate stakeholder consultation and was saddled with so many challenges. Inadequate infrastructure to accommodate the increased numbers enrolled in classes and dormitories. Delay in disbursement of funds for feeding and recurrent expenditure presented yet another problem. To solve these challenges for this innovative and pro-poor policy, the government must find sustainable sources of funding and expand academic user facilities to ensure the double-track system is regularized into a single-track system by increasing the numerical strength of both teaching and non-teaching staff in various Senior High Schools.

Keywords: Free Senior High School; Policy and Implementation; prospects; challenges; Ghana

Navigating Conservation Conflicts: Historical Roots and Power Structures Shaping Conflict and Peacebuilding in Ghana's Largest Conservation Area

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Abstract

Conservation conflicts are intrinsic to protected areas (PAs) in view of the multiple actors, varying interests and institutional structures connected with their management. When left unattended, conservation conflicts can have significant implications both for the environment and for human societies. Much of the mainstream scholarship on conservation-related conflict is concentrated on conflict mitigation without recourse to understanding the antecedent factors of these conflicts nor the power structures that influence conflict and peacebuilding in conservation areas. My sense is that there cannot be any meaningful and sustainable park-people coexistence without addressing the antecedent conditions of conflicts. This paper therefore examines how historical factors and power structures have influenced conflict and peacebuilding in Ghana's largest conservation area - the Mole National Park (MNP). It is based on my fieldwork conducted in four communities surrounding the MNP using qualitative methods involving in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The findings show that the establishment of the MNP antagonized local communities against the managers of the MNP and was manifested in illegal activities of locals living around the MNP. Power dynamics between local communities and managers of the MNP, as well as internal power dynamics within communities also exacerbated the impact of conservation conflicts on vulnerable groups. Park managers' mechanisms for conflict management were top-down in approach, were biased in favour of communities that engaged with the park in a co-management programme and were also broadly antagonistic in nature. The findings suggest the need for a nuanced locally based approach to managing conservation conflicts to address the variations that exist in conflict impacts across communities and within communities.

Keywords: Conservation conflicts, power structures, historical roots, protected areas, environmental protection, multiple actors.

Factors Influencing the Adoption of Innovations in Farmer-Driven Irrigation Systems in Rural Ghana

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Abstract

Northern Ghana has been characterised by a shortened rainy season and intermittent dry spells resulting in low yields. This makes irrigation development critical for achieving yearlong agricultural production. While attempts to develop formal irrigation systems have largely been disappointing, little attention is paid to small-scale irrigation initiatives managed by farmers themselves, which have been more satisfactory. While the adoption of local knowledge and innovations has been useful in the satisfactory results in farmer-led irrigation systems (FDIS), little knowledge exists of factors influencing its adoption. Therefore, this study analyses factors influencing the adoption of innovations in FDIS in northern Ghana. An exploratory sequential mixed methods design was adopted for studying irrigators in Mirigu and Sirigu communities of the Kassena-Nankana West District. Thirteen key informant interviews and five FGDs were conducted for qualitative data. In addition, a survey involving 226 irrigators was conducted for quantitative data. Thematic and Chi-Square analyses were applied for qualitative and quantitative data respectively. The results showed that young and educated farmers adopted multiple innovations such as mixed-cropping and personal savings for financing intermediate mechanization technologies in irrigation while older and illiterate farmers largely depended on simple irrigation technologies because of low incomes. Hence, income influences farmers' adoption of innovations in irrigation. Further, the number of years a piece of land has been cultivated and groundwater access determined what innovations farmers may adopt for irrigation. This implies that any efforts to promote FDIS should first build on understanding the innovation mix and factors influencing their adoption for targeted interventions.

Keywords: Irrigation agriculture, farmer innovations, irrigation schemes, adaptation, indigenous knowledge

Urban Green Space Planning in sub-Saharan Africa: Policy and Praxis

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Abstract

Planning for the provision of green spaces within the urban built environment is key to sustainable development. However, there is currently a dearth of knowledge on the policy and practice of planning for and managing urban green spaces to inform an appropriate response to the current and future challenges of creating and managing sustainable cities in Africa. Drawing on a literature review and supplemented by key informant interviews with policymakers and practitioners in Ghana, and documents analysis, this study contributes to providing context-responsive approaches to planning for and management of urban green spaces in Africa. Content analysis was used to analyse the documents review data while thematic analysis was employed in the analysis of the data from the key informant interviews. Findings show that the countries have enacted and revised policies, legislations, and regulations in response to the SDGs and the New African Urban Agenda to respond to many factors affecting urban development including urban green spaces. However, these policies make only generic provisions for the creation, management, protection, and sustainability of urban green spaces. The paper concludes that the intensification of advocacy, education, capacity building and the development of cost-effective, easy-to-apply tools and processes will give a boost to the agenda for ensuring sustainable green space development in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, it is critical to set clear and specific legislation and standards on urban green space provision for city authorities. This is crucial because of the competition for land for economically rewarding land uses from rapid urbanization processes ongoing across the African continent.

Keywords: Green infrastructure, urban planning, green space planning, sustainable cities, New African Urban Agenda.

Power Dynamics in Nurse-Patient Interactions in a Ghanaian Hospital: Perspectives from a Critical Discourse Study

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Abstract

Healthcare institutions are complex organizations within which several factors mediate human interactions. Nurses, patients, and caregivers engage in complex interactions and discourses in the care delivery process. In such interactions, effective communication is imperative. Furthermore, power asymmetry is constitutive of the nurse-patient daily clinical interactions, often leading to patient abuse. The everyday dynamics of clinical practices, communication behaviours, and how healthcare institutional culture, structure, and context shape interactions hold value to our understanding of abuse in nurse-patient clinical relationships. In this study, I interrogate nurse-patient discourses/language use to point out discursive practices and ideological positioning that are embedded in them and the interactional or communicative goals they serve. Qualitative research methodology through institutional ethnographic and critical discourse studies was implemented. Nurses, caregivers, and patients were recruited through purposive sampling and interviews, focus groups, and participant observation conducted. Reflexive thematic, narrative, and critical discourse analysis of the data revealed that nurse-patient communication practices are embedded with power, control, and manipulation ideologies. The discursive strategies of labelling, discourses of control, and explicit use of power impacted nurse-patient relationships, patient-centred care (PCC) practices, and patient/caregiver participation in the care process. In conclusion, I argue that for PCC to be realized in Ghanaian hospitals, healthcare professionals, managers, and administrators must promote effective communication, respect for patient rights, and awareness of power asymmetry in clinical interactions. Undertaking regular and proper evaluation of reports of provider-patient conflicts, enforcing the Ghanaian patient's charter, and providing training on effective communication will be crucial to achieving PCC outcomes.

Keywords: Discursive strategies, power dynamics, nurse-patient communication, clinical

Gendered Politics of Access to Resources for Climate Change Adaptation: Is There Light at The End of The Tunnel?

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Abstract

It is undoubtedly true that incorporating gender in understanding resource access and utilisation for climate adaptation has beneficial consequences. In the field of climate change, a gendered analysis of resource access has become more urgent now than ever before. Surprisingly, some previous studies have focused on general climate change adaptation strategies of rural farmers, whereas others centre on gender differentials in climate change adaptation strategies without looking at access to resources in adaptation enterprises. This creates a knowledge gap in the power relations that systematically exclude women from access to resources for climate change adaptation. This study draws evidence from four villages in Wa East District in Ghana to examine the gendered politics of resource access for climate change adaptation. The paper adopts a qualitative research approach alongside the feminist's political ecology theory to understand the gendered politics of access to resources for climate change adaptation in rural areas. Finance, farm inputs, and technology access constitute the focus of the paper. Interviews and focus group discussions with 63 research participants revealed gendered differentiated access to finance, farm inputs, and technology for climate change adaptation. Patriarchal tendencies through systematic exclusions of women underlay the differentiated access to finance, farm input, and technology, deepening existing gendered inequalities. Policies aimed at assisting rural smallholder farmers to adapt to climate change should pay attention to bridging the differentiated access to resources between men and women.

Keywords: Gendered politics, climate change, resource access, climate adaptation, Ghana



Exploring Ethnic Cosmopolitanism as a Catalyst for Conflict Resolution: A Case Study of the Kusaasi-Mamprusi Inter-Ethnic Conflict in Bawku, Ghana

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Abstract

The study explored the perceptions of ethnicity and their impact on conflict dynamics with the aim of proposing a pathway towards the development of a cosmopolitan ethnic group for ethnic conflict resolution. The research adopted a qualitative approach, through interviews and focus group discussions involving 50 purposively sampled participants from the Kusaasi, Mamprusi, Mossi, Busanga and Hausa ethnic groups resident in the Bawku Traditional Area. Participants recognised the possibility of developing a cosmopolitan ethnic group that respects divergent identities and values but also acknowledged the challenges and complexities involved. The study argues that the development of a cosmopolitan ethnic group that integrates all the core values of the differentiated ethnic groups in Bawku holds the potential to de-escalate conflicts and promote peaceful coexistence. Public sensitisation, education, and awareness programmes are recommended to promote tolerance, respect, and appreciation for unity in diversity.

Keywords: Ethnic cosmopolitanism; conflict resolution; inter-ethnic conflict; Kusaasi; Mamprusi; Bawku

The Effect of National Health Insurance Uptake on Household Poverty in Ghana: Evidence from the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey

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Abstract

Poverty reduction is prominent on the policy agenda of most developing countries. Ghana's quest to reduce household poverty led to the implementation of several policy interventions aimed at improving the welfare of its citizens. In 2003 Ghana introduced the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) with the aim of providing equitable access to affordable primary health care services to the whole population. This study used an extended ordered probit model employing data from 2014 Ghana demographic and health survey (GDHS) to estimate the effects of NHIS uptake on household poverty in Ghana. The data was extracted using data extraction sheet from the 2014 GDHS data. We measured household poverty using the household wealth index since it is a cumulative measure of household expenditure, income, and assets. Household wealth index was used to measure the severity of poverty because of its ordered nature. We found that household poverty was reduced with NHIS uptake. In terms of the severity poverty, we found that NHIS reduces the probability of being in the poorest and poorer wealth index and increases the probability of being in the richer and richest wealth index. We conclude that the NHIS remains an appropriate social protection system for the poor and vulnerable and has the potential of lifting them above the international poverty line. The policy therefore remains a useful tool for achieving universal health coverage and reducing the severity of household poverty. We recommend that pragmatic measures should be taken to address the implementation challenges confronting the scheme to sustain it.

Keywords: National Health Insurance, poverty reduction, extended probit, Ghana demographic, health survey

Changing Aid Dynamics through Social Investment for Poverty Alleviation in Ghana

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Abstract

As the global economy faces treacherous growth paths spearheaded by high-interest rates and inflation, developing countries are having a debilitating debt hangover. The creation of financial services in time of crisis for the poor is essential for lifting them out of poverty and deprivation. Through the provision of microloans and the moderation of these loans by NGOs, many poor people have addressed challenges related to health, education, shelter, and food within rural settings. However, the provision of these services through the third sector players as modalities for economic empowerment could equally face mission drifts under adverse economic conditions. The need to re-engineer donor aid towards social investment for communities could hedge the aid business. This implies concepts for rural entrepreneurship must aggressively include social capital investments with local creditworthiness to reduce default. This study investigated the mediating and moderating effects of NGOs loan portfolios through social capital investments opportunities with the processes of participatory community development. Using logistics regressions, and document scrutiny, augmented with in-depth interviews of key stakeholders, we provide a critical analysis with empirical evidence of NGOs working in this sector in Ghana. This is to broaden the discussion around the NGOs' role in alleviating poverty through funding for small and micro enterprises. The paper found that with advocacy and targeted economic investment opportunities for beneficiaries, there are expected high returns from these funds, making the stakeholders economically independent. As government support for the poor through social protection programs diminishes, the paper proposes directions for securing micro loan repayments and improve on aid fungibility. This is offered through mediating local structures and guidelines on moderating strategies for enhanced rural and social investments.

