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RESEARCH FOR POLICY: STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE-INFORMED
POLICYMAKING FOR GHANA'S DEVELOPMENT

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A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



Research lies at the heart of human progress. It transforms lives, strengthens businesses, advances science and technology, and builds stronger communities. At UBIDS, this conviction shapes our mission, which we pursue through rigorous research and platforms such as our Annual Research and Development Conference.

This year's theme, Research for Policy: Strengthening Evidence-Informed Policymaking for Ghana's Development, speaks directly to that mission. It reminds us that research earns its full value when it informs the decisions that shape our country. Evidence should guide policy, and policy should be answerable to evidence.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the Directorate of Research and the entire Organising Committee for bringing the 6th UBIDS Research and Development Conference to life. It is a testament to our commitment to a strong research culture built on collaboration and the sharing of knowledge.

To all participants, I offer a simple charge. Build on the feedback you have received, deepen your engagement with policy, and continue contributing to scholarly discourse that advances our society.

Professor Emmanuel Kanchebe Derbile
(Vice-Chancellor, UBIDS)

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH (DoR)



On behalf of the Organising Committee, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who presented at the 2026 UBIDS Research and Development Conference, whether your paper was a completed work or a work in progress. Your participation strengthens the research culture we are building, one grounded in collaboration and the open sharing of knowledge.

The papers showcased this year were of commendable quality and in line with the theme. I encourage authors to use the feedback received to refine their work for publication in our institutional journals and other credible outlets of their choice. We look forward to receiving your abstracts for the next UBIDS Research and Development Conference.

Professor Frederick Dayour

(Director, DoR)

EDITORIAL NOTE

It was a great pleasure to welcome you at the 6th Annual Research and Development Conference, which took place in Wa from September 23–25, 2026. Over the years, this conference has attracted growing interest from academics, students, and development practitioners both within Ghana and internationally. This year was no exception, as we received an impressive total of 165 abstract submissions. Each abstract underwent a review process, and after careful evaluation, 140 were accepted. At the close of the conference registration deadline, 119 abstracts were confirmed for presentation. However, 89 abstracts were presented at the end of the conference. These 89 abstracts, representing diverse areas of inquiry, are included in this Book of Abstracts.

The abstracts presented at this conference covered a wide range of topics within the overarching theme. They include the following: Economic Governance and Macroeconomic Policy (SDG 8, 10), Agricultural Transformation and Food Security (SDG 1, 2, 13), Energy, Extractives, and Natural Resource Governance (SDG 7, 12, 13), Strengthening Infrastructure, Transport, and Housing Policies through Evidence (SDG 9, 11, 13), Educational Policy and Systems Transformation (SDG 4), Health Governance and Evidence-Informed Policy (SDG 3, 10, 13), Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action (SDG 12, 13, 15), Social Protection and Inclusive Development (SDG 1, 5, 10), Digital Transformation, Resilience and Innovation (SDG 9), Tourism, Creative Economy, and Cultural Heritage Development (SDG 8, 12) and all other related areas of research within Social Sciences and Humanities.

To ensure smooth proceedings, about 35 parallel sessions were scheduled between September 24 and 25, 2026, where authors presented their research work. A subject expert chaired each session. The abstracts in this volume examined pathways for strengthening the research-policy-practice nexus in Ghana with special focus on the SDGs. One hundred and twenty-five (125) participants registered for the conference, and we are grateful for their engagement and contributions. On behalf of the editorial team, we would like to extend our gratitude to all the authors for their insightful submissions, as well as to the reviewers for their valuable feedback.

Editors:

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NGOs Driving Community Empowerment for Food Security in Ghana: A Case Study of World Vision International in the Jirapa Municipality, Upper West Region

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Abstract

Food insecurity and poverty remain major challenges in rural Ghana, particularly in the Upper West Region. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have increasingly focused on community empowerment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). This study examines how World Vision International enhances food security in Jirapa Municipality through livelihood support, capacity building, and climate-smart agricultural interventions. The research investigates how World Vision International, as a key non-state actor, contributes to addressing these challenges through targeted interventions in areas such as economic empowerment, food security, healthcare, education, and community resilience. Guided by the human development and capability approach, the research adopted a case study research design, including semi-structured interviews with World Vision International staff, community leaders, and beneficiaries and content analysis of World Vision International reports and policy documents. This approach enables a comprehensive understanding of the strategies, outcomes, and limitations of World Vision International-led initiatives. Findings revealed that World Vision International has made substantial contributions to food security by microfinance and economic empowerment projects, agricultural development and food security initiatives, implementing nutrition-focused projects targeting malnutrition, food support during drought seasons, supporting children's education through interventions that address food security, recognising the link between nutrition and educational outcomes, community capacity-building activities, governance capacity-building and facilitating grassroots participation in food security projects. Their work complements state efforts and fills critical service delivery gaps, particularly in hard-to-reach communities. However, the study also identifies challenges such as resource constraints, weak coordination with governmental agencies, and sustainability concerns of World Vision International interventions. The study concludes that while NGOs like World Vision International are instrumental in promoting food security in the Jirapa Municipality in the Upper West Region, enhanced collaboration with government institutions and community stakeholders is vital for maximising impact. It recommends policy support for stronger NGO-government partnerships, capacity-building at the local level, and more context-specific, inclusive programming. This research contributes to the broader discourse on food security and human security by highlighting the importance of locally responsive and collaborative approaches in fragile and underserved contexts.

Keywords: Food Security, Human Security, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community Development, Vulnerability and Service Delivery.

The Influence of Technology on Democratic Governance in Ghana: Opportunities and Challenges for the Upper West Region

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Abstract

This study provides a comprehensive examination of technology's influence on democracy and governance in Ghana, with particular emphasis on the Upper West Region. Over the past three decades, Ghana's democratic consolidation has coincided with rapid technological transformation, including biometric electoral systems, digital public administration platforms, social media engagement, mobile money services, and e-governance reforms. While technology has enhanced electoral transparency, administrative efficiency, public accountability, and civic participation, it has simultaneously introduced new risks such as misinformation, cyber insecurity, political polarization, and deepening digital inequality. Drawing on digital democracy theory and good governance frameworks, this research adopts a qualitative methodology relying on documentary analysis, policy reviews, institutional reports, and secondary empirical literature. The findings reveal that technology has strengthened democratic institutions nationally, particularly through reforms implemented by the Electoral Commission of Ghana and the National Identification Authority. However, regional disparities, especially in the Upper West Region, limit the inclusive realisation of digital democracy. The study concludes that technology is both an enabler and a disruptor of democratic governance. Sustainable democratic deepening requires targeted rural broadband expansion, digital literacy programmes, institutional capacity strengthening, and regulatory safeguards against misinformation and cyber threats, consistent with the infrastructure and innovation objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 9.

Keywords: Technology, Democracy, Governance, Digital Divide, E-Governance, SDG 9

Spatial Pattern of Flood Proneness and Underlying Exposures in a Secondary City of Ghana

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Abstract

Flood is a major environmental and urban management challenge in many Ghanaian cities. Although several studies in Ghana have examined flood risk and vulnerability, most existing studies have focused largely on primary cities to the neglect of secondary cities. Furthermore, they mainly emphasised the spatial drivers of floods, with limited attention to socioeconomic and governance-related exposures. This study addresses this gap by examining the spatial distribution of flood proneness and the associated spatial, socioeconomic, and governance-related exposures within the context of a Ghanaian secondary city, using Wa as a case study. Data was collected through a household survey, field observations and participatory mapping with experts and community leaders. From the results, about 21.1% (1,130 ha) of the city was moderately-to-highly flood prone. Spatial factors such as low elevation, poor drainage quality, physical obstructions to waterways, and high rainfall intensity were associated with moderate-to-high flood prone conditions. Socioeconomically, household heads with low formal educational attainment, non-farming households, households with heads aged 60 years +, and male-headed households were significantly associated with moderate-to-high flood prone conditions. The spatial and socioeconomic exposures are further exacerbated by poor urban governance issues such as weak enforcement of planning regulations, outdated planning schemes, customary land tenure systems and political interference. The study concludes that the interaction between spatial conditions, urban governance challenges, and household socioeconomic characteristics shapes flood proneness in Wa. To enhance flood resilience in Wa and other rapidly urbanising secondary cities in sub-Saharan Africa, the study, among others, recommends the strengthening of development control, periodic revision of planning schemes, improvement in drainage management and socioeconomic empowerment of households.

Keywords: flood; flood proneness; participatory mapping; mixed-methods; Ghana

Employee Appraisal Systems and Job Satisfaction in Public Sector Organisations in the Bono Region, Ghana

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Abstract

Employee appraisal is often treated as a routine administrative requirement, yet employees rarely experience it as such. In practice, appraisal can affirm effort, clarify expectations, and strengthen supervisor-subordinate relationships, but it can also generate frustration when perceived as unfair or disconnected from recognition and rewards. This study examines how employee appraisal influences job satisfaction in public sector organisations in Ghana's Bono Region. It adopts an explanatory sequential mixed methods design grounded in pragmatism, combining a quantitative survey with six focus group discussions to capture measurable relationships and employees lived experiences. The quantitative strand used a sample of 444, and quantitative data were analysed using multiple and ordinal logistic regression. Results indicate that employee appraisal significantly affects job satisfaction, emphasizing that effectiveness depends not merely on the existence of appraisal systems but on their design and implementation. Appraiser competence ($B = .205, \beta = .220, p < .001$), transparency and fairness ($B = .139, \beta = .158, p = .007$), and employees' understanding of appraisal criteria ($B = .211, \beta = .226, p < .001$) were significant predictors, and the ordinal logistic model improved prediction over the intercept-only model. Qualitative findings reinforced these results, showing higher satisfaction when appraisal was participatory, objective, transparent, and linked to staff development and recognition. Overall, the study concludes that appraisal enhances job satisfaction when it functions as a credible developmental process rather than a bureaucratic exercise. It recommends that policy makers standardise and enforce fair, transparent appraisal guidelines across public institutions and link appraisal results to promotion, recognition, training, and performance-based rewards.

Keywords: Appraisal fairness; Appraiser competence; Clarity of appraisal criteria; Performance feedback.

Ghana-Turkey Relations: Prospects and Challenges - A Systematic Integrated Review

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Abstract

Ghana-Turkey bilateral relations have evolved significantly since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1958, the year after independence. This paper employs a Systematic Integrated Review (SIR) methodology to examine the prospects and challenges of the relationship across diplomacy, trade and investment, education and cultural cooperation, security, and development assistance. Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar were searched alongside policy documents, embassy communiques, and UN Comtrade statistics for the period 2010-2025; after screening against predefined inclusion criteria, 45 sources were retained for synthesis. The findings show that although trade has grown from USD 479 million in 2016 to USD 771 million in 2020 and USD 888 million in 2023, the relationship remains structurally asymmetric. Comtrade figures for 2024 record Turkish exports to Ghana at USD 401 million and Ghanaian exports to Turkey at USD 173 million, with Ghana supplying cocoa and precious metals while Turkey supplies cereal preparations, machinery, and iron and steel. Free Trade Agreement negotiations remain ongoing, and Ghana is listed among Turkey's priority African markets, while Turkish soft power instruments including TIKA, the Maarif Foundation, and the Yunus Emre Institute, together with Ghana's importance as a West African anchor state, present prospects for deepening ties. Trade imbalances, limited services exchange, visa barriers, institutional capacity gaps, and dependency risks nonetheless require targeted policy attention. The paper contributes by specifying the sectoral mechanisms through which this asymmetry is reproduced, rather than describing Turkish engagement in Africa in aggregate. It concludes by proposing a rebalanced partnership framework.