Keywords: Poverty; Micro loans; Mission drift; Social investments; Beneficiaries; NGOs; Ghana.

Reflective Practice! A Way of Making Procurement Better

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Abstract

This study examines the concept of reflective practice, the usefulness of reflective practice in procurement, and the means of incorporating reflective practice into the procurement process. The study adopts a qualitative study design to explain the four key models of reflection and adapts them to the procurement process. These models include Schon's (1983) Model of Reflection, Kolb's Learning Cycle, Gibbs' Reflective Cycle, and Rolfe's Reflection Model. The study further examines reflective practice's characteristics and core components as applied in the procurement process. It discusses the four types of reflections, namely reflection-before-action, reflection-in-action, reflection-on-action, and reflection-beyond-action, in the procurement context. The study revealed that reflective practice leads to efficiency in the procurement process, improves the integrity of the procurement processes, and promotes more transparency and accountability, which are all key to obtaining value for money. It concludes that there is a need to incorporate reflective practice in the curricula of procurement, train procurement practitioners to regularly undertake reflective practice for every procurement activity, and the adaption of reflective practice models for procurement processes. The implications of this study include incorporating the reflective practice into the procurement process, generating interest of procurement practitioners and academics towards reflective practice, and enriching the literature on both reflective practice and procurement.

Keywords: Reflection, procurement, models, practice, reflective

Financial Accessibility to Health Care Delivery: A Study on the Affordability of Services in CHPS Implementation in East Mamprusi, Northeast Ghana

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Abstract

Achieving equitable health outcomes depends on everyone having access to healthcare, which is a fundamental human right. The provision of critical healthcare and addressing the requirements of individuals and communities is greatly aided by community-based health planning and services. The survey seeks to examine whether community members can meet the direct and indirect costs (affordability) of health care within the operation of the CHPS Compounds in the East Mamprusi Municipal. The research design used is an explanatory-sequential technique or design, with the goal of correlating qualitative data to quantitative results. A total of 376 respondents were interviewed, including six health officers in charge of the CHPS and one from the municipal administration. The study was conducted in five communities in the district. Descriptive analyses were qualitative data. The study found that 7% of Tuuni, 100% of Namangu, 92% of Wunduwa, and 72% of Gbangu villages lack NHIS cards, while 14% from Nagboo and Wunduwa communities have inactive memberships. 34% of respondents in Gbangu paid unofficial fees for healthcare access. In conclusion, the common challenge to accessing healthcare was insufficient funds. The Municipal Assembly should implement job training programmes to raise the income levels of community members to enable them to pay for medical services and join the NHIS. They should also encourage individuals to report any instances of CHO exploitation to the district director of health services to put the proper disciplinary sanctions in place.

Keywords: Financial accessibility, health care, care delivery, affordability, CHPS, Ghana

Examining Rural Parents Indigenous Knowledge and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Interventions on Children's Right to Education in Northern Ghana

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Abstract

The development and well-being of children are important to governments. UNICEF (2010) advised that child protection services should incorporate local and indigenous knowledge into international best practice models. In Ghana and elsewhere in Africa, policies directing children's welfare are mostly influenced by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1990). Despite enormous energy devoted to generating policies and guidelines, little attention is given to the neglect of indigenous knowledge on childhood, and its effect on the sustainable implementation of child-focused interventions. This study uses an ethnographic approach to explore rural parents' attitudes to an NGO intervention on children's rights to basic schooling, and the illegality of child labour. Purposive sampling was used to select participants for the study with a sample size for the study was 25 participants. Interviewing was seen as a relevant data collection method as verbal discourse is common in the African tradition where knowledge is transmitted by means of narrations, proverbs, stories, and folktales. The findings of the study were that the NGO's workers do not recognise the indigenous knowledge of the rural people hence using a top-down approach to a bottom-up approach. Another finding was that parents raised children with the aim of inculcating traditional ways of the community in the child. Based on the study's findings, the study concluded that interventions based on child rights embraced a universal construction of childhood and did not acknowledge the existence of different constructions of childhood, thereby undermining the success and sustainability of these interventions. The study also recommended that; NGOs should incorporate indigenous knowledge when designing programmes on child protection. The study therefore proposes a modification of policies using a bottom-up approach to a top-down approach to child development.

Keywords: NGO Interventions, Indigenous Knowledge, Child Protection, Northern Ghana.

Climate Change and Cultural Security Nexus in Northern Ghana: Evidence from the Gushegu Municipality

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Abstract

Climate change is increasingly acknowledged as a critical security issue that requires urgent attention from governments and international organizations. However, while the impacts of climate change on food security, human safety, and environmental sustainability have been extensively explored in the critical literature on adaptation, the nexus between climate change and cultural security, encompassing the preservation of cultures, traditions, shared values, and the protection of indigenous peoples, has received limited attention. This research aimed to address this gap by employing a qualitative approach with 48 participants selected through a maximum variation purposive sampling technique. Data were collected through interviews and Focus Group Discussions, and these were analysed using an inductive thematic analysis technique. The findings revealed that climate change had significant effects on the core cultural attributes of the people of Gushegu. We argued that the transformations in traditions, customs, norms, and values within the Gushegu community threaten the cultural heritage of the people of Gushegu. Consequently, the study proposes strategies for climate change adaptation that aim to protect existing traditions, customs, values, and norms amidst damning ecological stressors.

Keywords: Climate Change, Culture, Security, Gushegu, Northern Region

Workplace Health and Safety Services in a Public University: A Study of SDD-UBIDS Contextualization, Standards, and Practices

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Abstract

The well-being of university staff, encompassing their health, safety, and welfare, plays a fundamental role in the success and sustainability of universities. Ensuring effective workplace health and safety services is crucial for the well-being of university staff and the success of institutions. However, the attention given to workplace health and safety services at SDD-UBIDS University is insufficient. This study aimed to assess the workplace environment at SDD-UBIDS University and identify potential health and safety concerns to inform the institution's health policy development. The study employed a mixed methods design, primarily focusing on quantitative data. To gather information, 74 questionnaires were administered to university staff, consisting of 60 males and 14 females. Moreover, eight interviews were conducted, with an equal representation of 4 male and 4 female participants, representing both teaching and non-teaching staff. Data collection occurred between March and April 2022. The data was analysed using excel spread sheet, and the results were further supported by qualitative analysis to identify crucial factors influencing the psychological well-being of university staff. The findings highlight critical factors affecting staff well-being, including the absence of a dedicated health and safety office responsible for enforcing safety regulations, infrequent risk assessments, a lack of a comprehensive risk prevention and control plan, inadequate strategies for emergency evacuations during potential disasters, insufficient firefighting systems, inadequate fire detection and alarm systems, and the absence of comprehensive records for risk evaluations. Addressing these concerns and adopting appropriate risk mitigation strategies is imperative to enhance workplace health and safety conditions within universities. Ultimately, these efforts will safeguard staff well-being and create an environment conducive to optimal teaching and learning experiences.

Keywords: Workplace, health, health and safety, public university, standards, university staff.

Applying CA-Markov Chain Model to Simulate Future land use/cover Changes in the Yayo Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve, Southwestern Ethiopia

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Abstract

Effective implementation of natural resource planning and land management systems requires an understanding of past and future aspects of Land-use/land-cover (LULC) changing at both spatial and temporal scales. The Yayo Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve (YCFBR) in the southwest of the country is currently facing the impacts of various human activities, including wildfires and the expansion of coffee plantations. Despite substantial interventions in the Biosphere Reserve since its registration at UNESCO in 2010, information on future LULCC trends remains limited. The objective of this study is to simulate LULC changes of the YCFBR for future 30 years. Here we used remotely sensed Landsat imagery from 1992, 2007, and 2022 downloaded from the USGS (<http://glovis.usgs.gov>). Simulations for possible LULC changes for the years 2022-2052 were performed with the CA Markov model using TerrSet 2020 v19.0.7 based on historical LULC changes (1992-2022). The results indicate that the area used for agriculture is projected to increase from 20.3% in 2022 to 24% in 2052, while the proportion of open forest is projected to increase from 13.4% in 2022 to 18% in 2052. Furthermore, high forest and grazing lands are expected to decrease from 50.1% in 2022 to 40% in 2052 and from 8.3% in 2022 to 6% in 2052, respectively. The most critical transitions in the study period are expected from high forest to open forest and from grazing land to agriculture. This study provides planners and decision-makers with information about past and present spatial dynamics for efficient future conservation planning.

Keywords: Land Use, GIS, modeling, ca-markov, markov chain, terrSet



Creation of Ahafo Region and local land market dynamics; Evidence from Goaso and Nkaseim Stool Land Areas in Ghana

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Abstract

Ghana has operated multilevel governance through decentralisation since colonial era. In 2018, the government created six additional regions as part of efforts to deepen decentralization. Using Goaso and Nkaseim stool areas as a case study, the study examined land market dynamics in the new Ahafo Region in Ghana. The study employed qualitative approach and interviewed respondents from the customary land administration offices, state land management institutions, land committees and landowners. The results revealed that there is a growing land market characterised by rising land access cost and land use changes in the market frontiers underpinned by new investment opportunities aligned to the new region. The land market dynamics is also redefining land uses and dispossessing farmers in the market frontiers. The study further revealed that decentralisation of the regional offices of the land sector agencies were not fully completed at the time of the study. For instance, Regional Lands Commission, the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands, Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority among others were yet to be established to deliver land services. The study underscores the need for government to speed up with the decentralisation of the regional offices of the land sector agencies to support the local land governance structures as impetus for growth and investments in the new region. Again, the traditional leaders through the Regional House of Chiefs should be sensitised on the new investment opportunities and the effects on land. As part of the sensitisation is to assist the chiefs develop operational guidelines and standard procedures to guide their engagement with land investors and developers to not only prevent abuse but make the processes clear and more efficient to promote sound investment for the development of the region. The chiefs should be educated on the Land Act, 2020 to be abreast with the new legal regime governing land alienations and compensation disbursement for effective operation of the emerging land market.

Keywords: Land market, land governance, land administration, Ahafo, New Region, Ghana

Climate Change Adaptation in A nature-based Tourism Destination: A Case Study of the Mole National Park, Ghana

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Abstracts

Climate change is perceived to alter the natural environment, reducing ecosystem adaptive capacity and biodiversity. NBT resources become extremely vulnerable to climate change since they depend on climate and weather for preservation. To reduce climate change effects on destination resources, adaptation measures must be taken. Mole National Park (MNP) was purposively selected to study stakeholders' perceptions of climate change effects on MNP's resources and adaptation strategies implemented. Data collection and analysis were guided by a qualitative case study approach with 26 interviews conducted with stakeholders, including MNP's managers, chiefs, A Rocha Ghana, Wildlife Society, West Gonja Municipal Assembly, Zaina Lodge, Mognori, and Murugu communities. Three focus group discussions (FGDs) were held to triangulate and verify information from all participants. Field observations triangulated information from key informants and focus group discussants. To identify patterns and similarities in responses from all interviewees and discussants, the data were organized into three themes and categories - climate change perceptions, impacts, and adaptation strategies. According to the study, MNP is vulnerable to rising temperatures, reduced rainfall, drought, flooding, and heavy windstorms. The study also found that climate change caused animal deaths, species loss, migration of animals out of the park, and human-wildlife conflicts. Construction of waterholes, fire control, alternative livelihood programmes for fringing communities, trees planting, installation of air conditioners and fans, construction of swimming pools and summer huts, green accommodation infrastructure, and shifting safari time were adaptation strategies. Therefore, the study recommends a yearly budgetary allocation by the government for climate change adaptation in the park.