Keywords: Ghana-Turkey relations; South-South cooperation; bilateral trade; Turkish foreign policy in Africa; soft power

Alternative Situated Gendered Discourses and the Constitution of Power and Wealth in the Waala Sociopolitical Organisation in Northwestern Ghana

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Abstract

Since the nineteenth century, anthropological studies of African social organisations have asserted male dominance, particularly within kinship systems, in decision-making domains of power and resource allocation between men and women. The avalanche of research in the fields of gender studies, sociology, and international development studies reproducing the western-centric, taken-for-granted, narrow claims of male dominance and patriarchal nature of African social organisations is not uncommon. Largely, studies on African social systems centre on succession regimes, traditional political systems, and power relations to classify such societies as patriarchal and male dominated. These studies pay little attention to situated discourses of wealth distribution, solidarity, social relations of knowledge, power, resource allocation and security constituting African societies. This study examines the situated gendered discourses constituting relations of power and resource allocation in Waala social organisation in northwestern Ghana. The study adopts discourse theory, focussing on the situated concepts of matrilineage—*mabiilung*, patrilineage—*babiilung*, and discourse—*Lasiri* as analytical frameworks: for first, to problematise the Western-centric narratives of gendered power relations in African societies, and second, to interpret and understand gender power relations in Waala social organisation. Specifically, the study explores how alternative situated gendered discourses constitute power, wealth and resource allocation in Waala society. Methodologically, the study draws on qualitative data from focus group discussions on *lasiri* as a discourse in Waala society that constitutes social relations, knowledge, and power relations. Drawing on the accounts of *Pognamine* (Queen Mothers), and *Namine* (Chiefs) from four palaces (*Wa-naa*, *Dorimon-naa*, *Wechiau-naa* and *Bulenga-naa*), the study reveals that succession to traditional political power in the institution of chieftaincy is constituted by patrilineal discourse—*babiilung*, whereas wealth is constituted by matrilineal discourse—*mabiilung*. Also, the study found a regime of trust, solidarity and relational security among members of the matrilineage. Consequently, the study concludes that gendered power relations, and control of wealth and resources, when examined through situated gendered discourses, provide a better understanding of gendered power relations and wealth distribution in African societies.

Keywords: Situated discourse, Waala social organisation; Gender power relation; Power; *Lasiri*

Assessing the Knowledge and Motivations Among Rural and Urban Insect Consumers' Populations in Northwest Ghana

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Abstract

Insect eating continues to attract global attention as a sustainable climate-smart food system for humans and livestock, yet the knowledge and motivations driving consumption remain under investigated. The study analysed the effect of knowledge and motivation on insect-eating among rural and urban households in northwest Ghana. A cross-sectional survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews among 743 household heads using multistage sampling techniques. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics, t-test, ANOVA, and Tukey's test in Stata version 14. Rural consumers expressed significantly higher mean knowledge scores that insects are cultural food ($p = 0.00$), an alternative protein source ($p = 0.00$) and support environmental health ($p = 0.00$) compared to urban consumers. Men showed significant knowledge that insects are cultural food ($p = 0.00$), contain high nutrients ($p = 0.00$) and support environmental health ($p = 0.00$) compared to women. Respondents who had a tertiary education showed significantly higher knowledge that insect-eating supports environmental health. Rural consumers demonstrated significantly higher curiosity ($p = 0.00$) and encouragement from friends and family ($p = 0.00$) to eat insects compared to urban consumers. Christian respondents revealed significantly higher curiosity ($p = 0.01$) to eat insects compared to other religious believers. The findings imply that knowledge of insects as cultural food, nutrient quality, environmental benefits, and as an alternative protein is widespread among rural households and male consumers. Also, curiosity motivated Christians to eat insects. Therefore, targeted interventions in urban areas, female consumers and non-Christians may enhance the use of insects for sustainable food practices.

Keywords: Entomophagy; Food systems; edible insects, Ghana.

Ectoparasites Infestation in Chickens, Characterisation and Management Practices in Urban Wa, Ghana

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Abstract

Ectoparasites infestation poses a significant threat to poultry production. This study investigated farmer-reported ectoparasites infestation in urban Wa using a cross-sectional survey to collect data systematically from 381 household's backyard chicken keepers, with emphasis on breed, age, sex, flock size, production and management practices. Thirty i-Trap® II were also installed randomly to validate the farmers' report. Descriptive statistics, Fisher Exact Test and Cramer's V were used to analyse the data in Stata 14. The overall ectoparasites infestation prevalence (92.0%) was high in backyard chickens regardless of breed, age, sex, flock size, production system and management practices. Sex (Cramer's V = 0.04, p = 0.02), flock size (Cramer's V = 0.01, p = 0.01), production system (Cramer's V = 0.01, p = 0.01) and carcass disposal method (Cramer's V = 0.03, p = 0.05) significantly influenced ectoparasites infestation. Eighty percent (86.67%) of i-Trap® II installations confirmed the presence of ectoparasites. These findings suggest strong farmer awareness of infestation patterns highlighting the need for improved housing, safer disposal methods for dead chickens and effective ectoparasites control. The study recommends farmer training and use of i-Trap® II as non-chemical control practice for ectoparasites to enhance poultry production and ensure environmental health.

Keywords: Backyard poultry; ectoparasites; i-Trap® II, Ghana

Urbanisation and Green Space Dynamics in the Wa Municipality

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Abstract

Urban green spaces (UGS) are essential for ecological balance and climate management. The degradation of urban green spaces (UGS) attributable to urbanization is jeopardising public health in sub-Saharan Africa. Despite this concern, data on the effects of urbanisation on urban green spaces seem to be insufficient. In view of this, examining the effects of urbanisation on urban green spaces in the Wa Municipality will fill the knowledge gaps in literature by providing information on the subject matter in the Wa Municipality and Ghana as a whole. This study is motivated by its alignment with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and Aspiration 1 of Agenda 2063. The study employed a convergent parallel mixed methods approach, together with geospatial analysis such as Landsat imagery from 2004 to 2024. The findings from the study indicate that the drivers of urbanisation in the Wa Municipality are educational institutions, job opportunities, health services, rural-urban migration, housing and amenities, and government policy. The study also shows that the Wa Municipality's land use and land cover have significantly changed over the years. Between 2004 and 2024 grass and shrubs were transformed into built-up areas (1552 hectares), open woods (3,654.18 hectares), and croplands (11,493.36 hectares). Conversions from open forest (77.85 hectares), grass/shrubs (129.33 hectares), and agricultural lands (97.29 hectares) resulted in an increase in built-up areas due to uncontrolled peri-urban sprawl, commercial expansion, and population growth. The study revealed a 42% decrease in the overall area of urban green spaces, including private fallow lands, riparian zones, community parks, and residual forests. The study calls for the immediate development of a municipal green space strategy by the Wa Municipal Assembly in collaboration with the Forestry Commission and Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA) that combines urban growth with the preservation of important ecological zones, encouraging the greening of private courtyards, and establishing a framework for participatory monitoring involving local communities and traditional authorities.

Keywords: Urbanisation; urban green spaces; ecological resilience; public health; drivers of urbanization.

Migration Dynamics in Ghana: Patterns from Small and Medium Towns to Urban Centers

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Abstract

Ghana's urban transition is increasingly propelled not only by movement from remote rural villages to primate cities but also by a denser, less-studied flow between small and medium towns and larger urban centers. This paper synthesises existing evidence on this pattern using a Systematic Integrated Review (SIR) approach, which combines the transparency and search rigor of systematic reviewing with the interpretive depth of narrative synthesis. Drawing on peer-reviewed studies and on published tabulations from the 2021 Population and Housing Census and its Thematic Report on Migration (Ghana Statistical Service, 2023), the review examines the scale, direction, drivers, and consequences of migration from Ghana's small and medium towns to metropolitan and regional capitals. Census evidence that roughly one in three Ghanaians is an internal migrant, and that ten of the sixteen regions record net migration losses, points to a redistribution wider than the north–south, rural-to-Accra corridor that dominates the literature. Findings indicate that employment and income differentials are the dominant driver, amplified by uneven educational access, transport connectivity, and social networks that lower the cost of onward movement. These flows reshape origin communities through land-use change and shifting household livelihoods, and destination towns through peri-urban sprawl and rising service demand. The paper argues that migration policy in Ghana has been framed predominantly around rural-to-primate-city flows and international migration, leaving the intermediate tier of small and medium towns under-theorized and under-served by planning frameworks. It concludes by drawing implications for the National Urban Policy and for the medium-term development plans of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, and identifying priority areas for further empirical research.

Keywords: Internal migration; Small and medium towns; Urbanisation; Secondary cities; Systematic integrated review; Ghana

Beyond Flexibility: Institutional Failures and Employee Well-Being in Senior High School Kitchens in North-Western Ghana

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Abstract

Senior High Schools' kitchen workers in emerging economies face acute work-life conflicts, yet research rarely examines how these challenges intersect with performance in resource-constrained settings. This study critically examines the relationship between WLB and employee performance within the Senior High Schools' Kitchen in North-Western Ghana. Using a concurrent mixed-methods approach, the research surveyed 205 Senior High School kitchen workers and conducted twelve in-depth interviews across operational hierarchies. Guided by the Job Demands-Resources (JD-R) model and Spillover Theory, the study assessed employee satisfaction with WLB, identified barriers to its attainment, and evaluated how socio-demographic characteristics intersect with WLB and performance outcomes. As guided by the Job Demands-Resources (JD-R) model and Spillover Theory, the study extends existing assertions by showing how institutional failures serve as antecedents to job demands and resource deficits, thereby generating work-life conflict and emotional exhaustion that undermine employee performance. Results reveal alarmingly low satisfaction with WLB among workers, driven by long hours, unpredictable shifts, job insecurity, and insufficient institutional support. These conditions significantly undermine employee output, engagement, and retention. Notably, socio-demographic variables such as age, marital status, and job designation were found to influence the WLB-performance nexus. The study advocates for context-specific WLB policy interventions, emphasising flexible scheduling, staffing optimization, and psychosocial support. In situating the findings within broader discourses on labor precarity in emerging economies, the paper contributes to global conversations on sustainable workforce management among Senior High School kitchen staff.

Keywords: Work-Life Balance; Kitchen Workers; Performance; Employee; Satisfaction

Localising Energy Sustainability in Urban Ghana: The Role of Hotels Toward Cleaner Energy for Cooking in Wa

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Abstract

The hotel sector is crucial to the economy of Wa Municipality, Ghana, following the key services it provides. Yet its dependence on traditional biomass fuels undermines efforts to advance sustainable clean energy under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The study explored the types and sources of energy used for cooking in hotels within Wa Municipality, as well as the driving factors behind these energy choices. Anchored on the Theory of Planned Behaviour and constructivists' philosophy, a qualitative methodology was adopted for the study. The study employed non-participant observations with semi-structured interviews to gather data on the typologies of energy for cooking and the associated influencing factors from hotel managers (n=10) and chefs (n=20), who were selected respectively through purposive and convenience sampling techniques. The results indicate a significant reliance on unsustainable energy sources, while sustainable options like solar and biogas are available but are often limited by high initial costs, insufficient awareness, and technological challenges. The study highlights the necessity of encouraging sustainable energy practices in hotels to reduce environmental harm and improve energy efficiency, as SDG 7 proposes. It further suggests policy recommendations, including incentives and educational initiatives, for the Energy Commission to promote the adoption of sustainable energy solutions in the hospitality industry in Wa Municipality and beyond.

Keywords: Energy Sustainability, clean energy, Hotels, Theory of Planned Behaviour, Ghana

Integrity Assessment of the Public Procurement Act as a Regulatory Policy Against Corruption in Ghana

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Abstract

The Public Procurement (Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act 914) was introduced to strengthen transparency, accountability, and integrity in public contracting in Ghana. Despite these reforms, procurement irregularities and corruption remain persistent, raising concerns about the effectiveness of procurement governance and its national development implications. In this regard, the study critically examines the nature, persistence, and developmental consequences of procurement irregularities within Ghana's decentralised governance system. Adopting a qualitative documentary and analytical review design, the study draws on secondary data from Auditor-General reports spanning the period 2015–2024. Through content analysis, the research identifies recurring procurement breaches, fiscal implications, and institutional and behavioural dynamics sustaining procurement irregularities. Findings reveal cumulative procurement-related financial losses exceeding GH¢21.1 million, with irregularities intensifying during election and mass flagship projects rollout periods, fiscal constraints, and weak regulatory enforcement. The study identifies politically influenced contract awards, retrospective tendering, procurement threshold manipulation, abuse of sole sourcing, and circumvention of digital financial systems as major mechanisms undermining procurement integrity. Beyond financial losses, these practices result in ghost infrastructure, reduce the quality of public services, distort market competition, and weaken citizen trust in public institutions. The study argues that procedural compliance alone is inadequate in contexts where patronage networks, informal political influence, and elite capture shape procurement decisions. Consequently, it advocates a shift from narrow compliance-based reforms toward integrity-centred governance mechanisms. The study proposes stricter enforcement of punitive-sanctions, automated bid vetting, functional separation of procurement responsibilities, enhance social accountability, and the amendment of the Act to include sanctions. The study advances scholarship of procurement integrity by situating procurement irregularities within broader governance and development challenges in Ghana.

Key Words: Public procurement Act; Procurement irregularities; procurement integrity; Auditor-General report; Decentralised governance, Ghana.

Institutional Drivers of Environmental Policy Failure in Ghana's Forest Reserves: A systematic Literature Review of Mining Prohibitions

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Abstract

Ghana's forest reserves face mounting pressure from illegal gold mining, locally called *galamsey*, despite formal prohibitions codified in national law. The gap between written conservation rules and on-the-ground compliance reflects institutional failure rather than legal inadequacy, yet no prior systematic synthesis has examined the specific institutional mechanisms through which mining prohibitions break down within declared forest reserves. This review addresses that gap. The study systematically reviewed peer-reviewed journal articles, theses, policy documents, and grey literature retrieved from five databases: Semantic Scholar, OpenAlex, Scopus, Web of Science, and the African Journals Online (AJOL). Following PRISMA 2020 guidelines, dual independent screening, full-text appraisal, and quality assessment produced a final corpus of 19 studies. Thematic synthesis was conducted following Thomas and Harden's (2008) three-stage approach, with confidence in each theme assessed. Six institutional themes explain prohibition failure across the corpus. Enforcement fragmentation across the Minerals Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and district assemblies creates administrative gaps that mining actors routinely exploit. Political override of conservation mandates converts formal prohibitions into contingent rules, suspended whenever extraction serves national development agendas or electoral interests. Cross-sectoral incoherence between forestry, mining, and land-use governance sustains contradictory policy signals at the landscape level. Legitimacy deficits rooted in exclusionary conservation practices and weak community accountability erode compliance from below. These governance failures produce documented ecological losses: forest cover in the Oda River Forest Reserve declined by 5.9% between 2018 and 2023, while the mined area expanded by 1,917.6%. Socio-political incentives, particularly youth unemployment and the absence of alternative livelihoods, sustain the supply of illegal activity within these weak governance conditions. Durable protection of Ghana's forest reserves requires institutionally insulated enforcement bodies, cross-sector policy coherence, and conservation frameworks that incorporate community legitimacy rather than merely legal designation.

Keywords: *Galamsey*; Forest reserve governance; Institutional failure; Policy-implementation gap; Systematic literature review

Remedying Forest Resources Management Challenges: Re-visioning the role of Grassroots Participation in Ghana.

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Abstract

The governance of Ghana's forest resources is manifested in both formal and informal arrangements. The informal arrangements are drawn from the various cultural norms and beliefs held by Ghanaians that not only are lands and natural resources held for both the present and future generations, but the ancestors also demand the proper management of natural resources. These beliefs and practices exist side by side with the formal arrangements in contemporary periods. The formal arrangements, on the other hand, are mostly written laws and policies; flouting them attracts legal sanctions such as police arrest and prosecution. Earlier writers have noted that when formal and informal arrangements have common goals and are both functional, they complement each other to yield fruitful results. On the other hand, when both institutions are non-functional, there is an institutional void that creates room for unregulated resource use. Grassroots participatory structures such as the Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs), Community Forest Committees (CFCs), among others provide a mid-way between strict informality and formality. Relying on a desk research methodology, the study seeks to examine the challenges confronting forest resources management in Ghana and the extent to which participatory structures at the local level can help address the identified challenges. The study found that several challenges exist, including but not limited to the overbearing top-down decision-making style that neglects the locals, the sidelining of fringe communities from forest resources benefits, and political interference which weakens effective implementation efforts. The study demonstrated the ability of the participatory structures to address many of the identified challenges despite their inherent deficiencies; and resolved that effective forest resources management is a combination of multiple actors' views, interests, commitments, and participation.

Keywords: Grassroots Participation, Forest Resources Management Challenges, Community Resource Management Areas, Community Forest Committees, Ghana.

Health Literacy and Maternal Health Care Utilisation in a Resource-Scarce Setting in Ghana

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Abstract

Health literacy plays a critical role in shaping the health outcomes of women, especially those of reproductive age. In northern Ghana, where resources are limited, understanding the impact of health literacy on maternal and reproductive health care utilisation is essential. While health literacy has been identified as a key determinant of mothers' reproductive and health outcomes, its specific effects in this region remain underexplored. This study used a cross-sectional design and a probit model to analyse the effect of health literacy on women's use of maternal and reproductive health care in Ghana's Upper West Region. The results indicate that only 35% were health literate, but health literacy had a significant positive impact on healthcare utilisation. Factors like age, marital status, occupation, location, and NHIS card ownership also influenced healthcare use. The findings highlight low health literacy and its important role in maternal healthcare, thus calls on the Ministry of Health to intensify maternal literacy programmes in the study area.

Keywords: Health Literacy; Maternal; Reproductive Health; Utilisation; Ghana.

Theorising the social value of public–private partnership in health care: Optimist, pessimist, and realist perspectives

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Abstract

Public–private partnerships (PPPs) have become a dominant policy instrument for health care delivery globally. They are particularly projected as mechanisms capable of closing universal health coverage gaps, mobilising private capital, and importing managerial efficiency into public health systems across sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and the wider developing world. Yet scholarship on PPPs in health care is deeply fractured, characterised by competing normative standpoints that reflect fundamentally different assumptions about the social value of market-state collaboration in public services. This paper advances a theoretically deductive critical interpretive synthesis of scholarship on the social value of health care PPPs. It argues that the existing literature on the social value of health care PPPs is organised across three discernible standpoints: optimists, pessimists, and realists. Optimist scholars, broadly aligned with resource-based thinking and global health financing perspectives, regard PPPs as transformative vehicles for resource mobilisation, efficiency, and service expansion. Pessimist scholars, drawing on critical political economy and post-colonial social theory, argue that PPPs are instruments of commodification, accountability erosion, and structural inequity that serve the interests of capital over those of communities. The realists occupy an institutionalist middle ground, resisting both the utopian projections of the optimists and the categorical condemnations of the pessimists, and arguing that outcomes depend on context, regulation, contract design, and governance architecture. The paper argues for a more explicitly value-oriented framework for theorising health care PPP social value; one that is grounded in and attentive to the distinctive context of health care in SSA.

Keywords: Public-private partnership; Social value; Health systems; Critical interpretive synthesis; Social theory

“Between Remittances and Absence”
Short-Term Parental Migration and Left-Behind Children’s Educational Attainment in
Selected Communities in Sissala West District of Northwestern Ghana

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Abstract

Short-term parental migration is a common livelihood strategy among rural households in northern Ghana. Although it may improve household welfare through remittances, it also involves parental absence, which could weaken supervision, reduce emotional support, and limit engagement with children’s education. Particularly in semiarid contexts such as the Sissala area, short-term migration is widespread during the dry season as many households seek temporary income sources in southern urban centres or agricultural regions. The net effect on the educational outcomes of left-behind children remains insufficiently explored. This study examines how short-term parental migration influences educational outcomes among left-behind children (aged 10-17) in selected communities in the Sissala West District of northwestern Ghana. Data will be collected through surveys and in-depth interviews with migrant parents, caregivers, school-aged children and teachers. The analysis will be guided by an integrated framework that combines the new economics of labour migration, human capital theory, social capital theory, and attachment theory to capture economic, social, and psychosocial pathways. It is hypothesised that remittances will enhance access to schooling inputs and support school attendance. However, parental absence may reduce academic supervision, increase household labour responsibilities, and contribute to emotional strain among left-behind children. It is thus argued that the effects of short-term parental migration reflect a balance between economic benefits and psychosocial costs within households. The findings may have important implications for policies that strengthen caregiver capacity and improve school-household linkages to enhance children's educational attainment in migrant-sending communities. This is particularly relevant amid rising concerns about declining learning outcomes in basic education in rural northern Ghana, where structural disadvantage and the prevalence of migration projects intersect to shape children’s educational trajectories.

Keywords: Parental migration; Left-behind children; educational attainment; remittances; Sissala West District

The Effect of External Supply Chain Environment on Adventure Tourism Performance: The Mediating Role of Technology Adoption and Organisational Culture

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Abstract

Despite the importance of external supply chain uncertainties for adventure tourism in Sub-Saharan Africa, little empirical research has examined how firms respond to these pressures to achieve performance. This study examines the effect of the external supply chain environment on adventure tourism performance, with technology adoption and organisational culture serving as mediators. The Resource-Based View and Institutional Theory were used to derive the quantitative cross-sectional survey design and to sample 280 adventure tourism stakeholders in Ghana. Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) was used to analyse the data. The results indicated that supplier relationship and information sharing had significant direct effects on technology adoption, whereas the external environment had a non-significant direct effect. The relationship between the external dimensions of the supply chain and performance was fully mediated by technology adoption, with the latter showing a strong predictive power for adventure tourism performance. The model accounted for 83.4% and 85.3% of the variance in adventure tourism performance and technology adoption, respectively. The authors argue that for adventure tourism operators, supplier relationship management and information sharing are strategic resources that can facilitate technology implementation and improve their financial and environmental performance. This study builds on RBV and Institutional Theory by providing evidence of how external pressures in the supply chain relate to performance via the internal development of capabilities in an under-researched setting in Africa.

Keywords: Adventure tourism, Supply chain environment, Technology adoption, Organisational culture and Ghana.

Supply Chain Collaboration and Technology Adoption as Drivers of Adventure Tourism Performance in Ghana: A PLS-SEM Analysis

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Abstract

Despite the benefits of supply chain collaboration, fragmented supply chains and weak technology integration remain prevalent issues in adventure tourism in emerging economies, and the relationship between supply chain coordination and firm performance has not been sufficiently explored. This study aimed to investigate the determinants of adventure tourism performance in Ghana, specifically how supplier relationships and information sharing affect adventure tourism performance, mediated by technology adoption. 280 adventure tourism operators were sampled in Ghana through a cross-sectional survey. The data was analysed using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) Software SmartPLS 4. The results of the structural model showed that both supplier relationship and information sharing significantly affect the technology adoption, which in turn strongly predicts adventure tourism performance. The relationship between supplier relationships, information sharing, and performance was partly mediated by technology adoption. We believe that to improve technology uptake and, therefore, performance, adventure tourism operators need to focus on strengthening relationships with suppliers and providing information through the development of information-sharing mechanisms. Policy makers need to encourage digital infrastructure development to enable the adoption of technology by the adventure tourism industry.