Keywords: Climate change, climate adaptation, natural environment, tourism, sustainability



Reverse Logistics Management Practices of Pharmaceutical Companies in Ghana: The Case of Upper West Region

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Abstract

Despite the existence of best practices on reverse logistics management, it is not clear the extent to which such practices are adhered to by pharmaceutical companies in Ghana, let alone their influence on customer satisfaction. Therefore, it is the purpose of this paper to empirically determine the reverse logistics management practices adopted by pharmacies in the Upper West Region. Drawing on the stakeholder theory and a case study approach using key informant interviews, data was gathered from 24 pharmacies in the Region. The findings from the interviews unveiled that the studied pharmacies did not adhere to prescribed practices on reverse logistics. This was because of the absence of a logistics policy for pharmaceutical products in Ghana. The study also unveiled that although pharmacies in the Upper West Region experience reverse logistics, they have ad hoc practices regarding the management of these which often are unsatisfactory to their customers. The study concludes that the absence of a reverse logistics policy has adverse implications for pharmacies and their clients. As a result, it is recommended that a conscious effort be made by the Government to put in place the relevant policy and institutional framework for pharmaceutical products in Ghana.

Keywords: Reverse Logistics Management Practices, Customer Satisfaction and Pharmaceutical Companies.

A COVID-19 Era Systematic Review and Meta-analysis on the Impact of Technology on SMES' Operating Within the Supply Chain

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Abstract

The study aims to conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis of current literature focusing on the impact of technology on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) operating within the supply chain, particularly after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to the present. The PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis) Flow Diagram will be utilized to identify and select articles from the Springer database. Once the articles are selected, the researchers will analyse the literature to extract relevant data, such as study locations, research methodologies, and strategies adopted in investigating the impact of technology on SMEs in the global supply chain. They will also examine how the COVID-19 pandemic has influenced the use of technology in this context. The results of the systematic review and meta-analysis are expected to provide valuable insights and identify new research directions for the usage of technology by SMEs in global supply chain operations. Another expected finding is the identification of the different impact levels of technology on SMEs operating within the supply chains in Europe, Asia, North and South America, and Africa. Again, the study is expected to reveal which continent has the most research conducted on it, and which has the least therefore where more gaps remain to be filled by more studies. By synthesizing existing literature, the researchers will be contributing to the understanding of how technology adoption and strategies have evolved in response to the challenges and opportunities posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This research may help inform future studies and practical interventions aimed at enhancing the resilience and competitiveness of SMEs in the supply chain through technology-enabled strategies.

Keywords: COVID-19, Technology, Supply Chains, SMEs.

Environmental Security Implications of Household Solid Waste Management in the Wa Municipality

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Abstract

Waste management is a major environmental concern for emerging economies. Improper solid waste management presents a myriad of problems in urban municipalities in Ghana. Safeguarding the environment against degradation as well as the protection of human life calls for sustainable household solid waste management. The study examined the environmental security implications of household solid waste management in the Wa Municipality. A descriptive cross-sectional survey was adopted. Simple random and purposive sampling techniques were employed to select 398 respondents for household questionnaires administration and 10 key informants for in-depth interviews respectively. Quantitative data was analysed using descriptive statistics in SPSS version 20 while the qualitative data was analysed using thematic analysis. The study revealed that participants had adequate knowledge about the implications of poor household solid waste management on environmental security. Inadequate resources, weak enforcement of environmental health and sanitation-related laws are the challenges hindering proper household solid waste management. The study equally revealed that the environmental insecurity conditions associated with improper household solid waste management is not limited to only the waste disposal sites but also causing health risks, odour, flooding, and conflicts. A Chi-square test revealed a positive relationship between household solid waste management and environmental security. The study concludes that household solid waste management has environmental security implications for residence in the Wa Municipality. The study recommends intensification of public education on the effect of household solid waste management on environmental security complemented with the enactment and effective enforcement of laws to effect positive attitudes at the household. Also, the study recommends strengthening of the Environmental Health and Sanitation Unit with the requisite logistics to enhance environmental quality.

Keywords: Environmental security, health and safety, waste management, solid waste, Wa Municipality, Ghana



Gender and Governance: An Intersectional Analysis of Cultural Determinants of Women Participation in Local Governance in Northern Ghana

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Abstract

Heteropatriarchy remains deeply entrenched in northern Ghana as gender norms that reinforce male dominance, prescribe gender behaviours and structure men's and women's occupational choices persist, despite various interventions. While many studies have examined issues of gender inequality and gender-based violence in northern Ghana, the extent to which cultural beliefs and practices intersect to exclude women from local governance has been less studied. This study employed a mixed method approach within the analytical lenses of the Governmentality Theory to interrogate how discriminatory cultural beliefs and practices specific to northern Ghana intersect to undermine women's involvement in local governance processes. Stratified and simple random sampling techniques were used to select 270 participants who were administered with questionnaires while purposive sampling was used to select 30 participants for interviews and Focus Group Discussions. Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics while inductive thematic analysis was used to analyse qualitative data. The analysis of both the qualitative and quantitative data collected revealed that the exaggerated functionality of marriage, men's intransigence in household decision-making, gender role differentiation, social norms that prescribe behaviours for differently situated men and women, and women's lack of access to household and community resources intersected to deplete women's ability to participate in local governance within their communities. We argue that until cultural norms related to marriage, gender roles and socially acceptable behaviours are changed, men will continue to reinforce existing heteropatriarchal practices that perpetuate their intransigence over women, thereby reducing women's ability to thrive and participate in local governance.

Keywords: Gender, local governance, cultural change, gender roles, inequality, gender violence

Towards the Underpinning Principles of Traditional Governance and its Implications for Democratic Governance in Northern Ghana

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Abstract

This article examines the traditional governance systems of northern Ghanaian societies that had chieftaincy imposed on them by the colonial masters to determine how democratic they are and how they can inform Ghana's current westminster-style democratic governance. In Ghana's Upper East and Upper West regions, the Boosi village of Bongo and the Dagara community of Nandom were investigated. The study used Transcendentalist-inspired qualitative research. This ethnographic study employed literature reviews and in-depth consultations (focus groups, key informant interviews) to collect data, which was then analysed using conversational and discourse analysis, as well as thematic analysis methodologies. The findings of the study indicated that Northern Ghana traditional rulers used collective governance where they are operating legislative/judiciary and spiritual/judiciary. Northern Ghana traditional rulers conduct all spiritual contacts in their villages and beyond. They stated they speak with the living, the living-dead (ancestral spirits), the gods, plants, rivers, hills, mountains, animals, insects, the wind, and any foreign spirits who visit their towns. The research illuminates typical democratic regimes' clear allocation of powers between the executive, legislative, and spiritual branches. The findings also indicated that participation, rule of law, openness, accountability, and inclusion underpin northern Ghana traditional rulers. This research strongly suggested integrating spirituality into African democracy. Instead of swearing in presidents using the Bible or Quran, traditional deities might be invoked. Understanding customary systems' democratic elements can aid Ghana's democracy.

Keywords: Traditional rulers, traditional governance, democracy, customary systems, Ghana.

One-Child, One-Laptop Policy in Ghana: Enforced or a Managerial Neglect of RLG Laptops in Junior High Schools in the Jirapa Municipality?

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Abstract

The One-Child, One-Laptop policy was rolled out through the rlg company dubbed “Better Ghana Agenda (ICT Project)”. Under the project, Junior High Schools (JHSs), teachers and students were supplied laptops branded “rlg laptops”. The research investigated whether One-Child, One-Laptop policy in Ghana, is enforced or has become a managerial neglect of the rlg laptops supplied to JHSs in the Jirapa Municipality. A cross-sectional design, a sample size of 320, and simple random and purposive sampling, questionnaires and semi-structured interview guide were employed. SPSS was used to analyse the quantitative data in descriptive statistics while the qualitative data were done using thematic analysis. The results showed irregular use of the rlg laptops with schools without ICT laboratories compelling them to keep the laptops in private houses within the community, hence only 4 out of the 20 schools studied teach and write ICT as a subject at Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). Pupil to laptop ratio was 1:5 which is poor. These laptops had spoiled mother boards, broken screens, crashed hard disk, charging unit blown by power surge and operating systems not working. Furthermore, 35% of the ICT teachers said 7-9 of the laptops were not working, another 35% ICT teachers had 10-12 of them not working. Notwithstanding, there were weak management arrangements, and negligible funding for repairing the laptops. Conclusively, the One-Child, One-Laptop policy suffered managerial neglect and weak enforcement in the Jirapa Municipality. Ghana Education Service should support the regular maintenance of the rlg laptops towards smooth implementation of the ICT4AD and One-Child, One-Laptop policies in JHSs within the Jirapa Municipality.

Keywords: One-Child, One-Laptop, rlg, ICT, managerial neglect, Jirapa Municipality



Urban Lifestyle and Climate Change Mitigation: Awareness Level about Carbon Footprints Among Students and Staff of SD Dombo University of Business and Integrated Development Studies

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Abstract

Climate change has become a significant addition to the spectrum of environmental health hazards faced by humankind and the impacts are severer for people in urban areas. Carbon emissions are among key human induced factors of global climate change that keep rising. However, most humans are unaware of carbon footprints and their impact on the increasing threat of climate change. Given that individual and household lifestyles contribute to carbon emissions, this paper aims at assessing the carbon footprint awareness level among the students and staff of the SDD University of Business and Integrated Development Studies, with focus on the usage of electronic and electrical devices. The paper used quantitative cross-sectional survey with questionnaires to elicit information from a sample of 324 participants comprising students (across all levels) and staff (both teaching and non-teaching). The sample size was proportionally divided among the faculties and levels respectively; then, participants were chosen through convenient sampling. The data was analysed with descriptive statistics and cross-tabulations in SPSS version 24. The preliminary findings revealed that majority of the students have poor knowledge about carbon footprints compared with the staff. There is significant difference between the attitude of students living in private hostels (positive - mindful of energy conservation) and those living in campus halls (negative – less concern for energy conservation) towards carbon footprints. No significant difference is observed with knowledge and attitude across levels and programmes of study. However, there is a general poor practice to reduce carbon footprint. The findings shows that most students and staff do not know about the impact of their lifestyle regarding usage of electronic and electrical appliances on carbon emissions and climate change. The study recommends that there is the need for education and sensitization among the University's population (especially for students) since they daily use electronic and electrical devices.

Farmers' access to agriculture information in an agriculture modernization age: A case study of farmers in the Wa West District, Ghana

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Abstract

In a technology driven agriculture age, associated with complexities posed by climate change, access to information becomes critical to agricultural productivity especially in rural contexts. Though the extant literature has given attention to agriculture information services, not many studies have examined farmers access to agriculture information in deprived contexts. This study contributes to such a discourse in an information and agriculture modernization age. A concurrent mixed method approach was adopted for the investigation. Multistage sampling was used to select 395 smallholder farmers and five Farmer-Based Organizations. Descriptive statistics and bivariate analysis were used to analyse the survey data while the qualitative data provided further insights into the results of the quantitative data. The findings show that farmers had information needs including pest and disease management, input dealer, credit facility, preservation and storage, weather, and marketing of produce. Key sources of information were researchers, non-governmental organizations, and family and friends. Limited availability of information on; pest and disease management, prices of farm produce, and standard measurement for agricultural produce were identified as challenges by farmers in accessing agriculture information. Multiplicity of factors including low literacy levels, limited access to radio and television affect farmers' access to timely and reliable agriculture information. The study concludes that farmers' need for information amidst climate variability and SMART agricultural technologies, is enormous. However, a multiplicity of factors affects farmers' access to timely and reliable agriculture information. The study recommends the pursuance of an aggressive rural development strategy with development of information infrastructure as the centre of the strategy to ensure farmers have access to up-to-date, timely and reliable information for informed decision making.