Keywords: Adventure Tourism; Supplier Relationship; Information Sharing; Technology Adoption; Ghana

Beyond Symbolic Inclusion: *Pognamine*, Gendered Power, and Customary Land Governance in Dorimon, Northwestern Ghana

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Abstract

Gender and power relations in African sociopolitical systems are often interpreted through visible structures of male dominance, particularly within kinship, chieftaincy, land, and decision-making spaces. Within these structures women's participation in the administration and control of land remains shaped by patriarchal socio-cultural norms and unequal gendered power relations, despite their central role in agricultural production and household food security. The emergence of women chiefs within chieftaincy systems historically dominated by men presents an important site for interrogating how gendered power is negotiated within customary land governance spaces. This study examines the participation of women in customary land governance through the institution of *pognaa* (woman Chief) in the Dorimon Traditional Area of Northwestern Ghana. It explores the discursive strategies through which *pognamine* negotiate women's authority and participation in land-related decision-making. Drawing on the Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Discourse (SKAD), the study treats customary land governance as a discursive field within which knowledge, power, gender, and tradition are historically produced, contested, negotiated, and normalised. Methodologically, the study adopts a qualitative research design involving eleven (11) in-depth interviews of key actors, such as chiefs, *pognamine*, *tendaanba*, women leaders, and a representative of the regional house of chiefs. The findings reveal that, although the emergence of the *pognaa* institution created some openings for women's representation and participation in local governance, its current positioning within customary land governance remains undefined. The study further reveals that women's participation is constrained by entrenched patriarchal norms, ambiguous institutional mandates, and the dominant position of male chiefs and *tendamba*—land priests in land-related matters. The study concludes that *pognamine*'s roles are often misunderstood, blurred, and not formalised, leaving the institution more symbolic than functional in land governance. Consequently, the study recommends gender-responsive reforms in the traditional governance system that will institutionalise *pognamine*'s role within customary land administration.

Keywords: Dorimon Traditional Area; Land governance; Gendered power; Woman chief; Discourse

Understanding the Nexus Between Women's Marital Status and Political Participation in Lawra District, Ghana

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Abstract

Widespread perceptions associate Dagara traditional marriage practices with gender bias, particularly regarding power relations between men and women. Some scholars argue that practices such as bride price reinforce gender inequality by limiting women's autonomy and participation in electoral politics, while others maintain that traditional marriage upholds dignity and social recognition for married women and their children. Against this background, this study examines the relationship between traditional marriage practices and women's political participation in the Lawra District of the Upper West Region of Ghana. The study seeks to address the following: the extent to which traditional marriage serves as a form of social protection, the link between married women and electoral politics and barriers affecting women's engagement in electoral politics and local governance. The study adopts a mixed methods approach that combines literature review and a case study analysis of which both primary and secondary data were collected and thematically analysed. The study's findings revealed that women remain underrepresented in the Lawra District Assembly, limiting their influence in decision-making and weakening advocacy for women's interests. Key barriers include sociocultural norms, intimidation, discrimination, low self-confidence, limited education, and inadequate financial and institutional support. The study shows that while traditional marriage can offer social protection, it also intersects with structural challenges that restrict women's political engagement. The study recommends that the government and all other stakeholders should empower women socio-economically and politically through education, finance and political participation. Ultimately this will contribute to policy discussions aimed at promoting inclusive governance and enhancing women's participation in local decision-making.

Keywords: Gender; women; marriage; political participation; governance

Digital Financial Services, Financial Inclusion, and SME Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Panel Evidence from 48 Countries, 2010-2024.

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Abstract

SMEs play an essential role in promoting employment and growth in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, financing challenges constrain their development. Digital financial service innovations have revolutionised the scenario, prompting investigations into how digitalisation fosters financial inclusion and whether inclusion can be harnessed for firm growth. The present study explores the contribution of DFS to financial inclusion; financial inclusion's mediating role in relation to DFS and firm growth; institutional quality as a moderator; and the existence of non-linearity in the link between financial inclusion and SME growth. Dynamic panel models with 48 SSA countries for 2010-2024 are estimated by applying two-step System GMM. An aggregated DFS index and an FI index are created using principal component analysis. DFS has a statistically significant negative relationship with traditional FI, implying that digitisation is substituting rather than complementing financial intermediation. There exists a positive mediating relationship between DFS and SME formation. Institutions exert a statistically significant direct impact in all models but do not moderate DFS influence on financial inclusion or SME growth. Moreover, a non-linear threshold effect was identified in the credit depth sub-channel (threshold level: 3.72 index points). Digitisation is decoupling from financial intermediation and hence requires regulation for interoperability. Fostering financial inclusion remains a promising way to formalise firms.

Keywords: Digital financial services; financial inclusion; SME growth; System GMM; Sub-Saharan Africa

From Perception to Practice: Multilevel Drivers and Mechanisms of Climate-Smart Agriculture Adoption Intensity among Smallholders in Ghana

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Abstract

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is widely promoted as an adaptation pathway for smallholders facing climate variability, yet uptake across sub-Saharan Africa remains uneven and often partial. Treating adoption as a single binary choice obscures how resilience benefits accrue when households combine complementary practices, which weakens the policy relevance of much existing evidence. This study examines the determinants, behavioural mediation mechanisms and community-scale spatial structure that drive farm-level CSA adoption intensity (the count of practices adopted) and ordered adoption levels among smallholders in Ghana. Using cross-sectional survey data from 450 households across 12 communities in the Nadowli-Kaleo District, we estimated negative binomial, ordered logit and multilevel random-intercept models, combined with structural equation modelling of behavioural pathways and spatial diagnostics using a k-nearest-neighbour weights matrix. A higher climate-risk perception index (incidence rate ratio = 1.253, $p < 0.001$), knowledge score (1.190, $p < 0.001$) and social index (1.186, $p = 0.017$) were robustly associated with greater adoption intensity, whereas the resource index was not (1.079, $p = 0.159$). Knowledge significantly mediated the perception–adoption link (indirect effect = 0.132, $p = 0.003$), while mediation through resource capacity was negligible. Between-community variation was effectively zero, and no residual spatial clustering remained (Moran's $I = -0.160$, $p = 0.683$). The principal bottlenecks to higher adoption therefore lie in behavioural and informational subsystems rather than in fixed community context. For policy, these findings indicate that bundled, evidence-informed interventions combining climate-risk communication, hands-on learning and social diffusion can operate effectively across communities, offering a scalable pathway for strengthening agricultural resilience and food security in Ghana.

Keywords: Climate-smart agriculture; Adoption intensity; Risk perception; Knowledge mediation; Ghana

The role of Farm Credit on Cereal Crop Productivity in Ghana: Insights from the GLSS 7

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Abstract

Cereals are primary staple foods and a major contributor to food security in the Global South and Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). However, cereal farmers in Ghana are unable to increase their productivity gains due to poor access to farm credit. The objective of this study is to investigate the influence of farm credit on cereal crop (maize, sorghum, millet, and rice) productivity. The study relied on the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS7), a 15,000-household survey conducted in 2017 by the Ghana Statistical Service (GLSS). The Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression analysis was employed to evaluate the impact of farm credit on the yields of maize, sorghum, millet, and rice. The findings indicated that farm credit exerts an influence solely on the productivity of maize yield. Subsequently, the OLS regression was re-run to assess the overall impact of farm credit on aggregate cereal yield; however, in this instance, farm credit was not statistically significant. Considering these findings, the study recommends that farm credit should be allocated specifically to maize farmers to enhance their yields.

Keywords: Farm credit; Cereal yields (maize, sorghum, millet and rice); GLSS 7; OLS.

Assessment of the Capacity of Primary Health Care Facilities in Managing Non-Communicable Diseases in Ghana: A Qualitative Approach

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Abstract

In 2016, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) caused 71% of global deaths. Low- and middle-income countries accounted for 85% of the 15 million premature deaths (ages 30–70), while NCDs represented 43% of all deaths in Ghana. However, it remains unclear whether primary health care (PHC) facilities have the capacity to manage NCDs effectively to reduce mortality and morbidity. This study assessed the capacity of PHC facilities to manage NCDs in Asokore Mampong municipality using a qualitative case study design. Purposive sampling was used in selecting respondents and facilities based on expertise and NCD-related services. Data were collected via a rapid assessment tool and an interview guide. The study found that none of the eight surveyed PHC facilities met all recommended indicators for NCD management. The human resource pool was insufficient, overburdened, and lacking certain skills. Moreover, 47.1% of health providers had never received training in NCD management, negatively affecting service delivery. A knowledge gap existed among providers regarding the coverage of essential medicines by the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and the supply of equipment for NCD care at different PHC levels. To address these gaps, regular in-service training should be provided to PHC providers to upgrade their NCD knowledge and skills. Strengthening the gatekeeper system and deploying community health nurses to conduct screenings during regular home visits would improve service delivery and reduce workloads at higher PHC levels. Addressing these deficiencies is essential to combat the rising NCD burden in Ghana.

Keywords: Primary Health Care; Non-communicable diseases (NCDs); Facilities; Assessment; Capacity

From Theory to Practice: Why Does the Theory of Women's Empowerment in Ghana Often Fall Short on the Ground?

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Abstract

Women's empowerment in Ghana represents a dynamic and contested interplay between theoretical frameworks and lived practice. Theoretically, empowerment is frequently conceptualized as a multi-dimensional process spanning socio-cultural, economic, political, and psychological domains. This study examines the nexus between theory and practice, analyzing how dominant empowerment theories—centered on economic agency, decision-making power, and access to resources—are operationalized and experienced within the Ghanaian socio-cultural context. The study utilizes an analytical assessment to evaluate programmatic interventions (such as microfinance, livelihood training, and legal literacy) against persistent structural barriers, including patriarchal norms, discriminatory land tenure systems, unequal political representation, and educational disparities. Programmatic interventions have made measurable strides in enhancing women's economic participation and individual capabilities. However, these gains often encounter a "practice ceiling" where deeply entrenched traditional authorities and gender role expectations limit transformative change. A key finding is the frequent disconnect between individual economic empowerment and the collective power required to alter systemic inequalities. Advancing women's empowerment requires an integrated theory of change that moves beyond siloed interventions to target individual agency, relational dynamics, and institutional reform. Bridging the gap necessitates context-sensitive approaches that engage local power structures and champion grassroots movements and gender-responsive policy implementation.

Keywords: Empowerment, Theory, Practice, Women, Ghana

Healthcare Inflation and Maternal Mortality in West Africa. The Moderating Role of GDP Growth.

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Abstract

Maternal mortality remains a persistent public health challenge in West Africa despite ongoing global and regional interventions aimed at improving maternal health outcomes. This study examined the effect of healthcare inflation on maternal mortality rates in West Africa, while investigating the moderating role of GDP growth. The study is grounded in the Health Production Function framework, which posits that health outcomes are shaped by both healthcare costs and broader macroeconomic conditions. The study employed a quantitative panel data design covering ECOWAS countries over the period 2000–2024. Data were obtained from the WDI and WHO databases. Maternal mortality ratio was used as the dependent variable, while healthcare inflation was proxied by consumer price inflation. GDP growth was introduced as a moderating variable, alongside control variables including health expenditure, physicians' density, female secondary school enrolment, and urbanisation. Fixed and random effects estimations were applied, with robustness checks conducted using diagnostic tests for panel data validity. The results indicate that healthcare inflation has a statistically significant positive effect on maternal mortality, suggesting that rising healthcare costs worsen maternal health outcomes by limiting access to essential maternal services. Conversely, GDP growth was found to have a significant negative effect on maternal mortality and to moderate the relationship between healthcare inflation and maternal mortality by attenuating its adverse impact. Control variables such as health expenditure, physician availability, and female education were also associated with lower maternal mortality rates. The study concludes that macroeconomic stability plays a critical buffering role in reducing the adverse effects of healthcare inflation on maternal health. Policy implications emphasise the need for targeted inflation control in the health sector, expanded public health financing, and sustained economic growth strategies to improve maternal survival outcomes in West Africa.

Keywords: Healthcare; Inflation; Maternal Mortality; GDP growth; Health Expenditure

Governance Deficits for Youth Radicalisation: Insight from the Intersects of Climate Shocks and Livelihood Insecurity in Northwestern Ghana

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Abstract

Climate-related livelihood disruptions, governance weaknesses, and expanding Sahelian insecurity are reshaping security dynamics in Northwestern Ghana. Using PRISMA procedures and Strain Theory, this review examines how environmental stressors, socio-economic marginalisation and institutional deficits influence youth radicalisation pathways. Findings reveal four intersecting drivers: climate-induced livelihood strain, exclusionary governance, porous borders, and grievances linked to inequality and state neglect. These pressures heighten vulnerability to extremist influence along Ghana's northern frontier. The study advocates an integrated governance approach that combines climate-resilient livelihoods, inclusive youth development, stronger institutions, and cross-border coordination, contributing to climate-security debates and policy responses in West Africa.

Keywords: Governance Deficit; Climate Shocks; Livelihood Insecurity; Youth Radicalisation; Northwestern Ghana.

Flood Risk and Agrarian Vulnerability among Waterway-Based Crop Farmers in Northern Ghana

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Abstract

Flooding remains a major source of agrarian vulnerability in northern Ghana, particularly for smallholder farmers cultivating along waterways. This study examined how waterway-based crop farmers in Mangu, a peri-urban community in the Wa Metropolis, experience and respond to recurrent flood risk. Guided by the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework, the study adopted a qualitative exploratory case study design. It drew on in-depth semi-structured interviews with 25 farmers, complemented by field observations and site photographs. Thematic analysis revealed that flooding is experienced as a recurrent seasonal disruption that causes crop destruction, yield reduction, food shortages, indebtedness and household livelihood stress. Despite these impacts, farmers continue cultivating along waterways because of soil fertility, moisture availability, inherited land rights, land scarcity and limited access to safer alternatives. Farmers employ a range of coping and adaptation strategies, including early planting, crop diversification, mixed cropping, raised yam mounds, grain storage, livestock sales, non-farm labour and reliance on family support. However, these responses are largely self-driven, small-scale and constrained by weak institutional support. The study concludes that agrarian vulnerability among waterway-based farmers is shaped not only by exposure to floods, but also by structural livelihood dependence on ecologically risky farming spaces.

Keywords: Flood risk; Peri-urban; Agrarian vulnerability; Waterway farmers; Sustainable livelihood

Geospatial Analysis of Development along Urban Waterways: Implications for Flood Risk Governance in a Secondary City in Ghana

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Abstract

Urban flooding is increasingly recognized as a governance challenge in rapidly urbanizing secondary cities across sub-Saharan Africa, where weak planning enforcement, institutional fragmentation and uncontrolled urban expansion contribute to heightened flood risk. While considerable attention has been given to flood vulnerability and adaptation, limited research has examined how development encroachment along waterways reflects broader deficiencies in flood risk governance. This study investigates the spatial patterns of development encroachment within waterways and drainage corridors and explores their implications for urban flood risk governance in Wa Metropolis. A cross-sectional geospatial research design was employed using a Global Positioning System (GPS)-based field survey. A total of 421 georeferenced developments located within approximately 30 metres of waterways and drainage corridors were mapped and analysed in a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) environment. Spatial overlay and descriptive spatial analyses were used to examine development patterns and their relationship with urban waterways. The results reveal extensive encroachment into riparian corridors, with residential development accounting for 85.5% of all mapped structures. Commercial and institutional developments were also identified within environmentally sensitive zones. Spatial analysis revealed widespread linear clustering of developments along waterways. These patterns suggest weaknesses in planning enforcement, development control, and institutional coordination. The study argues that flooding risk in Wa is not solely a hydrological phenomenon but also a governance deficiency embedded in everyday land-use practices. The study highlights that geospatial monitoring, strengthened riparian buffer protection, and improved institutional coordination are essential for enhancing flood resilience in Ghana's secondary cities.

Keywords: Flood risk governance; Riparian buffer zones; Geospatial analysis; Waterway encroachment; Secondary cities

Towards Sustainable, Safer Mobility in Secondary Cities: Evidence from Student Travel Choices in Wa

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Abstract

Students make daily transport choices that may seem routine, yet collectively they shape mobility patterns. In many secondary cities in developing countries, transport systems are poorly aligned with the safety and mobility needs of young people. As a result, travel decisions are often driven more by constrained options than by genuine preferences, reinforcing unsustainable and unsafe mobility patterns. Yet, empirical evidence linking these everyday choices to actionable policy in such contexts remains scarce. This study examines the determinants of students' transport mode choices at the University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS) in Wa, Ghana. A mixed-methods approach was adopted, combining surveys ($n = 272$), focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) was applied to identify the socio-demographic and behavioural factors shaping travel decisions. Student mobility was dominated by walking (33.8%) and motorcycle use (29.4%). Mode choice was significantly associated with age, income, residence, and academic level, but not gender. Behavioural factors played a decisive role: positive attitudes and social influence significantly strengthened students' intentions, whereas perceived behavioural control and environmental concerns had negative effects, reflecting constraints imposed by limited infrastructure and public transport provision. Strong behavioural intentions significantly increased the likelihood of walking ($\beta = 0.610$) and decreased motorcycle use ($\beta = -0.378$). Qualitative findings reinforced concerns about unmet demand for safe pedestrian infrastructure and reliable public transport services. The study's findings challenge common assumptions about unconstrained travel choices among young people and highlight the central role of infrastructure and safety in promoting sustainable mobility behaviours. They point to clear policy priorities, including improvements to pedestrian infrastructure, motorcycle safety interventions and the introduction of affordable and reliable shuttle services. These measures are crucial for advancing safer and more sustainable mobility in secondary cities with limited mass transit.

Keywords: Mode Choice; Student Mobility; Sustainable Transport; Ghana; Secondary Cities

Assessing the Effectiveness of the New MDR-TB Regimen among TB Patients in the North Tongu District of the Volta Region, Ghana.

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Abstract

Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) remains a major public health challenge, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where treatment adherence, delayed diagnosis, and health system constraints affect treatment success. Ghana has adopted newer all-oral and shorter MDR-TB regimens in line with WHO recommendations. However, limited evidence exists on the effectiveness of these regimens within routine healthcare settings, particularly in districts such as North Tongu in the Volta Region. This study assesses the effectiveness of the new MDR-TB regimen among TB patients in the North Tongu District using records from Bator Catholic Hospital, the district's main MDR-TB treatment centre. The study examines treatment outcomes, including cure, relapse, and mortality rates, as well as the duration and rate of patient recovery. A mixed-methods approach will be adopted. Quantitative data will be collected through a retrospective review of MDR-TB patient records from 2022 to 2026, including treatment registers, patient folders, and district health records. Data will be analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics with STATA/SPSS. Qualitative data will be obtained through interviews with selected patients and healthcare providers and analysed thematically using NVivo to explore treatment experiences, adherence patterns, and recovery challenges. The study is expected to show improved treatment outcomes and faster recovery rates among patients receiving the new MDR-TB regimen. It is also anticipated to identify factors such as adherence behaviours, patient support systems, and health service challenges that influence treatment effectiveness. The findings will provide empirical evidence on the effectiveness of the new MDR-TB regimen and support policy decisions, treatment improvement strategies, and interventions aimed at reducing MDR-TB-related mortality in Ghana.

Keywords: MDR-TB; Treatment Outcomes; Recovery Rate; Tuberculosis Control; Ghana.

Socially Mediated Pedagogy and Student Attitudes Towards Social Studies: Evidence from Junior High Schools in Wa Municipality

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Abstract

Student disengagement from Social Studies in sub-Saharan African secondary education represents a persistent pedagogical challenge, yet empirical evidence on which classroom strategies most effectively shape student attitudes in this context remains limited. This study investigated the influence of four student-based pedagogical approaches of collaborative learning, interactive teaching methods, student-centred learning, and technology integration on junior high school students' attitudes and perceptions towards the teaching of Social Studies in the Wa Municipality of Ghana. Drawing on an integrated theoretical framework combining Vygotsky's Social Constructivist Theory and Self-Determination Theory (SDT), the study employed a quantitative cross-sectional survey design with a sample of 361 students. Data were analysed using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) via SmartPLS 4. The study found that all four hypothesised relationships were supported. Collaborative learning emerged as the dominant predictor ($\beta = 0.321$, $t = 2.850$), followed by interactive teaching ($\beta = 0.236$, $t = 2.183$), student-centred learning ($\beta = 0.205$, $t = 1.837$), and technology integration ($\beta = 0.198$, $t = 2.557$). The combined model explained 80.0% of the variance in student attitude and perception ($R^2 = 0.800$). The relative dominance of collaborative learning over technology in a resource-constrained setting offers important theoretical insight especially in contexts where digital infrastructure is limited, peer-mediated interaction may be a more consistently accessible activator of the Zone of Proximal Development and relatedness-need satisfaction than technology-based mediation. Implications for curriculum policy, teacher professional development, and Social Studies pedagogy in Ghanaian and comparable sub-Saharan educational contexts are discussed.

Keywords: student-centred learning; Social Studies; PLS-SEM; Student attitudes; Junior high school.

Assessing the Impact of Emerging Technologies Adoption on Supply Chain Performance in Ghana's Manufacturing Sector

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Abstract

In developing economies like Ghana, the adoption of emerging technologies (Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Internet of Things, and Big Data Analytics) in the manufacturing sector remains uneven. Despite their potential to enhance supply chain performance, many firms struggle to translate technology investments into tangible improvements due to infrastructure gaps, skill shortages, and institutional constraints. This study investigates the impact of emerging technologies adoption on supply chain performance in Ghana's manufacturing sector. It specifically examines the mediating role of organizational capability and the moderating role of the institutional environment in this relationship. A sequential mixed-methods approach was employed. The first qualitative phase involved semi-structured interviews with 15 managers, analyzed through thematic analysis using NVivo. The second quantitative phase used a cross-sectional survey of 212 manufacturing firms in Greater Accra, Kumasi, and the Central Region. Data were analysed using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM). The findings reveal that emerging technologies adoption has a positive and significant influence on supply chain performance (cost efficiency, delivery reliability, agility, and visibility). Organizational capability was identified as a significant mediator, meaning the benefits of technology adoption are stronger when firms possess adequate digital skills and adaptive processes. Furthermore, the institutional environment significantly moderates this relationship, with supportive conditions enhancing the positive effects of technology adoption. The study concludes that while technology adoption drives performance, its success in Ghana's manufacturing sector is contingent upon strong internal organizational capabilities and a supportive external institutional environment. Practically, managers must invest in digital skills training and process redesign to maximize technology returns. For policy, the study recommends targeted infrastructure investment, clearer regulatory guidance, and incentives to accelerate technology diffusion within the manufacturing sector.

Keywords: Emerging technology adoption; Supply chain performance; Manufacturing sector; Organisational capability; Institutional environment; SDG 9.

Strategic Employee Development in the Era of Technological Transformation: A Systematic Literature Review

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Abstract

Employee development practices around the world are drastically being transformed by emerging trends in technologies. As corporate entities try to cope with these technological changes, understanding of technology-driven strategic employee development is limited. This study explores how employees are prepared for the realities of the digital age by examining published studies on strategic employee development in technology-driven environments. The study systematically reviews literature obtained from Web of Science and Scopus databases using the PRISMA 2020 framework. After a careful screening process, 52 articles published between 2016 and 2026 were selected and analysed using thematic synthesis. Dominant theories are the Human Capital Theory, Social Exchange Theory, and the Resource-Based View (RBV) of the firm, with quantitative techniques as dominant methodology. The findings indicate that employee development is a strategic tool in organisations that drives innovation, competitiveness, adaptability and resilience. Organisations are investing in adaptive learning systems, AI-assisted training platforms, workforce re-skilling initiatives, adaptive leadership, and digitally incorporated Human Resource systems to remain competitive. Notwithstanding, key concerns revealed are: employee surveillance, workforce anxiety, digital inequality, ethical issues, and infrastructural challenges, particularly in emerging economies. The study concludes that successful digital transformation is not peculiar to only technology adoption but also on establishing employee-centred development systems that lead to learning, ethical leadership, resilience, and organisational growth.

Keywords: strategic employee development; digital transformation; artificial intelligence; organisational learning; workforce adaptability.