Keywords: Agriculture, agricultural information, information access, agriculture modernisation, Wa West District.

Farmer-Based Organizations and Adoption of Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices in the Nadowli Kaleo District

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Abstract

Climate change has become one of the greatest threats to humanity, and there is considerable evidence that its effects are severe in both developed and developing nations. Ghana's Savannah ecological belt is predicted to be the hardest hit by rainfall changes due to climate change. However, research in the Savannah Ecological Region has made suboptimal representations of farmers' knowledge and perceptions of climate change and the role of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) in climate change adaptation and mitigation and the challenges faced by Farmer Based Organizations in adopting CSA practices. Using a mixed-methods research approach, this study filled the research gap in the context of achieving SDG 13 from the findings derived. 170 surveys with farmers who belong to FBOs and 3 FGDs in 3 communities with FBO leaders were conducted. Kaleo, Ombo, and Jang communities were selected because of their active involvement in CSA activities over the years. The results revealed that the CSA practices of which farmers were most aware were agroforestry with 82.2% of respondents, followed by improved crop and livestock management practices (69.2%), water management (56.8%), and conservative agriculture (53.3%). Also, the results showed that conservation agriculture (92.3%) was the most often used CSA practice among the farmers. With a proportion of 82.8%, improved livestock management was the second most widely used practice agroforestry (73.7%) was the third most popular practice. With 61.3%, (IPM) was the third most popular practice among FBOs. This finding implies that farmers practice conservation agriculture in the district more than any other CSA method. The research recommends that the Ministry of Food and Agriculture partner with local NGOs encourage and support FBOs with the CSA techniques needed in the implementation of CSA practices in the district.

Keywords: FBOs, adoption, adaptation, smart-agriculture, agricultural practices, Nadowli, Ghana.

The Effect of Improved Maize Variety Adoption on Farmers' Income in the Kumbungu District of Northern Region, Ghana

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Abstract

Due to Ghana's rapid population growth, maize consumption has dramatically increased recently. Therefore, crop scientists have conducted numerous research projects to enhance maize production in Ghana to assure food security, which has resulted in the development of improved maize varieties. In this study, the effect of improved maize variety adoption on Farmer's income in the Kumbungu district of the Northern Region of Ghana was examined. The study also finds the modified maize variety that is most widely used and grown in the Kumbungu district. In this study, a two-stage sampling procedure was used, four villages were first chosen on purpose. A total of 153 farmers were chosen at random from the four chosen settlements in the district and a quantitative research design was used to obtain data in the form of semi-structured surveys. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics and the Heckman treatment effect model. The Obaatanpa seed, according to the findings, is the most widely used and widely cultivated modified maize variety in the Kumbungu district. The result found out the adoption was positive and statistically significant, meaning that the adoption of improved maize variety had a positive effect on the income of maize farmers in the study area. This implies that there is an increase in farmer's income through increased yield because of their adoption to improve maize variety. The findings also demonstrated that the adoption decisions of farmers were considerably and favourably influenced by their age, awareness of the improved maize variety, availability of extension services, and membership in FBO. The study suggests setting up farmer workshops and agricultural training on efficient and productive farming methods, educating farmers about better maize varieties, creating more Farmer Base Organizations (FBO's) for farmers to join, giving farmers access to credit and financing, and assisting elderly farmers to increase their production by giving them the needed support.

Keywords: Improved maize, maize variety, technology adoption, farmers income, Kumbungu, Tamale.



The Influence of Mission and Vision on Teacher Attraction and Retention Among Private Second Cycle Institutions (PSCI) in the Upper East Region, Ghana

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Abstract

Every organization has a vision and mission, and the significance of missions and visions are generally noticed though how some organizations may express them vaguely. With the recent spring of private second-cycle institutions in the Upper East Region, this research explores the visions and missions of institutions in the Upper East Region and establishes the influence the missions and visions have on the attraction and retention of teachers in these schools using the Existential Phenomenology design within the qualitative paradigm. The sample population of the study was 20 persons, comprising 11 teachers, and 9 headteachers/school proprietors. The study found that founders/proprietors do not have missions/visions of their own; school managers rather adopt from the internet and become the sole keepers and sources of these missions and visions which are not known to teachers. Subsequently, school headteachers disregard these vague missions and visions in the teacher recruitment processes. The effect is that teachers are recruited based on Friends' recommendations and other factors such as ethnicity, religiosity, and family affiliations instead of the schools' aims and values. It is recommended that more stakeholders be involved in fashioning these missions and visions of organizations and professional recruiters should be engaged to use the value system of schools to develop recruitment tools that will properly assess and effectively match the human attitude and emotional intelligence with the work environment.

Keywords: Second Cycle, institutions, school performance, retention, visions, missions, private schools

Cliques as sub-cultures among Teachers of Junior High Schools: An examination of the drivers, benefits and contestations in Wa Municipality

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The importance of schools as places and sources of socialization involving varied norms and values tends to create subcultures. Teachers operate in these subcultures inside and outside schools which are formed and called differently as collective representations, youth cultures, neo-tribes, lifestyles, cliques, Table members and cliques in order to capture the postmodern nature of these groupings. cliques as subcultures refer to where teachers of liked-mindedness come to accept themselves as a team and are bonded together where they may sit, talk, eat, share their concerns together and solidarize with one another as long as they remain at post in a particular Junior High School (JHSs). The research examined the drivers, benefits and contestations in cliques as Sub-cultures among JHSs in Wa Municipality. Concurrent Embedded Mixed Method Design, a sample size of 255, cluster, simple random and purposive sampling techniques, Questionnaires, semi-structure interview guide and Focus Group Discussion Guide were used. SPSS was used to analyzed the quantitative data in descriptive statistics while thematic analysis was used for the qualitative data. The results showed that gender, religious hegemony, income/economic level and political affiliations were the main drivers for the formation of cliques. The significant benefits that accrued to members were motivation and inspirations, developing Professional Learning Network, socialization, and building social cohesion. The significant contestations the study found were negative imitations, status frustrations, insubordination, and role strain among teachers. Conclusively, cliques as subcultures were inevitable and critical for building social bonds for Professional Learning among teachers in JHSs. This necessitates policy dialogue and formulation for regulating the activities of cliques. Also, the Ghana Education Service should organize continuous retraining for teachers in a way to limit and manage contestations in cliques in order for teachers to derive the desired benefits in JHSs in the Wa Municipality.

Keywords: Cliques, sub-cultures, drivers, benefits, contestations, education service, school performance.

Roadmap to Achieve Universal Health Coverage: A Qualitative Study of Community Involvement in CHPS Implementation in Upper East Region-Ghana

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Abstract

Ghana's Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) policy was introduced to expand PHC towards achieving UHC (Aikins et al., 2014). Empirical information on the degree of community members engagement and support in the implementation of community-based health programs is scanty (Binka et al., 1995) in the Upper East region. This scarce evidence has given rise to a plethora of assumptions about what constitutes a capable community, complicating empirical efforts in this crucial sector. A cross-sectional study design was implemented to explore the lived experiences of community leaders on their involvement to CHPS implementation in the Region. Twelve districts in upper east region were randomly selected using the lottery method and twelve study participants were selected in multiple stages. one CHPS zone with compound was purposefully selected in each district because, these zones have the composition of key players in CHPS implementation; namely Community Health Management Committee, Community Health Volunteers and Community Health Officer including a mobilised community, and these were purposively selected to share their views on community involvement in the implementation of CHPS. Community leaders across the study area have knowledge of CHPS programme and a good perception towards CHPS implementation. Community members are aware that CHPS compound located in community is purposely for treatment of ailments, and CHPS is perceived as small hospital. In some of the zones, community members organized communal labour to construct CHPS compounds instead of waiting for government interventions. Incentives should be provided to the community health volunteers and community health management committees to encourage them to support the activities of the Community Health Officers.

Keywords: Universal health, health coverage, community participation, CHPS, Bolgatanga, Ghana.



Building Synergies Through Institutional Support for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Among Smallholder Farmers in the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District in the Savannah Region Of Ghana

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Abstract

Climate change continues to pose a serious threat to global ecosystems, food security and other socio-economic parameters. Even though these effects of climate change are well known, institutional support for smallholder farmers for climate change adaptation and mitigation has not received much attention in recent discussions. Against this backdrop, this study investigated the presence or absence of institutional support to smallholder farmers in the face of the changing climate change. The study used concurrent convergent mixed methods design. This research used simple random, snowballing, and purposive sampling to select 394 respondents. Questionnaires and semi-structured interview guides were used to collect data. Quantitative data from the field was analysed using MS excel and SPSS version 20 and the results presented using descriptive statistics. The results showed that institutional support has a substantial influence on climate change adaptation and mitigation activities but inclined to the former. Furthermore, farmers on their own were taking some climate-related risk adaptation measures to reduce yield loss. Physical effects reported by respondents included yield reduction, pest and disease outbreaks and heat stress. The off-farm adaptation measures identified were out-migration, petty trading, and reliance on remittances. Some farmers also used agro-chemicals, change of time and type of seeds planted, engaging in mixed cropping and practice of agro-forestry as adaptive measures. The study concludes that there were institutions providing climate change adaptation and mitigation support at the time of the study. The study recommends that the existing institutions should develop strategies to support farmers to adapt to adverse effects of climate change as well as reduce the occurrence of climate variability.

Keywords: Smallholders, institutional support, agriculture, climate change, climate adaptation, climate mitigation, Ghana.



The Discourse of Women Leaders in Northern Ghana: An Analysis of Power and Subjectivity in the Public Sphere

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Abstract

The nexus between women and leadership in development discourses dates to the 1950s when development and feminists' scholars bemoaned the neglected role of women in development. Since the 1970s, national and global agencies have made greater efforts to address gender issues in development programmes and projects for a better society as this is mainstreamed into the SDGs. Despite the explicit acknowledgment of women and leadership in the development of contemporary societies and the developing world such as Ghana, it is worrying that women are less likely to take part in leadership. The study questions are how women leaders are constructed in the public sphere, and what are the implications for their contributions to SDGs in contemporary African societies. This study explores the discursive construction of women leaders in Northern Ghana to provide a better understanding of the ways sociocultural and political contexts shape women leadership contribution to development at all levels. The study employs discourse theory and methods and uses data from in-depth interviews, focus groups discussions, and project documents. The documents are reports from the 'Women's Voice and Leadership' project, implemented by Plan International Ghana. The analytical process and procedure involve the analysis of statements in talk and text realized from interviews and documents in relation to symbolic meanings in the sociocultural and political context. Preliminary, this study demonstrated that women leaders in Northern Ghana are sociocultural and politically recognized, accepted, and positioned among men in the process of decision-making in the public sphere. Thus, empowering women to assume leadership positions would provide greater opportunities for women in local communities to participate and contribute to achieve the SDGs in Northern Ghana.

Keywords: Women leaders, public sphere, women in leadership, women empowerment, development, Ghana.



Predictions of land use/land cover change, drivers, and their implications on water availability for irrigation in the Veua catchment, Ghana

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Abstract

Assessment and prediction of land use/land cover change using spatiotemporal data are of great importance for better environmental monitoring, land use planning, and management. Therefore, the objective of this study is to predict LULC change and its driving factors and impact on water availability for irrigation in the Veua catchment, Ghana. CA-Markov model was used to predict land-use changes in 2038 and 2054. Terrset geospatial monitoring and modeling system software was used to run the model. The Relative Importance Index was used to identify major drivers of the LULC change. The results showed an increase in cropland from 181 km² in 2038 to 183 km² in 2054 at the expense of grassland and mixed vegetation/forest, which are expected to decrease from 51-50 km² and 73-71 km², respectively. Population growth and agricultural expansion are among the leading drivers of LULC change in the Veua catchment. The CA-Markov model shows a continued increase in anthropogenic land uses, negatively affecting irrigation water availability and landscape sustainability. These results provide a foundation for sustainable land use governance through responsible planning and management of land and water resources by considering trade-offs between LULC change and water availability for irrigation in the Veua catchment.

Keywords: CA-Markov model, Ghana, Land use/land cover, Land change modeler, Veua catchment



Historical Stains of Colonialism on the Regional Inequality of Education in Northern Ghana: The Implications for Educational Policy and Planning

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Abstract

The inequality of education in Ghana has a historical antecedence which dates to her colonial times. Many scholars have pointed out that the inequality of education can be traced to colonial times where formal education in Africa was unevenly spread in respect of geographical and ethnic dimensions. However, as to how and why the colonialists did not equitably supply education to the then Northern Territories (NT) needs to be covered more in the literature. This paper contributes to what already exists in the literature laying emphasis on the role and *modus operandi* of the colonialists in (re)producing regional educational inequality in Ghana which has become persistent and durable. Drawing from a qualitative design, this paper seeks to throw light on the reasons why and how the northern part of Ghana has lagged in education since her colonial epoch. In terms of methods, data for the research were gathered from key informant interviews with 31 participants through a purposive sampling technique. The study revealed that the colonialists' motive of keeping the then Northern Territories (NT) as a cheap labour reservoir culminated in that geographical area being under-served in the supply of education. However, the paper equally showed that the people of the NT did not readily embrace the then-nascent education that was being introduced to them. This notwithstanding, the paper concludes that colonial policy largely precipitated the regional inequality of education in the then Gold Coast. Overall, the paper calls for deliberate educational policies that will be geared towards bridging the gapping gap between the north and south of Ghana.

Keywords: Regional inequality, colonialism, educational policy, educational planning, northern Ghana.



Threshold effect of environmental taxes and green incentive on globalisation in sustainable switch production: A global panel-data analysis

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Abstract

This study examines the effect of globalisation on sustainable switch production, and how green policy instruments such as environmental taxes, and green incentives can boost output, within the provisions of the double-dividend hypothesis. Employing Arellano-Bover/Blundell-Bond estimator, Cross-sectionally Augmented Auto-regressive Distributed Lag estimator, Method of Moment Quantile Regression estimator, Panel Threshold Regression estimator, and Causal Mediation Analysis, to regress a panel dataset of one hundred and four countries over a twenty-six-year period. The results reveal that there is an adverse association between globalisation and sustainable switch production in the short-run and in the long-run, and across different distributions of production. However, globalisation effect promotes sustainable switch production after a certain threshold is met. The results also reveal that countries that have implemented robust environmental regulations have reduced the adverse effect of globalisation on their sustainable switch production. Given these findings, it is imperative for countries seeking to promote positive environmental behaviour to include environmental taxes and green incentives in their regulatory framework. In addition, to accelerate technology transfer and green investment, the global community must ease restrictions on countries to enable participation in the global market. This study is the first that identifies a complementary policy instrument to environmental taxes within the double-dividend hypothesis and identifies the required threshold for globalisation in sustainable switch production.

Keywords: Threshold effect, environmental taxes, green incentives, sustainable switch production



Work-Life Balance and its Effect on Employee's Performance in the Hospitality Industry in Tamale Metropolis

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Abstract

Employees must be happy with their jobs and working conditions to perform at their best. Work-life balance (WLB) is a crucial component in determining employee satisfaction. WLB is the harmony between commitments to one's employer and other aspects of one's life. The hospitality business is known for being fast-paced and customer-focused, which creates tremendous demands on employees' time, energy, and resources. As a result, the industry places additional importance on the pursuit of WLB. Jobs in the hospitality sector typically involve long hours, inconsistent shift schedules, and dealing with picky clients. Because of the demanding nature of the industry, it can be difficult for workers to strike a healthy balance between their personal and professional lives. The study will assess the effect of WLB on employees' performances in the hospitality industry in the Tamale Metropolis. The study will employ mixed methods research. The study will use both probability and non-probability sampling methods. The target population will be the hotel staff. Structured questionnaires and interview guide will be used as data collection tools in gathering data. The study will target 200 respondents as a sample size. The qualitative data will be analysed using thematic analysis while quantitative data will also be analysed through the help of SPSS software. The research findings will provide ideas and insights on how to develop and promote initiatives to enhance employees' WLB as a tool to improve their performance. Work-Life Balance is a very important issue in the field of human resource management which has a vital impact on employee productivity and performance. Hotel Human Resource Department may offer flexible and remote working. Helping workers to achieve work-life balance is an imperative duty of organisations.

Keywords: Work-life balance, employees performance, hospitality industry, Tamale, Ghana.

Threats of Charcoal Production and Consumption in Ghana on Climate Change

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Abstract

The relevance of charcoal in the energy mix of Africa is undisputed as it is being used by over 2.4 billion people because of its reliability, convenience, accessibility, and price stability. However, its production and consumption affect climate change through the emission of carbon, a greenhouse gas. Although a lot of charcoal is produced and transport out of the Upper West Region for consumption, its quantity has not been assessed to ascertain contribution of its production and consumption to carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_{2e}) emission. This study assessed the quantity of charcoal transported out of the region, origin, destination and the associated CO_{2e}. The quantities were collected from 393 loaded trucks at the Forestry Commission (FC) Revenue check point in Wa for a 74-day period. The data were analysed in excel using the pivot table tool. The results revealed that 165008 mini bags (25kg) of charcoal (4113.9t) were transported out of the region through the Wa-Kumasi highway, with an average of 2230 bags a day. Out of the ten source districts, Sissala West, Jirapa, Wa East, Wa and Lambussie were the main sources, accounting for 95.67%. Out of the 51 source communities, Hain, Wa, Zini, Jeffesi, Gwollu and Samoa were the major source communities, which accounted for 59.28% of the total production. Accra, Kumasi and Obuasi were the main destinations out of 11 cities, receiving 93.13% of the charcoal. The production and consumption of charcoal poses a threat to the CO_{2e} reduction target of closing the 16.0 Gt CO_{2e} gap between the projected emission level and the scenario of keeping global warming below 2°C by 2030. The carbon generated through production of charcoal and consumption could be partly responsible for the slow progress on achieving SDG 13, which enjoins parties to take urgent action to combat climate change. The FC should develop the capacity of charcoal producers to incorporate green business into charcoal production to lessen its adverse effects.

Keywords: Charcoal, charcoal production, climate change, carbon emissions, climate mitigation.



The Reaction of the Group of Twenty (G20) Equity Markets to Economic Policy Uncertainty: Evidence from Wavelet Analysis

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Abstract

Research exploring the nexus between policy uncertainty and the equity markets has mostly used the United States' uncertainty (US EPU) as the benchmark for international policy uncertainty despite the introduction of the global economic policy uncertainty (GEPU) index by Steven & Davies (2016). Consequently, the literature has failed to explain which measure of global uncertainty provides a precise signal to market participants about the stock markets' performance. Moreover, the relationship between policy uncertainty and equity markets is more complex than assumed by previous research. This complexity is posed by the potential reverse causality between domestic and international sources of uncertainty, which emanates from the cross-country spill overs of policy uncertainty. By employing multiple and partial wavelet coherence techniques, with monthly time series data spanning January 1997 to June 2021 from 19 G20 countries, we find that the combined impact of GEPU and DEPU is more significant for developed markets. Markets react more to international shocks than domestic shocks, particularly in developed markets. Emerging markets are relatively more sensitive to domestic uncertainty shocks. We conclude that the equity market and uncertainty relationship is not sensitive to whether we measure international uncertainty as GEPU or US EPU.

Keywords: G20 equity markets, economic policy uncertainty, higher order coherencies, partial wavelet coherency, multiple wavelet coherency, domestic policy uncertainty, international policy uncertainty



Birifors mobility and issues of belonging in the Wa West in the Upper West Region of Ghana

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Abstract

LoBirifor is politically acephalous living in dispersed settlements organized in “Parishes” around the earth’s shrines. Belonging involves the feeling, belief, and expectation that one fits in the group and has a place there, a feeling of acceptance by the group and willingness to sacrifice for the group. The research seeks to examine the historical factors influencing the Birifors mobility, their encounter with other tribes in their present location how they are accepted and how that can be harnessed to promote peaceful co-existence in the Wa West District. The study adopted a phenomenology design. A sample size of 48 was selected using snowball and purposive sampling techniques. Focus Group Discussion Guide and In-depth interview guide were used. The findings indicated that the mobility of the Birifors was driven by search for fertile land for farming, to avoid encounters with invaders and unfair treatment. Also, the Waala as the landowners, the Birifors in Wa West has no right to allodial land ownership but rather land use right, and the youth are compelled to migrate to the southern sector in search of fertile lands for farming. There is growing tension among the youth over who belongs and who does not. Payment of royalties by the Birifors to the Waala chiefs is also often met with strict resistance. Conclusively, there is a brewing tension between the Waala as the landowners and the Birifors on issues of belongingness and who is entitled to the land which can easily escalate into dispute if attention is not drawn to manage it. The Regional House of Chiefs and the District security council and other opinion leaders must ensue discussion aim at averting future confrontation over who belong and who does not in the district.

Keywords: Birifors, mobility, drivers, belonging, peaceful co-existence.




Land Acquisition and Development in Ghana: Documenting the Experiences of Housing Developers in Peri-urban Wa

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Abstract

Land is a critical resource for shelter and livelihood in general, especially in the urban and peri-urban areas, where rental housing is inadequate to meet the needs of the expanding population. Due to inadequate housing in growing cities, people are compelled to provide their own housing – to meet their personal needs. Despite this necessity and motivation, private housing developers face serious challenges in acquiring land and developing their own housing. In the last two decades, Wa, the capital city of the Upper West Region has been experiencing rapid population expansion, but with limited housing provision. This study thus seeks to assess and document the experiences of private housing developers in land acquisition and housing development in peri-urban Wa. Qualitative research approach is used. In-depth interviews are employed in gathering data from land developers, landowners (Tendamba), staff of the land sector agencies and key informants such as contractors. Preliminary findings show that private housing developers are confronted with land disputes, multiple claims to land, double payments for same land, theft of building materials. These have resulted in delays in completing housing construction, increased cost of housing, change of housing designs and in some cases, stalled projects. A sanitized and more secured land tenure arrangement, and stiffer punishments for theft cases in the area would minimize the challenges that land developers face in land acquisition and housing development.

Keywords: Land acquisition, land development, land administration, land documentation, housing development, Ghana.



“Now, it is the tail of the monkey that ties the monkey”: Land conflicts and litigation financing in peri-urban Wa, Ghana

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Abstract

Land and land resources are the lifeblood for every society especially in the developing world, without which the human being is a disembodied spirit. Land resource in many African societies, is an embodiment of varied spiritual, social, cultural, and economic value, and one that is communal and intergenerational. Land ownership in many African societies, especially in the cities and city fringes, is beset with conflicts. In Ghana, the land sector is beset with intractable and endless conflicts and litigation between stools, skins, and other land-owning groups. Within the past two decades, the city of Wa and its fringe communities have been experiencing rapid societal and spatial transformation due to rapid population growth, increasing immigration, and rapid urbanisation and urban sprawl. These developments are influencing land relations leading to numerous land conflicts in the state courts. Whilst much research has been done on the costs of land conflicts resolution, not much work has been done on the financing of these costs. The main objective of this research is, therefore, to examine the various ways parties mobilise and meet the costs of land litigations in the Wa Municipality. The research focuses on inter-clan/family land boundary litigations. The research adopts a qualitative approach. Focus group discussions and in-depth interviews are used in gathering the data, from landowners, chiefs, the customary lands secretariat, staff of the land sector agencies, and the state courts. Preliminary findings show that landowners have limited sources of income in families and friends and are thus compelled to sell the land to save the land. The implication is that landowners eventually “lose” their land in defence of their land and descend into sustained poverty.