Link the informal sector skills to industry requirements

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Abstract

Research & Development Incubation Ghana Limited (RDI Gh Ltd) is a for-profit private sector initiative to tackle youth unemployment in Ghana. Youth unemployment in Ghana is a national security issue, a food insecurity problem, a financial exclusion menace, and a climate change vulnerability. RDI Gh Ltd targets youth aged 18 to 35. The youth are categorised into two groups: youth with skills gained outside the formal sector (informal-sector skilled youth, ISSY) and unemployed graduates from secondary or tertiary education institutions. Both have skills but no jobs. RDI Gh Ltd offers skills verification and certification for ISSY and incubation for both ISSY and unemployed graduates for entrepreneurship jobs. This happens on an integrated digital hub for all stakeholders: partners, career aspirants, institutions, employers, individual estate developers, etc. It includes practical demonstrations of skills by youth, the building of an evidence dossier for career aspirants, skills assessment, skills alignment, employability, career pathways, and certification (provision of recognised credentials). The standardisation of all processes digitally is the focus of RDI Gh Ltd, with cloud hosting to always make them accessible. RDI Gh Ltd's mission is to bridge the gap between informal skills, industry requirements, and recognised standards by incubating entrepreneurship that creates jobs for incubatees and others. Each incubation cohort creates a specific business which offers jobs for all the incubatees in that cohort and other youth.

Keywords: Informal-sector skilled youth; Unemployment; Underemployment; Skills verification and certification; Digital hub; Standardisation

The Role of CSOs in Maternal Health Promotion: A Case of the Wa Municipality of Ghana

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Abstract

Ghana continues to suffer from high maternal mortality, with the Upper West Region contributing significantly due to poor reception of health messages, influenced by cultural beliefs and perceptions. This limits women from adopting positive behaviors related to maternal health. Civil Society Organizations have become key actors in bridging the gap through health promotion. The study delves into the contributions made by CSOs in promoting the health of mothers. The study examined the roles some CSOs have played in promoting the health of pregnant women in the Wa Municipality. This study further examined the type of communication strategies the CSOs have used in communicating maternal health promotion messages to these women in the Wa Municipality. An explanatory sequential mixed method design was adopted. Purposive sampling was used to select four CSOs who had collaborated with the Wa Municipal Health Directorate and a systematic sampling strategy was used to select 395 pregnant women who had accessed antenatal and postnatal services at selected health facilities. In-depth interview was used for data collection of CSOs and questionnaires for women respondents. The study showed that CSO-led communication strategies are effective in promoting maternal health in Wa Municipality. The major communication strategies adopted by the CSOs include the use of social and behaviour change communication using radio discussions, dramas, interpersonal interactions, as well as community mobilization. Findings further revealed that CSOs had organised maternal health promotion exercises at selected communities within the Wa Municipality. The study recommends that the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service should incorporate the use of SBCC and community mobilisation in their maternal health promotion interventions to encourage bottom-up communications which eventually eradicate maternal death and complications during child delivery.

Keywords: Civil Society Organisations; Maternal Health; Health Promotion; Pregnancy; Behaviour Change Communication

Challenges of Implementing Training and Development Programmes: The Context of Higher Education Institutions

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Abstract

Training and Development (T&D) is a critical component of human resource development and plays a significant role in enhancing employees' competencies, efficiency, and productivity. In Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the quality of human capital produced largely depends on the competence and effectiveness of their workforce. Consequently, continuous staff training and development are essential for improving institutional performance and service delivery. Despite the importance of T&D programmes, their implementation within HEIs is often constrained by several organisational and managerial challenges. This study adopted a qualitative desk-based literature review to explore the challenges associated with implementing training and development programmes in higher education institutions. Specifically, the study examined the processes used to identify training needs, employees' perceptions of T&D programmes, commonly used training approaches in HEIs, and the challenges affecting their implementation. The findings reveal that training needs in HEIs are typically identified through mechanisms such as training needs assessments, performance appraisal systems, and consultations between supervisors and subordinates. The review further indicates that employees generally perceive training programmes as beneficial for enhancing their professional competence and productivity. However, the effective implementation of T&D programmes is often hindered by limited managerial commitment, inadequate funding, time constraints, and poorly conducted training needs assessments. The study recommends strengthening objective training needs assessments and ensuring adequate funding to enhance the effective implementation of T&D programmes in higher education institutions.

Keywords: Human Resource Development; Staff Capacity Building; Training Needs Assessment; Higher Education Management; Organisational Performance

The Influence of Human Resource Development Practices on Organizational Performance: The Mediating Role of Employee Competencies in Ghanaian Public Universities

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Abstract

Human Resource Development (HRDP) practices are increasingly important in enhancing organizational effectiveness, especially in knowledge-intensive institutions such as public universities. Ghanaian public universities have invested heavily in employee training and development programs aimed at improving employee capabilities and organizational performance. However, organizational performance outcomes are inconsistent, suggesting that the relationship between HRDP practices and performance may not be direct. This paper employs a qualitative desk review to explore the mediating role of employee capabilities in the relationship between HRDP practices and organizational performance in Ghanaian public universities. Drawing on human capital theory and the resource-based perspective, this paper argues that HRDP practices primarily promote organizational performance by enhancing employee capabilities (including knowledge, skills, talents, and professional attitudes). This review synthesizes empirical and theoretical literature on key dimensions of HRDP, such as training and development, career development, performance appraisal, and employee learning. Analysis shows that institutions that effectively invest in capability development are more likely to improve productivity, service levels, innovation capabilities, and overall organizational effectiveness. However, challenges such as insufficient funding, weak implementation strategies, limited management support, and misalignment between training programs and objectives continue to affect the effectiveness of HRDP programs in public universities. This paper further proposes a structural equation modeling (SEM) framework to guide future empirical research on the mediating effect of employee competence on organizational performance. This research contributes to the growing human resource development literature by providing a conceptual understanding of how competence development enhances organizational performance in Ghanaian higher education institutions.

Keywords: Human Resource Development Practices; Employee Competence; Organizational Performance; Public Universities; Ghana.

Social Media Use and the Academic Performances of Undergraduate Students in UBIDS, Ghana

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Abstract

Social media (SM) use has become deeply embedded in the everyday lives of many young people, raising concerns about the consequences of the practice on undergraduate students' academic performance in public universities in Ghana. This study examined SM use and the ways it shapes the academic performance of undergraduates at the University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS) as a public university in Ghana. The study was grounded in Social Learning Theory and the Uses and Gratifications Theory, which helped explain how peer-mediated digital practices, students' media choices and competing online gratifications shape academic engagement and performance. Methodologically, the study adopted a convergent mixed-method design. Quantitative data were collected from 365 undergraduates in levels 200, 300 and 400 through a survey. Concurrently, qualitative data were generated through 12 key informant interviews, 3 focus group discussions and non-participant observation. The quantitative data were processed using SPSS version 25 and presented frequencies and percentages, while the qualitative data were transcribed, chunked according to themes, and patterns presented and analysed. The findings revealed that while some undergraduates use SM moderately (1–6 hours per day), a considerable proportion spend substantial time (8–24 hours) on SM on a daily basis for both academic and non-academic purposes. Furthermore, excessive SM use, particularly for non-academic purposes such as entertainment and socialisation, was found to be negatively affecting students' academic performance by reducing study time, distracting attention during lectures and encouraging the use of informal language in academic writing. The study concludes that SM is not inherently detrimental to academic performance; rather, its influence depends on the purpose, timing, duration and level of self-regulation involved in its use. Consequently, the study highlights the need for context-sensitive digital literacy education, responsible SM use campaigns, and classroom-level guidelines that promote productive engagement with digital platforms while reducing disruptive use.

Keywords: Social media; Academic performance; Undergraduate students; Digital literacy; Ghana

Social and Behavior Change Communication and the Adoption of Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices among Smallholder Farmers in Wa Municipality, Ghana

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Abstract

Climate change poses a significant threat to food security in Sub-Saharan Africa. The adoption of Climate-Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices by smallholder farmers plays a key role in mitigating the effects of climatic shocks. However, there is limited knowledge of how Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) strategies promote the adoption of CSA practices among smallholder farmers. Guided by the Diffusion of Innovations Theory, Socio-Ecological Model (SEM), and Participatory Communication Theory, this study explores the role of SBCC in promoting CSA practices among smallholder farmers in the Wa Municipality of the Upper West Region of Ghana. The study adopts an interpretivist research philosophy and employs a qualitative approach, specifically a case study design. Three communities (Bamahu, Danko, and Nakore) will be purposively sampled for the study. Purposive sampling will be employed to select twenty-six (26) participants for the study. Three focus group discussions (FGDs) will be conducted with smallholder farmers, with each discussion comprising eight (8) participants from each of the three selected communities. In addition, two (2) key informant interviews will be conducted with agricultural extension officers. Data will be collected through semi-structured interviews, FGDs, and non-participant field observations. The collected data will be transcribed, thematically analyzed, and presented in narrative form with supporting quotations from participants. The study is expected to demonstrate that SBCC strategies can facilitate the adoption of CSA practices among smallholder farmers and consequently contribute to improving food security in Wa municipality of the Upper West Region of Ghana.

Keywords: Social and Behavior Change Communication; Climate Change; Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices; Smallholder Farmers; Food Security; Wa municipality

The Role of Tourism Entrepreneurs on Destinations Development: The Case of Tourism Destinations in the Upper West Region

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Abstract

This research aims to investigate the impact of tourism entrepreneurs on the development of the Upper West Region of Ghana. Tourism entrepreneurship has been cited as an important factor for the development of national and local economies, as well as for the transformation of societies and the improvement of tourism destinations, especially in developing countries. For the Upper West Region to become the preferred destination and receive the needed development, tourism entrepreneurs have a critical role to play. The region has an array of tourism attractions such as cultural heritage sites, festivals, and natural attractions. However, the tourism potential of the region has not been fully tapped due to the low attention paid to key stakeholders such as tourism entrepreneurs. The research purposively interviewed 14 participants comprising accommodation providers, tour operators, craft makers, and cultural performers. Thematic analysis was employed in analysing the data. The findings highlighted that tourism entrepreneurs immensely engaged in the creation of employment, preservation of culture, and the development of the destination's visibility through innovation and linkages. The findings further demonstrated the inability of these entrepreneurs to fully contribute to destination development due to limited finance, infrastructure gaps, inadequate institutional support, and lack of managerial capacity. The study contributes to tourism entrepreneurship literature and offers implications for fostering tourism development.

Keywords: Tourism; Entrepreneurs; Destination; Development; Economy

Marriage after Widowhood: Reframing Indigenous Values, Family Expectations and Reproductive Negotiations in Sombo, North-Western Ghana

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Abstract

Widowhood in many African societies is not only a personal experience of loss of a husband, but also a socially regulated institution shaped by kinship, gendered and reproductive expectations. In some patrilineal societies, especially in northern Ghana, the death of a husband does not necessarily end a woman's marriage; rather, it may initiate culturally sanctioned remarriage within the deceased husband's lineage. While such practices are often interpreted through the narratives of patriarchy, oppression and women's subordination, they are also embedded in indigenous values of lineage continuity, social protection and relational responsibility. This study examines marriage after widowhood among the people of Sombo, a Dagaaba community in north-western Ghana. It explores the lived realities, silences and negotiations surrounding widow remarriage with particular attention on how widows negotiate family expectations regarding reproduction, while challenging assumptions that frame it solely as either subordination or security. Specifically, this study examines the indigenous values and cultural practices that shape remarriage after widowhood, the implications of childbearing or childlessness within the new marriage and how the gender of a child influences the widow's status, security and recognition within the family. Guided by the theory of patriarchal bargaining, the study views widow remarriage as a negotiated space through which widows seek belonging, dignity and protection under constrained conditions. Methodologically, the study adopts a qualitative phenomenological design and draws on the experiences of ten (10) remarried widows, with or without children within the new marriage, two (2) elderly men, two (2) elderly women and two (2) officials from relevant institutions selected purposively. Data will be analysed thematically to illuminate the meanings, tensions and negotiations embedded in post-widowhood marital life. This study contributes to debates on gender, kinship, indigenous values and reproductive justice by offering a contextually grounded understanding of widow remarriage and its implications for women's social positioning in rural Ghana.

Keywords: Widowhood, Indigenous values, Patriarchal bargain, Gendered power, Marriage after widowhood

Accounting Disclosure and Sustainable Development Goal One. Does the Moderating Role of ICT Matter?

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Abstract

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) demands proactive corporate contributions and the mobilization of modern digital infrastructures, yet the combined impact of financial transparency and technology remains under-explored. This study investigates the impact of Accounting Disclosure on SDG 1 and examines whether Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays a meaningful moderating role in altering this relationship. Utilizing partial least squares structural equation modelling (PLS-SEM), a structural model was analysed using sample survey indicator data. The study assessed direct pathways, specific indirect channels, and an interaction construct ($ICT \times \text{Accounting Disclosure}$) to isolate the exact moderating dynamics. The results demonstrated excellent item reliability, with indicator outer loadings exceeding the threshold across all constructs. Structural path assessments revealed that Accounting Disclosure exerts a substantial direct positive effect on SDG 1 and a powerful direct effect on ICT. ICT also positively influences SDG 1, yielding a complementary specific indirect effect. Crucially, the interaction term displayed a significant negative path coefficient. The findings demonstrate that while both corporate accounting transparency and digital frameworks independently accelerate poverty alleviation efforts, the moderating role of ICT behaves as a “substitute” rather than a “catalyst.” Higher ICT penetration diminishes the marginal returns of compliance-driven accounting disclosure on SDG 1 achievement. This implies that policymakers and firm executives should treat corporate disclosure and technology as distinct strategic vectors; in data-rich, digitally mature environments, direct investments in technological access yield faster social sustainability returns than traditional corporate reporting mandates alone.

Keywords: Accounting Disclosure; Sustainable Development Goals; Information Communication and Technology; Poverty Alleviation; Corporate Sustainability

Towards an Inclusive Implementation of the Re-entry of School-aged Mothers Policy in Ghana: An Exploratory Study of the Role of Traditional Leaders in the Wa West District.

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Abstract

Ghana's re-entry policy for school-aged mothers seeks to ensure that girls who become pregnant are not permanently excluded from formal education. However, in many rural settings in Ghana, implementation of such policies is often mediated by a complex interplay of factors including gender-based barriers to the girl-child and young women's access to quality education. While studies often focus on schools, parents and government agencies, little attention has been paid to how traditional leaders shape the prevention of schoolgirl pregnancy and the reintegration of school-aged mothers into schools. This study seeks to examine the role traditional institutional heads such as chiefs, *pognamine*, family heads, *tendamba* and shrine priests play; first in preventing pregnancies among school-aged pupils and second in facilitating the re-entry of school-aged mothers into schools. The study is anchored in the programme theory of co-production which explains how policy implementation is shaped through collaboration and discursive processes among the stakeholders within local communities. Methodologically, the study adopts a qualitative design involving the thematic analysis of in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with purposively selected school-aged mothers (both re-entrants and dropouts), parents, divisional chiefs, *pognamine*, clan/family heads, teachers, and officials of the Wa West District Education Directorate. It is premised that gender-based barriers to re-entry are culturally driven. Therefore, the involvement of traditional leaders as the custodians of culture and behavioural ethics may co-produce enduring structures that would either enable or constrain efforts at preventing schoolgirls' pregnancies and the elimination of re-entry barriers to school-aged mothers. It would also explore how community-based support systems could be developed for school-aged mothers and their babies to still access formal education. The study contributes to gender-responsive education policy by highlighting the importance of culturally grounded forms of collaboration that will inform context-specific schoolgirls pregnancy prevention and re-entry policy implementation strategies in rural Ghana.

Keywords: Re-entry; School-aged mothers; Schoolgirl pregnancy; Co-production; Gender-based barriers

Unveiling Identities, Negotiating Patriarchy: A Reflexive Account of Researching Gendered Power in Dorimon, Northwestern Ghana

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Abstract

Critical reflexivity is crucial for navigating the complexities of power, identity, and subjectivity in knowledge production, challenging the assumption that research can be value-neutral, detached, or objectively insulated from the researcher's positionalities. This study presents a reflexive account of researching gendered power, focusing on the *pognaa* (woman chief) institution in the Dorimon political system of north-western Ghana. Grounded in decolonial African feminist theoretical principles, I offer a critical examination of gendered power relations within traditional power structures. Drawing on 18 months of decolonial African feminist ethnography, the paper examines how my intersecting positionalities as a male, a royal of the Dorimon political system, and an academic shaped the research process. The study reveals how reflexivity constitutes a critical site for questioning knowledge production, while making visible the researcher's identities, assumptions, privileges, and vulnerabilities. My royal identity, gender and historical positionalities within the Dorimon sociopolitical system provided both openings and closures in the research process. While my positionality enabled privileged access to some research participants, cultural-political spaces, and sensitive forms of knowledge, these same identities also generated methodological and ethical tensions. These tensions include gendered limitations in engaging women's experiences, suspicion from some participants, and the risk of reproducing the very patriarchal structures the study sought to question. Reflexivity consequently became a useful ethical and analytical tool that allowed for continuous self-interrogation, triangulation of perspectives, and confronting biases. The study argues that, rather than framing positionality as a research limitation that needs to be resolved, it constitutes a strategic domain that requires continuous examination as part of transparent and accountable knowledge production.

Keywords: Reflexivity; Positionality; Gendered Power; *Pognaa*; Dorimon Political System.

Wild Edible Plants and Climate Change Adaptation within Rural Northern Ghana

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Abstract

To achieve the UN sustainable development goals particularly goals 1, 2, 12, 13 and 15, there is the need to integrate wild edible plants (WEPs) and climate change adaptation. This research attempts to contribute to knowledge on how WEPs are used within forest fringe communities to cope with climate change and its variability. A systematic review was conducted online in November 2024 on the topic where articles were retrieved from bio one (260), Web of Science (970), Ovid (88) and PubMed (35) and exported to Endnote where abstracts and titles were screened, duplicates removed from the list of articles and papers on biophysical aspects of adaptation and studies without stated methodology excluded. A total of 113 articles comprising 62 adaptation articles, 41 WEPs articles and 10 other studies that included aspects of adaptation and WEPs were included in the final analysis. The review showed that past WEPs research focused on nutritional content, uses, some aspects of WEPs value chain, socioeconomic factors and very few climate change adaptation studies included some WEPs as non(off)-farm but did not include the WEP characteristics and activities that contribute to household food security in the context of climate change adaptation. This left research gaps on the climate smart characteristics of WEPs, how WEPs directly contribute to household overall adaptation strategy by comparing WEPs (non-farm) and on-farm adaptation activities and how knowledge on WEPs is traditionally retained for future generations. Data has been taken to examine the identified research gaps and will be presented in this conference if accepted.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals; climate change; adaptation; Variability; Wild edible plants.

Coping with Disability in the Post-COVID Era: Institutional Gaps and Socio-cultural Constraints: The Case of Wa West District of Ghana.

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic brought in its wake increased vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities (PWDs). The post-COVID era has further heightened these vulnerabilities particularly the coping strategies of these PWDs. This is a serious matter of concern for countries like Ghana where a significant percentage of the citizens fall within the PWD category. The question of how formal and informal institutional mechanisms respond to the coping difficulties of these vulnerable groups has been a great concern. Against this backdrop, the paper explores available institutional support systems and the nature of socio-cultural dynamics capable of advancing the wellbeing of PWDs in Ghana's rural context which is where many of these vulnerable groups reside. The study adopts the qualitative case study research design, which provides the opportunity to study the coping strategies of PWDs and institutional response systems in their real-life context. Additionally, the paper adopts the purposive sampling technique, with in-depth interviews and focus group discussions becoming the main primary data collection method. The collected data, both primary and secondary, were thematically analyzed. The study found that PWDs are severely deprived in a multi-dimensional manner through deplorable housing conditions, and public utility-related inadequacies. Also, support offered by government agencies, NGOs, and community-based structures are often undermined by lack of funding, weak outreach efforts, lack of accessibility, and awareness among PWDs. The study then recommends among others the need to empower domain institutions, increase community awareness creation to reduce socio-cultural constraints of PWDs and then stakeholder collaboration around expertise and logistics to enhance the deteriorating plight of PWDs.

Keywords: Disability Inclusion, Sociocultural Context, Institutional Support Mechanisms, Wa West District, Persons with Disabilities.

Labour Intensive Public Works and Women's Empowerment: Evidence from the Wa Metropolis, Ghana

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Abstract

Globally, labour-intensive public works interventions and programmes are widely accepted as women empowerment tools. However, the effects of these schemes specifically on women remain unclear. Therefore, the current study sets out to explore the effects of women's participation in Ghana's labour-intensive public works programme. Employing the capability approach and the empowerment theory, the study utilised the qualitative research design with a sample of 101 participants and collected data using an interview guide whereas data were analysed thematically. The results revealed that women's participation in labour intensive public works in Ghana is high and their perception and experiences of labour-intensive public works were positive. Further, labour intensive public works programme improved the financial situation of women, promoted the ability of women to provide food to their families, increased social networks, supported children's education and improved investment in small businesses. The conclusion is that labour intensive public works scheme serves as an effective women's empowerment pathway. However, some challenges confronted women, mainly bordering on childcare and health related issues as well as limitations in the investment of earned incomes. These threaten the sustainability of women empowerment. It is therefore recommended that interventions should be designed to promote women's ability to invest earned incomes from labour intensive public works programmes towards self-sufficiency.

Keywords: Empowerment; Social capital; Economic; Women participation; Poverty

Navigating the Labyrinth: Adjustment Challenges, Coping Strategies, and Identity Formation among First-Year Pre-Service Teachers at UBIDS

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Abstract

First-year pre-service teachers entering Ghanaian universities face a particularly demanding transition: they must simultaneously adapt to higher education, undertake academic coursework, prepare for school-based teaching practice, and begin to construct a professional identity as future teachers. Despite the importance of this formative period, the lived experiences of these students remain under-researched in the Ghanaian context, especially within universities in the Upper West Region. This study addressed that gap by exploring the adjustment challenges, coping strategies, and identity-formation experiences of first-year pre-service teachers at the School of Education and Life-Long Learning, University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS). An interpretive qualitative case-study design was adopted, guided by the labyrinth metaphor as an interpretive lens for the non-linear journey of teacher becoming. Twelve first-year pre-service teachers were purposively selected and engaged through in-depth semi-structured interviews, supplemented by reflective accounts. Data were analysed thematically following Braun and Clarke (2006), with trustworthiness supported through audit trail, member checking, and reflexivity (Lincoln & Guba, 1985). Findings revealed twelve adjustment challenges clustered around academic workload, financial precarity, classroom management during teaching practice, theory–practice translation, environmental disorientation, and identity-related anxiety. Participants drew on time-management routines, peer support, faith, and reflective adjustment to cope. The labyrinth metaphor captured the iterative, doubling-back character of professional becoming. The study contributes contextually grounded evidence to Ghanaian teacher education research and offers implications for institutional support, curriculum design, and supervisory practice in university Schools of Education.

Keywords: Pre-service Teachers; Adjustment; Coping; Teacher Identity; Labyrinth.

From Mirrors to Mastery: How Macro Teaching Enhances Reflective Practice and Self-Efficacy among Pre-Service Teachers after Teaching Practicum

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Abstract

The persistent theory-practice gap in teacher education has prompted growing interest in macro teaching to strengthen pre-service teachers' readiness for whole-class instruction, particularly in Ghanaian and broader West African contexts, where practicum anxiety remains high. This study examined how participation in a macro teaching model during the teaching practicum influences reflective practice and classroom self-efficacy among pre-service teachers, and whether structured reflection mediates this relationship. Grounded in Bandura's social cognitive theory, the study adopted a convergent parallel mixed-methods design. Pre-service teachers who had recently completed their teaching practicum were selected through purposive and convenience sampling. The Teachers' Sense of Efficacy Scale (TSES) was administered before and after a macro teaching cycle involving lesson planning, full-period whole-class delivery, and a video-based critique stage. Reflective e-journals and post-practicum interview responses provided qualitative data. Paired-samples t-tests were used to analyse the quantitative data, while thematic analysis with inductive coding was applied to the qualitative data; the two strands were then triangulated. Macro teaching transformed reflection from incidental post-lesson commentary into a deliberate, evidence-based habit. Participants reported deeper self-awareness, more learner-centred instructional choices, and stronger integration of peer and supervisor feedback. Recurring growth areas included questioning techniques, classroom management, and differentiated instruction, while rapport-building and content clarity emerged as consolidated strengths. Self-efficacy gains were evidenced through mastery experiences, verbal persuasion, and vicarious learning, confirming a reciprocal relationship between reflection and confidence. Macro teaching serves as a developmental bridge from "mirrors" of self-observation to "mastery" of practice. Teacher education programmes should embed structured reflective scaffolds, peer observation protocols, and targeted pedagogical training in questioning, classroom management, and differentiation within future practicum designs to sustain both reflective and efficacious beginning teachers.