Keywords: Land conflicts, land disputes, conflict financing, land litigation, litigation financing, Upper West Region, Ghana.

Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices of Mothers on Umbilical Cord Care: A Cross-Sectional Study at St Joseph's Hospital, Jirapa

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Abstract

Globally, more than 3.3 million neonates die yearly with about 1.0 million resulting from infections. The umbilical cord stump infections are a major contributor to cause of child morbidity and mortality in low- and middle-income countries. The WHO has recommended the use of umbilical cord care practices to reduce the risk of infections in neonates. The study aimed at assessing the knowledge, attitude and practices of mothers on umbilical cord and associated factors at the St Joseph's hospital, Jirapa. A cross-sectional study design was used to recruit 204 mothers with neonates at the St. Joseph hospital. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire and analysed SPSS version 26. Chi-square was used to determined associated factors at $p < 0.05$. Majority of the respondents (96.1%) cleaned the umbilical cord, and mostly (41.7%) three times daily. Knowledge on standard umbilical cord care was good (83.3%) and poor (16.7%) among the mothers. About 85.8% knew that moist umbilical cord leads to infection, and 80.9% have heard about the recommended 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate gel in cleaning umbilical cord. Materials employed in cleaning the cord were methylated spirit (74.5%), water (9.3%) and herbs (8.8%). The method of cleaning was mostly from base of cord before surrounding skin (78.9%). Factors associated with standard care of umbilical cord were mothers age and educational status ($p < 0.05$). The low educated and young mothers should be educated on the recommended umbilical cord practices to prevent infections in neonates from the use of deleterious umbilical care methods.

Keywords: Umbilical cord care, newborn children, knowledge of mothers, newborn care.



Economic Integration and Economic Growth in Africa


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Abstract

From 1992 through 2022, this research investigates the relationship between trade openness, economic growth, financial sector development, and poverty levels in Sub-Saharan African countries. The Panel Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model and the System of Generalised Moments (SYS-GMM) were employed. A robustness test was also carried out. The Panel ARDL model was used for the sensitivity analysis. The findings demonstrated that trade openness, foreign direct investment, and institutional quality all significantly improve long-run economic growth while decreasing short-run economic growth. Furthermore, trade liberalisation, institutional quality, and population growth rate all lead to poverty reduction in the long run, whereas trade openness has negative short-term effects. Furthermore, poverty has no discernible response to trade and GDP shocks. Poverty showed a favourable trend, although it was not statistically significant. Based on these findings, the report proposes that African governments evaluate their poverty reduction strategies to achieve the Sustainable growth and Development.

Keywords: Economic integration, economic growth, African economies, financial sector



The Role of Women in The Sustenance of Tradition in Northern Ghana: Perspectives from the Goro and Nandom Traditional Areas

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Abstract

Traditions exist and are passed down from generation to generation. They are significant for understanding the past, the present and the future. Women are mothers and they nurse humanity from birth to death. Hence, women are critical custodians of tradition as they propagate its existence and sustenance. However, this view has not been adequately articulated in the literature. The study seeks to understand the forms by which women express and transmit tradition, and explores the understanding of nature, and powers, of these forms as well as, the roles they play in the lives of adherents. The study adopted the qualitative research approach and analysed data collected from key informants. Four communities were identified and through the dung-beetle method, other participants were further identified and interviewed using an interview guide. Key informant interviews were held in the selected communities. From the study, it was found that Forms of tradition in the areas of funerals particularly in the identification of close relatives to the deceased, the relationship by which tradition is expressed as in times of a visitor and transmitted as in habitual/repeated presentation of the happenings, were identified. The nature of, and powers of, these forms as well as, the roles women play in the lives of the people were revealed. Also, the perceptions of men with respect to the position of women in the creation, sustenance, and transmission of tradition, were revealed. Suggestion on the revitalization of traditions through engagement with men and women, for people to be well educated as well as the contributions of tradition to development is made. Also, the employment of traditional/indigenous social media in the illustrations of the importance of these traditions is another. Further, policy directives on schools to give indigenous/traditional stories that border on these forms will enlighten participants, and boost the cultural morale and the society at large.

Keyword: Tradition, role of woman, creation of knowledge, sustenance, transmission of stories.



Planning Deficiency or Human Attitude in Secondary Cities in Ghana? A Qualitative Study on Perennial Flood Incidence in the Wa Municipality

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Abstract

The incidence of flooding is a global phenomenon, resulting in devastating consequences across various sectors. The world recorded over 143 major floods incidence, accounting for 43.5% of all deaths from natural disasters in 2019. Current data suggests rising incidence and risks of floods in urban Ghana. Whilst scholars showed interest in investigating the causes of floods in Ghana's southern and middle belts, little attention has been paid to understanding the causes of flood vulnerabilities in the northern belt. This study examines whether the frequency and severity of perennial flood experience in secondary cities is attributable to human attitude or cities' planning deficiency. The study employed a qualitative case study, drawing on key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The participants include officers from the Land Use and Spatial Authority, Municipal Assembly, Lands Commission, Chiefs and Assembly members, and Residents of the Municipality. The data was critically examined and analysed thematically using an inductive coding approach. The study found that the Municipality experience flooding twice every year, usually between the months of August and September annually. The study further revealed urban planning deficiencies result in flooding while acknowledging the attitude of people building houses along waterways. The combination of poor urban planning and human attitude results in perennial floods in the Municipality. We therefore conclude that uncontrolled and unplanned growth, rooted in weak institutional and legal frameworks underlie the incidence of floods in the Wa Municipality. Consequently, we recommend that Municipal Planning Authorities should ensure effective enforcement of development controls to prevent and mitigate the incidence and causes of flood disasters.

Keywords: Planning deficiency, human attitude, secondary cities, Ghanaian cities, perennial floods, incidence of floods, natural disasters.



Mapping social vulnerability and adaptive capacity to floods in the secondary city of Wa, Ghana

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Abstract

The global incidence and severity of flood hazards have increased, resulting in casualties, huge economic and livelihoods losses. Flood vulnerability is higher in developing nations, and most vulnerable city inhabitants typically have low adaptive and recovering capacity. Although scholars have acknowledged vulnerability assessment as central for mitigating, adapting, and coping with floods disasters, these have generally been lacking in Ghana. This study explores social vulnerability and the adaptive capacity to floods in Wa, Upper West Region. The study employed qualitative study approach, using key informant interviews and focus group discussions to collect data. Purposively, five key informants' interviews were conducted. Two focus group discussions were conducted with men and women residents comprising ten participants each. The interviews and discussions were audio-recorded with the consent of participants and then transcribed. The data was analysed thematically using an inductive coding approach. The study found inhabitants and their livelihoods prone to the destructive effects of periodic flooding. The Municipality experiences floods at least twice every year between August and September resulting in the collapse of houses, displacement of inhabitants, destruction of roads, human casualties, and submergence of farm crops. The study further revealed that the affected households take at least a year to recover from the effects of floods, due to their low adaptive capacity. We conclude that the Municipality is socially vulnerable to seasonal floods and that its adaptive capacity to floods is low. Seasonal floods disrupt livelihoods of the urban population and destroy critical socio-economic infrastructure. We recommend that the Wa Municipal Assembly, incorporate floods risk response as part of climate change adaptation planning.

Keywords: Risks mapping, social vulnerability, adaptive capacity, floods, secondary cities.

Teachers' Inclusion of Children with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: An Ethnographic Study in a Preschool in Finland

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Abstract

Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a developmental disorder characterized by developmentally inappropriate and pervasive levels of hyperactivity, inattention, and impulsivity (APA, 2013). It is one of the Special Education Needs (SEN) that inclusive education policy in Finland sought to provide a pedagogical rather than an ideological support in mainstream preschool settings. The study examined Teachers' inclusion of children with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in a preschool in Finland. Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) Theory, and ethnographic design guided the study. Purposive and snowball sampling were used to select a sample size of 10 comprising of 7 teachers and 3 Care Givers of ADHD children for the study. Semi-Structured Interview and Observation guides were used to solicit data. Thematic analysis was used to analyse the data. The findings revealed that individualized seating arrangements; immersion for deep feeling of empathy for children with ADHD; scaffolding; use of progressive muscle stretching exercise and observing break times; use of teaching resources in lessons; adopting positive reinforcement; awareness creation, inquiry-based learning; grouping; and collaborative learning were the inclusive strategies teachers used to manage children with ADHD in preschool classrooms in Finland. These strategies enable teachers and Care Givers not only to identify children with ADHD but offer them SEN supportive services. The study concluded that teachers were conscious of and adopted SEN appropriate pedagogical strategies in mainstreaming ADHD children in preschool classrooms in Finland. The study recommends continuous retraining for preschool teachers in Finland to help them use SEN appropriate strategies.

Keywords: Teachers, inclusion, Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, preschool, Finland.



Differentiated Instruction (DI) in Classrooms: Basic School Teachers' Beliefs and Practices

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Abstract

Researchers and educators have sought to encourage pedagogical approaches that allow all students to develop their knowledge and skills at their own level. This is because studies have shown that the classroom is made up of students with diverse developmental levels, interests and learning styles. Kreitzer (2016) maintained that, Differentiated Instruction (DI) benefits all students as it increases their motivation, encourages active participation, and collaboration as well as meets their learning styles. In Ghana, research shows that teachers struggle to implement differentiated instructional strategies in their teaching practices in basic schools. The purpose of the study was to examine the beliefs and practices that inform basic schoolteachers' decisions to differentiate instruction in the classroom. A descriptive survey design was used for the study. Using the DI Quest instrument, quantitative data was collected from a sample of 60 out of 76 basic schoolteachers from teachers in the School of Education and Life-Long Learning partner schools to examine their beliefs and practices of DI in classrooms. The research findings showed that teachers had a positive growth-oriented mindset towards DI. Teachers invested in different forms of grouping to address individual needs. Also, teachers frequently used formative and summative assessment to get information on the learning processes of their learners and adjust their lessons to satisfy learners' interest and learning needs. However, teachers felt there is lack of autonomy in the curriculum to differentiate their instructions. The findings of this study will inform the Ministry of Education (MOE), Ghana Education Service (GES), and other education stakeholders to evaluate the overall basic school curriculum to consider interventions that promote DI in classrooms. The more teachers feel autonomous when taking curriculum decisions in class, the more they are inclined to adapt their instruction to student interests, readiness and learning profiles.

Keywords: Differentiated Instruction, teaching and learning practices, pedagogy.



Towards a Sanitation Circular Economy: Understanding Barriers in the use of Faecal Sludge as Manure for Farming in Wa, Ghana

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Abstract

In recent years, circular economy for sanitation has emerged as an innovative pathway towards achieving universal access to safely managed sanitation in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC). Circular economy in the context of sanitation involves the provision of toilets, collection of faecal sludge, treatment of faecal sludge and reuse of faecal sludge-derived products like fertilizer, fuel, and clean water. Despite the potential for reuse of faecal sludge as manure for farming in LMIC, it is rarely done. To better inform policies and programmes on the use of faecal sludge as manure for farming, this study explored the barriers involved in the use of faecal sludge as manure for farming in Wa, Ghana. A case study design was adopted in this study to gain in-depth understanding of the issue under investigation. Data were collected through documents review, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with farmers, and In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) with key community members and institutional actors. The results of the study showed that less than 1% of farmers in Wa use faecal sludge as manure for farming. Faecal sludge is mostly emptied from septic tanks with trucks and dislodged in farmlands without any form of treatment. Factors limiting the use of faecal sludge in farming include lack of treatment of faecal sludge, risk of infection and contamination of yield in the use of raw faecal sludge, unpleasant odour, lack of motorable roads to farmlands, inability to offer Islamic prayers in farms due to desecration, risk of polluting water bodies, high cost of faecal sludge and lack of policy/guidelines on the use of faecal sludge for farming. The study recommends an integrated approach in promoting and mainstreaming the use of faecal sludge as manure for farming in national and local development plans, treatment/composting of faecal sludge and training of farmers on safe use of faecal sludge as manure for farming.


Determinants of Leprosy Disease and Self-regulatory Adherence to Leprosy Medication Among Leprosy Patients in the Upper West Region

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Abstract

Leprosy, caused by the *Mycobacterium leprae*, is a chronic disease known for its disfiguring capacity and a threat to public health worldwide. The Upper West Region of Ghana is the most affected region for the past ten years. Understanding of the determinants of the leprosy disease will aid in the control of leprosy in the region. The study, therefore, aimed at determining the factors of leprosy disease, adherence, and a self-explanatory model of adherence to leprosy medications. A case-control study design was employed involving 29 leprosy cases and 71 healthy controls. Morisky scale and the self-regulatory model were employed to determine the adherence to therapy and the explanatory model of adherence to leprosy medication. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire and chi-square employed to determine factors associated with leprosy disease using SPSS software version 26. Significance was set at $p < 0.05$. Of the 29 cases, 89.7% were multibacillary, 10.3% paucibacillary, 37.9% with BCG scar and 72.4% with disability (24.1% Grade II, 48.3% Grade I and 27.6% Grade 0). The determinants of leprosy infection were education about leprosy, the attitude of HCWs and the belief that leprosy is not cured by herbs ($p < 0.05$). About 72.4% of the cases reported being stigmatized. Adherence to leprosy therapy was low (10.3%), moderate (41.4%) and High (48.3%) among the cases. Factors associated with the self-regulatory adherence to therapy included the financial consequences of the disease, the belief that leprosy can be treated, prevention of the negative effect of leprosy, stress and worry about the disease and the belief of one's actions in making the disease worse or better ($p < 0.05$). Education on leprosy is essential in curbing the leprosy disease coupled with addressing stigmatization, the attitude of HCWs and self-regulatory factors to medication adherence to therapy.

Keywords: Leprosy disease, adherence to therapy, self-regulation, leprosy medication, Ghana.



Rural Youth are not Zombies, they have Aspirations too: Re-interpreting Rural Youth Aspirations Under Sociocultural and Global Change in Ghana

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Abstract

Aspirations of youth have long been of interest to youth studies and policy. Yet in exploring the concept, many researchers generally suggest that rural but also disadvantaged youth have low aspirations and suffer aspirations failure. Much of the discourse also discuss aspirations as a cognitive trait which require “raising”. This study explored more deeply, rural Ghanaian youth aspirations given that the existing notions of aspirations, appear less nuanced and deleterious to these youth, who, in recent times, face complex webs of hurdles negotiating pathways towards “the good life”. The study analysed qualitative data elicited from youth (n=48) aged 17-19, parents (n=12) from smallholder farm families, and other relevant stakeholders (n=10) in Nandom, Ghana. Contrary to the extant notion of aspiration poverty/deficits, the study’s findings suggest that the rural youth of Nandom neither have low aspirations nor lack dreams. Not only did the respondents clearly discuss modern lifestyles. Many also expressed strong desires for formal sector jobs with stable salaries, especially in the security and health sectors. Although a few youth respondents appeared ambivalent about what they wanted in life, the analysis suggested that such isolated cases do not support notions that link rural youth with low aspirations—the rural Nandom youth are not zombies. Rather, they are encumbered by blocked opportunities for accessing positive role models, poorly administered educational curricula, and limited access to valuable socio-cultural capitals, all of which weaken their capacity to aspire and ability to achieve. The findings support the need to strengthen the youths’ capacity to aspire—an approach that recasts aspirations as cultural navigational capacity, which essentializes access to a rich repertoire of valuable information and experiences but also the freedom to navigate pathways towards upward social mobility.



Current Account Balance and Monetary Policy Nexus: The Role of Currency Biases from Currency Redenomination Adaptation

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Abstract

The decision for countries to shed zeros from their currency values is a common phenomenon in emerging and transitional economies. Policy implementation and adaptation process result in specific behavioural biases leading to suboptimal financing decisions. These suboptimal decisions sway the economy from the path of equilibrium, thereby creating current account imbalances for an economy. Will implemented monetary policies be effective in addressing the current account imbalances in the presence of these behavioural biases? This study employed the impulse response functions (IRF) and the variance decomposition of the SVAR (Structural Vector Autoregressive) model as empirical strategy and methodology to address the study's research question and objective using annual data which spans from 1980 to 2019. Evidence from the endogenous shocks of the model suggests that the redenomination policy impacted both the current account balances of the Ghanaian economy and the implemented monetary policies. That is, amid redenomination, monetary policy showed a worsened effect on the current account balance of Ghana. This suggests that implemented monetary policies could not achieve the intended target within the study period. This is because most of the implemented monetary policy measures were crafted to target only issues associated with rational assumptions to neglect some of the irrational behaviours discussed in the literature to have accompanied currency reforms like the redenomination policy. Therefore, the study recommends, among other things, that researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders take a critical look at the impact of these biases in the financial markets and deal with it appropriately. Specifically, the effect of these biases on the forex market should be looked at since these biases in the forex market will directly impact the current account balance, leading to the ineffective performance of implemented monetary policies.

Keyword: Current account, account balance, monetary policy, currency biases, currency redenomination, Ghana.



The Impact of Microcredit on Micro-, Small- and Medium-Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Upper West Region: A comparative Study of Commerce and Farmers Under Wa Community Cooperative Credit Union (WACCCU)

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Abstract

Globally, investigations on the impact of micro-financial intermediations on their clients is replete in the body of literature. However, most of these studies are either stand-alone quantitative or qualitative in nature with very little attention to the mixed-methods approach. Again, there is a high incidence of aggregation of their findings and spatially, with a dearth of such works on the Upper West Region of Ghana. The purpose of this study was to delve into the comparative impact that microcredit has made on clients in commerce and small-scale farming with the Wa Community Cooperative Credit Union (WACCCU) as a case. The paper used the sequential explanatory mixed-methods approach in a survey research design. Data were collected using questionnaires from some 804 respondents. Key informant interview guides were also administered to some 12 participants to complement the quantitative data. The propensity score matching technique was used to examine the determinants and impacts of microfinance on enterprise performance. Thematic and narrative approaches were used in analysing the qualitative data. Results show significantly positive impacts of microcredits on enterprise profit with even greater potential for non-client enterprises, with results being robust, plausible, valid, and reliable. However, the results better favour clients in commerce than those in small-scale farming due to such features as seasonality and longer gestation periods in farming enterprises. The study concludes that microfinance, using WACCCU as a case in the Upper West Region, has positively impacted Small- and Medium-Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) performance and has the potential to lift the clients out of poverty. The study recommends MFI-level tailor-made microfinance products to address the peculiar needs of different MSMEs for greater impacts on their businesses.

Keywords: Microcredits, commercial farmers, non-client enterprises, enterprise performances,



Gender Preferences in Representative Democratic Elections in Ghana: A Quantitative Approach

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Abstract

Women's participation in representative democratically elective positions and governance, in general, has been at the forefront of policy in many countries. This study seeks to examine gender preferences in representative democratic elections in Ghana at all levels – presidential, parliamentary, assembly member, and unit committee member elections. The study employed data from the Ghana Living Standards Survey (Round 7). Multinomial Logit Regression was employed in the analysis. For robustness, the Heckman Probit and Binary Probit estimation techniques were applied to the data. The results show that gender preferences in representative democratic elections are higher at the lower levels of elections and lower at the higher levels of elections. That is, the gender preferences of Ghanaian voters increase as one moves through presidential, parliamentary, assembly, and unit committee-level elections. In all the econometric estimations, gender (male/female) is significantly associated with elections at the presidential, parliamentary, assembly member, and unit committee member levels, with male voters preferring male candidates at all levels of elections and vice versa for female voters. Other factors found to be significantly associated with gender preferences in elections at all levels include age, religion, literacy status, rally attendance, and urban location of the prospective voter. The findings are robust to the different estimation techniques employed. The study recommends that policies should aim at diminishing the focus of voters on voting based on the gender of candidates and rather encourage voters to prioritize the experiences and abilities of candidates standing elections. In general, policies aimed at reducing gender preferences in elections should focus on the correlates of gender preferences identified in this study.

Keywords: Gender preference, elections, democratic elections, unit committees, participation, Ghana.



Beyond Security and Reliability of Electricity Towards Sustainable Electricity Systems

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Abstract

Electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa remains limited. At the same time, electricity disruptions for those connected to the centralized electricity provision channels are commonplace with daily unplanned disruptions resulting from accidents as well as periodic extended periods of load-shedding exercises. Consequently, energy policy discourse in the sub-region tends to focus on the goal to universalize electricity access as well as to ensure the security and reliability of supply. Despite recent campaigns for renewable electricity systems, the pressure to universalize access and the need for reliability of supply can sometimes conflict with the agenda for sustainability in energy supply and consumption patterns. At the same time, the focus on reliability and security of the supply of networked services tends to overlook alternatives in electricity provision emanating from unconventional heterogeneous infrastructure systems. Using a qualitative research approach involving literature reviews and document analysis – periodic reports, media reports, - but also drawing on statistical evidence from such reports, this article investigates the impact of security and reliability-focused energy policy on sustainability dimensions of electricity systems in Ghana. It further Investigates the potential for sustainable electricity provision through renewable energy sources and heterogeneous infrastructure systems. Findings from this study indicate that sustainability dimensions of energy systems are largely neglected in favour of realizing accessibility and reliability targets. I, therefore, argue that the overarching focus on security and reliability fails to consider viable alternatives to reaching such goals and thereby also results in sometimes unsustainable outcomes of electricity/energy policy interventions. Thus, calling for reconsideration of policy planning and strategies towards more sustainable outcomes.

Keywords: Electricity, energy policy, security and reliability, sustainability, Ghana



Urbanisation from the Margins: Auto-construction of Urban Spaces for Paratransit Services in Kumasi, Ghana

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Abstract

Ghana's urban informal economy could be the surest resort against unemployment as governments struggle to provide jobs. The sector comprises a variety of micro and small-scale enterprises involving producers, wholesalers, retailers, consumers, and intermediary services. One such intermediary service that has gained prominence is commercial three-wheeler taxi service. While they solve urban mobility challenges and provide employment for a variety of people, studies show that these vehicles create congestion because of the absence of designated spaces to conduct their businesses. However, there is limited literature on how they create urban spaces for their operations. We draw on peripheral urbanisation theory to understand the innovative ways paratransit service operators produce urban spaces to conduct their businesses. Towards understanding how operators produce urban spaces through auto-construction, this study seeks to uncover how the paratransit service providers organize their operations and innovate processes through which they create spaces within the CBD of Kumasi to fit their activities. The purpose of the study is to provide insight for the planning and management of urban spaces within the built environment, with the aim to provide opportunities for livelihoods, while ensuring convenience for operators and other users. Drawing on the qualitative research approach involving 35 purposively selected operators, and three purposively selected relevant stakeholders in Kumasi, Ghana, we aim to understand how these issues play out in creating urban spaces. We used interviews and responses were coded and thematized. Findings indicate that three-wheeler operators create urban space through negotiation and site selection. We conclude that three-wheelers are the surest pathway to creating employment but securing spaces to conduct business is a major challenge. The Metropolitan Assembly should partner with communities, investors, and operators to create spaces for the conduct of business as it can provide a major source of revenue for development projects.

Keywords: Informal sector, urban mobility, global south, unemployment, Ghana.



Out-Of-Pocket Payments for Maternal Health Services Under Ghana's National Health Insurance Scheme: Implications for Universal Health Coverage

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Abstract

Ghana introduced a free maternal healthcare policy in 2008 under its National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to remove financial barriers to accessing maternal healthcare services. However, research indicates that there are still substantial out-of-pocket payments for these services. The purpose of this study is to provide a deeper understanding of the prevalence of out-of-pocket payments for maternal health services, the magnitude, burden, and impact of such payments on maternal health services utilization, health-seeking behaviour and household's wellbeing in the Ashanti and Upper West Regions in Ghana. The study deployed an explanatory sequential mixed methods design. Quantitatively, a sample of 414 maternal mothers was drawn, and a questionnaire was used to collect data, while 22 in-depth interviews were used to collect qualitative data from selected women, health providers, and health administrators. The results of the study show that on average, women pay GHS 246, 163 and 8 for antenatal, delivery, and postnatal services respectively monthly. Women in the Upper West Region were more likely to incur catastrophic health expenditure relative to those in the Ashanti Region. Women with secondary level of education and above were less likely to incur catastrophic health expenditure with reference who had basic education. The qualitative results further show that structural issues such as medicines stock-outs, and delayed reimbursements compel health providers to pass on costs of healthcare to patients. Remarkably, lack of transparency and accountability were also identified for the existence of out-of-pocket payments despite the existence of the free maternal healthcare policy. It is recommended that the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Authority should ensure that health facilities are adequately stocked with medicines and ensure the timely release of funds to health providers.

Keywords: Out-of-pocket payment, maternal health, health insurance, health services, scheme.



Exploring the Return and Reconstruction of the Gonja Division of Kong in the Context of the Notions of Homeland, Belonging, and Identity – 1897 to 1940

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Abstract

In 1897 there were allegations that the Gonja division of Kong had played a key role in the Samori Toure invasion and occupation of western Gonja in 1895. This led to an internal war in which Kong was fiercely defeated. Survivors of the war were forced to migrate to far-flung and nearby regions, where they established settlements. However, much of the population relocated to Mangu, a suburb of Wa, which had long been a Kong diaspora before the 1897 war, to join their kin and were integrated into the Waala society. Kong then descended into ruin and desolation. However, in about 1932 a Kong revival movement began in Mangu, which prompted their return after 35 years to reconstruct the ruined town. This article seeks to address two critical questions: To what extent did the notions of homeland, identity and belonging influence the quest for the return and rebuilding of Kong? How did the political and traditional rights of Kong in Gonja play a significant role in the rebuilding of Kong? The study argues that the concept of homeland, belonging, and identity played a significant role in the decision of the people of the Gonja division of Kong to return from exile and reconstruct their ancestral home. The paper employs the qualitative approach to historical research and draws evidence primarily from primary sources, including ethnographic data, and is supplemented by secondary sources. It asserts that the attempt to rebuild the town was necessary for them to reclaim their political and traditional rights in Gonja. It concludes that in African communities, the discourse on inclusion and exclusion has been informed by issues of land ownership, belonging, and identity, hence, the need for migrants to return to their homeland.

Keywords: Exploring, return, rebuilding, homeland, identity, belonging, Gonja, Kong



Multi-Level Governance and Inclusive Climate-responsive Planning in the Wa Municipality of Ghana

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Abstract

The full realization of inclusive climate-responsive planning will hinge on understanding the critical role of governance. In climate change discourses, multi-level governance mainstreaming is given less attention despite its role in inclusive climate-responsive planning in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) where climate change risks are more acute. More particularly, climate change is a multi-stressor actor with a myriad of impacts on urban systems, cities, and its ecosystems. Multi-level governance approach is thus, holistic and embraces different stakeholders in understanding the causes, impacts and policy requirement for inclusive climate-responsive planning. This study used exploratory research design in understanding multi-level governance and inclusive climate-responsive planning in the Wa Municipality. It reviewed three-planning and climate action documents as the first point of understanding the levels of governance and collaboration in climate action planning. To validate the findings from the reviews, 24 in-depth interviews were conducted across selected planners and climate action practitioners. The paper finds limited horizontal and vertical coordination and lack of political will as the bane of multi-level climate governance. Although the respondents recognized the role of multi-level governance for inclusive climate-responsive planning, none of the documents reviewed attempted to actualize it. This is because limited fiscal decentralization, poor inter and intra agency coordination and limited political will hinder the efforts of local government actors. The paper argues that inclusive climate-responsive planning can be enhanced through complementary climate action discourses across agencies and departments among the local government actors.

Keywords: Governance, decentralised governance, central government, climate planning, inclusive planning,



Exploring the Triggers of Organizational Politics in Upper Denkyira East Municipal Assembly (UDEMA)

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Abstract

Organizational politics is something most people recognize when they see it in action but find it difficult to define. Organizational politics has been viewed mostly as bad. However, organizational politics is not necessarily a bad thing, and it is undoubtedly not avoidable. In contemporary workplaces, organizational politics has always been a part of its processes. Its struggle over scarce resources, the tensions that emerge if a crucial change is required, and the presence of diverse interests between employees represent a perfect prey for organizational politics to exist. Therefore, this study sought to examine how organizational politics affects employee performance, the causes of organizational politics, its effects on employee performance, and the preventive and management strategies within the Upper Denkyira East Municipal Assembly. The study was conducted using a mixed-method approach. 100 respondents were selected for the study using simple random sampling. Whiles purposive sampling was used to interview key informants from the study area: that's the Municipal Chief Executive, the deputy and Municipal information Officer with an interview guide. Key findings indicated that, indeed, organizational politics could both be constructive and dangerous to employee performance and the organization. The results also showed that resource scarcity was the leading cause of organizational politics within the study area. The study concludes that, as personal goals remain matched with the organizational objectives, it can increase employee's performance. The study recommends that, there is the need to fairly distribute scarce resources to promote the organization's equity and justice. Further, it is recommended that open and participatory decision-making be promoted in the organisation to curtail organisational politics.

Keywords: Organizational politics, employee performance, personal goals, organisational



Philosophical Underpinnings for Investigating Microfinancing in the Upper West Region: The Case of Wa Community Cooperative Credit Union (WACCCU)

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Abstract

Every research has a philosophical leaning. The philosophy adopted in a particular research work depends on the researcher's disciplinary background but more importantly the subject matter or content of the investigation in question. At the outset of research, the philosophy of research was taken very seriously to the extent that it almost polarized society. In recent times, however, due to the emergence of several disciplines, the philosophy of research is being de-emphasized even in the social sciences leading to its misunderstanding, lack of application and/or misapplication. This study explores research articles in microfinance and digital financial services to dig into the extent to which research philosophies have been applied to research in this field and to make a case for what should be its ideal research philosophy. The article adopted a cross-sectional research design for both the literature section, for secondary information and for the primary research. It employed a purely qualitative approach, though it surveyed articles from the other two approaches as well. Data were gathered from secondary and primary sources using data extraction sheets and interview guides/schedules respectively. The article merged content and thematic analytical approaches to achieve its purpose. The results show that the majority of the articles in the field of microfinance and digital financial services ignored the importance of research philosophy while a large portion of those which used them also misapplied them. The author has concluded that though the specific focus of each study in the field of microfinance and digital financial services determines the research philosophy to adopt, given the nature of the field where both quantitative and qualitative variables interplay to produce results, the most appropriate research philosophy for investigating the field should be pragmatism. This way, the field will play its development role more meaningfully and holistically.

Keywords: Financial services, digital finance, philosophical underpinnings, enterprise performances, microfinance, WACCCU



Resolving Ghana's sovereign debt crisis

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an exploratory study on debt sustainability and the role of debt restructuring in economic development. Through comparative analysis of external debt stocks, debt service to revenue and foreign income ratios over time, the study highlights the correlation between debt, development and multilateral debt restructuring schemes. Among others, the data suggests that high past and present sovereign debt is a hindrance to economic growth, where all things equal, the higher the debt stock, the lower aggregate economic performance. Moreover, sovereign debt restructuring mechanisms while offering relief on one hand, push more loans on the other hand and keep developing countries in a perpetual debt trap. Given that Ghana has not successfully graduated from any of the debt relief experiments, the study argues that alternative configurations of sovereign debt require fresh thinking and stepping out of the Fund/Bank programmes. Among others, a pan-African instrument for debt financing, debtor coalitions and the unconditional cancellation of debts, with prudent management and new financing streams provide hope over the existing paradigm.

Keywords: Debt restructuring initiatives; Sovereign debt crisis; Ghana.



Effects of Comorbidity on Stroke Severity among Patients on Stroke Rehabilitation in Northern Ghana

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Abstract

The aim of this research was to employ an illness-to-death model that will enable us to observe some effects of comorbidity on the transition intensities of patients during rehabilitation at the Tamale Teaching Hospital at discrete points in time. Several reviews of the literature on stroke studies in many research works revealed that very few articles estimated the possible hazard rates of transiting from one disease state to another. To fill this gap, we employed the continuous time Markov model (CTMC) in multi-state models (MSM) to observe the transition rates of the patients at two monthly intervals for two years. The main patient variable is *comorbidity type (hypertension and diabetes)*. Results from our study revealed that a patient with a mild stroke will remain in this state for about 10 months ($1/0.1963$) before recovery (0.0806) and will never become severe (0) before death (0.0681) if the patient adheres to treatment. Also, patients with severe strokes are more likely to die (0.08221) than patients with moderate (0.0003492) or mild strokes (0.05809). Also, patients free from comorbidity contributed to early recovery in all states. These findings suggest that patients with one or more comorbidities are associated with worse functional outcomes. Further research should be carried out to include more comorbidity factors in stroke rehabilitation studies.



An Assessment of the Effect of Indiscipline on the Academic Performance Of Senior High School Students and Teachers in the Wa Municipality of the Upper West Region – Ghana

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Abstract

This study set out to determine how indiscipline affected senior high school students and teachers' academic performance in the Wa municipality. Wa Senior High School, Wa Senior High Technical School, Islamic Senior High School, and T.I. Ahmadiyya Senior High School were the four in the Wa Municipality that were the subject of this descriptive study. The reasons, effects, and methods for handling students' indiscipline were also examined in the study. A sample size of 154 respondents was employed. A questionnaire and an interview guide were the tools utilised to gather the data. The interview guide for housemasters, senior housemasters, and guidance and counselling coordinators comprised three sections with 22 items, while the questionnaire had five sections with 55 items for students and 57 items for teachers. Statistical Product for Service Solutions (SPSS) was used to analyse the data and create frequency distributions, pie charts, and bar charts. Ten of the 50 teachers were purposefully chosen to guarantee that housemasters, senior housemasters, guidance and counselling coordinators, and other individuals who are directly involved in upholding discipline in the various schools were included. The remaining 40 teachers and students were chosen using a random selection approach. Data for the study was gathered using pre-designed questionnaires and an interview guide. Frequencies, percentages, bar charts, and pie charts were used to illustrate the data in order to compare and characterise the views of teachers and students regarding issues related to indiscipline. The study's findings demonstrated that allowing seniors in high school to participate in the formulation of policies and procedures can enhance discipline. Finally, enhanced guidance and counselling services accessibility can help improve discipline in the Wa municipality. Organising sports and other co-curriculum activities with teachers acting professionally could also reduce indiscipline.

Keywords: Senior High Schools, Academic Performance, Indiscipline, Wa



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