Keywords: Macro Teaching; Reflective Practice; Self-efficacy; Pre-service Teachers; Teaching Practicum.

Socioeconomic and Environmental Determinants of Household Nutrition Risk in Wa Municipality, Northern Ghana

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Abstract

Undernutrition remains a major public-health challenge in sub-Saharan Africa, where environmental, social, and economic determinants interact to influence household nutrition outcomes. Growing evidence suggests that access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services can play a crucial role in reducing nutrition-related risks by preventing infection and improving food utilisation efficiency. However, empirical evidence on the combined influence of WASH access, education, and household income on nutrition outcomes in urban Ghana remains limited. This study examined the socioeconomic and environmental predictors of household nutrition risk in the Wa Municipality, Upper West Region of north-western Ghana. We analysed cross-sectional data from the Sanitation, Health, and Nutrition Survey (n = 370 households) collected in 2025 across 14 communities within Wa Municipality, Upper West Region. The dataset included indicators of household income, education level, WASH Access Score (0–100), and Nutrition Risk Score (0–5). An ordered logistic regression model was used to estimate the likelihood of higher nutrition risk as a function of socioeconomic and WASH variables. Higher WASH access was significantly associated with reduced odds of high nutrition risk (B = -0.013; OR = 0.987; p = 0.026). Income and education were not significantly associated with nutrition risk (p > 0.05). Predicted probability plots reveal that households in the highest education and income quartiles have markedly lower predicted nutrition risk, particularly when combined with high WASH access. This study provides evidence that improved WASH access is significantly associated with lower household nutrition risk in urban Ghana, independent of income and education. Integrating WASH improvements into nutrition and poverty-alleviation programmes could enhance health equity and accelerate progress toward Sustainable Development Goals 2 (Zero Hunger) and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

Keywords: Nutrition risk; WASH; socioeconomic determinants; Ghana; Sustainable Development Goals

Consumption frequency, climate change awareness, and acceptance of climate-mitigating and sustainable consumption strategies for edible insects' conservation in northwest Ghana

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Abstract

Climate change continues to affect agriculture and ecosystem services negatively across the globe. The study analysed the rural-urban consumption frequency of insects, the association between rural-urban status, climate change awareness, socio-demographic characteristics and climate-mitigating strategies for edible insects' conservation in northwest Ghana. A cross-sectional survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews among 743 household heads using multistage sampling techniques. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics, the Mann–Whitney U test and binary logistic regression using Stata version 14 software. Consumption frequency was higher among the rural population compared to the urban population ($\chi^2 = 227.632$, $df = 4$; p -value < 0.001). Climate change awareness was significantly higher among the urban population than the rural population ($U = 53,522.5$, $z = 5.619$, $p < 0.001$). The binary logistic regression showed that rural respondents had significantly higher odds of accepting climate-smart agriculture (AOR = 1.484, 95% CI: 1.074–2.052, $p = 0.017$), afforestation (AOR = 2.887, 95% CI: 1.986–4.196, $p < 0.001$) and lower odds of sustainable insects consumption (AOR = 0.426, 95% CI: 0.291–0.623, $p < 0.001$) as climate change mitigating strategies for edible insects conservation compared to urban consumers. The age groups of respondents produced mixed results for acceptance of climate-smart agriculture while respondents who were neutral with the climate change awareness statement (AOR = 11.700, 95% CI: 6.784–20.181, $p < 0.001$) and agree statement (AOR = 2.089, 95% CI: 1.200–3.637, $p = 0.009$) had significantly higher odds of accepting sustainable consumption of insects as a climate mitigating strategy. The study therefore highlights the importance of rural-urban status, climate change awareness and age to the acceptance of climate-mitigating strategies. We therefore recommend developing context-specific approaches in promoting the acceptance of climate-mitigating and sustainable use strategies for the conservation of edible insects.

Keywords: Ghana, Entomophagy, climate change

Climate-Resilient and Socially Inclusive Urban Tourism Development in Ghana: Integrating Policy Pathways for Sustainable Hospitality Futures

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Abstract

Urban tourism development in Ghana faces growing challenges from climate change, rapid urbanisation, environmental degradation, and social inequality. As cities such as Accra, Kumasi, and Cape Coast expand as tourism and hospitality hubs, climate-resilient and socially inclusive development strategies have become essential. This paper examines how policy integration can promote sustainable hospitality futures through climate-responsive urban tourism development in Ghana. Using secondary data from policy documents, institutional reports, urban development frameworks, and scholarly literature, the study applies qualitative thematic analysis to explore links between climate action, tourism governance, and social inclusion. Findings show that although Ghana has advanced climate and urbanisation policies, challenges remain in policy coherence, implementation capacity, stakeholder coordination, and inclusive participation. Key barriers include climate vulnerability, infrastructure deficits, informal sector exclusion, and limited green investment. The study highlights opportunities for climate adaptation, community participation, green infrastructure, and smart tourism technologies to foster resilient and sustainable urban hospitality development.

Keywords: Climate resilience; Sustainable Urban tourism and hospitality; Social inclusion; Tourism policy; Ghana

Entrepreneurial Behavioural Change and Tourist Repurchase Intention: Evidence from the Upper West Region

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Abstract

Tourism service encounters are inherently relational, yet many studies in the field of tourist loyalty primarily focus on static service quality frameworks that understate the role of entrepreneurial behaviour. In small tourism enterprises, where entrepreneurs simultaneously manage operations and frontline interactions, behavioural adaptation can significantly shape how tourists evaluate service credibility, relational value, and future engagement. This study therefore examines how entrepreneurs' behavioural change influences tourists repurchase intentions within the context of the Upper West Region. The study adopted a quantitative cross-sectional design whereby data were collected from 205 tourists with prior service experience using a convenience sampling technique. The data were analysed using SMART PLS version 25. The findings indicated that perceived improvements in entrepreneurial behaviour were positively and significantly associated with tourist repurchase intentions. Also, it was revealed that entrepreneurial behaviour change positively influenced tourist trust and satisfaction. The results further established that tourist trust and satisfaction enhanced the relationship between entrepreneurial behaviour change and repurchase intentions among tourists. The study contributes to tourism and hospitality scholarship by advancing behavioural change as a core entrepreneurial resource in tourist relationship development. From a practical perspective, it highlights the strategic importance of behavioural competence, particularly in building trust and satisfaction among tourism SMEs.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial Behaviour, Behavioural Adaptation, Tourist Loyalty, Repurchase Intention, Customer Satisfaction, Trust, Tourism SME.

Mitigating Post-Harvest Losses Through Climate-Resilient Practices: Perspective of Soybean Farmers in Jeffisi, Upper West Region, Ghana

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Abstract

Post-Harvest Losses (PHLs) are a major challenge to soybean productivity, food security and farmer livelihood in rural Ghana, especially in the Upper West Region known to be climate sensitive. This study employed a mixed methods approach, which comprised structured surveys, in-depth interviews and focus group discussion with 222 soybean farmers, agricultural extension officers and community leaders in Jeffisi, Upper West Region. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, Likert scale ranking and binary logistic regression. The study found that post-harvest losses were nearly universal; 78% of the respondents indicated losses in the previous growing season, with more than 62% indicating losses of more than 10% of their harvest. The two main causes were poor storage infrastructure and pest infestation (mean=4.5/5.0 and mean=4.2/5.0 respectively). Irregular rainfall ($B=0.92$, $p=0.002$; $OR=2.51$) and drought ($B=0.78$, $p=0.012$; $OR=2.18$) were statistically significant predictors of elevated losses. Climate resilient practices were only partially adopted: improved seed varieties (mean=4.1/5.0) and crop rotation (mean=4.0/5.0) were well-adopted, and water management practices (including irrigation and rainwater harvesting) were low due to financial and technical constraints. Post-harvest losses in Jeffisi stem not only from technical issues, but also from vulnerabilities in physical, financial and human capital. Systems must be integrated and context-specific so that they can carry out effective reductions, with improved storage facilities, climate adaptive post-harvest technologies, gender-inclusive extension services and policy support. The results provide actionable scientific and policy insights for policy makers, development actors, and Agri-support institutions in climate-restricted smallholder farming communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

Keywords: post-harvest losses; climate-resilient agriculture; soybean production; smallholder farmers; food security

The Dynamic Influence of Financial Inclusion on Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

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Abstract

Undernutrition remains a major development challenge in SSA, with adverse consequences for health, human capital development, productivity, and economic growth. Despite significant investments in food security and poverty reduction programmes, nutritional deprivation persists across the region. While financial inclusion is increasingly recognised as a mechanism for improving household welfare and resilience, little evidence exists about its contribution to nutritional outcomes, particularly in the SSA context. This study, therefore, examines the effect of financial inclusion on undernutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa and identifies the dimensions of financial inclusion most relevant for improving nutritional welfare. The study utilises panel data from 42 SSA countries covering the period 2004–2024. Windmeijer-corrected robust standard errors with a two-step System GMM estimator were employed to address endogeneity, unobserved heterogeneity, and the dynamic persistence of undernutrition. Commercial banks' branches, Automated teller machines (ATMs), Deposit accounts of commercial banks and Borrowers of commercial banks were used to measure financial inclusion. Inflation, education and GDP per capita were used as control variables. The results showed undernutrition persisted strongly (1.0169***) suggesting nutritional deprivation is deeply rooted in SSA. Significant reductions in undernutrition were found in commercial bank branches (−0.3761**), ATM penetration (−0.0357*), and access to formal credit (−0.0127**). However, deposit account ownership did not have a significant effect, suggesting that access alone does not generate welfare gains. GDP per capita contributed to reductions in undernutrition, while inflation remained statistically insignificant. The findings demonstrate that financial inclusion can improve nutritional welfare, when it promotes effective use of financial services, particularly formal credit access. The study recommends the need to integrate financial inclusion policies with food security, agricultural financing, and social protection interventions to address the structural drivers of undernutrition in SSA.

Keywords: Financial Inclusion; Undernutrition; Food Security; System GMM; Sub-Saharan Africa

Public Education Financing, Digital Access and Institutional Quality in Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4

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Abstract

Despite substantial increases in public expenditure on education across developing economies, concerns persist regarding the extent to which such investments translate into improved education quality outcomes. This study investigated the effect of government spending on education quality in West African countries, while examining the moderating roles of digital access and institutional quality in advancing SDG 4. The study utilized balanced panel data covering the period 2000–2024, obtained from the World Development Indicators, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, World Governance Indicators, and the International Telecommunication Union. To address endogeneity concerns, the two-step System GMM estimator was employed. The findings revealed that government expenditure on education has a positive and statistically significant effect on education quality outcomes. Higher levels of education spending were associated with improvements in learning-adjusted years of schooling, school completion rates, and overall educational performance. The results further showed that digital access significantly enhances education quality, indicating that increased internet penetration and ICT availability contribute to better learning outcomes. Additionally, institutional quality was found to strengthen the effectiveness of education spending. Countries with stronger governance systems, higher government effectiveness, better regulatory quality, and lower levels of corruption experienced greater educational gains from public investment in education. The interaction effects further demonstrated that digital access amplifies the positive relationship between education spending and education quality, underscoring the complementary role of technology in enhancing the efficiency of educational investments. The study concludes that increasing education expenditure alone is insufficient to achieve sustained improvements in education quality. Effective progress toward SDG 4 requires complementary investments in digital infrastructure and stronger institutional frameworks. The findings highlight the importance of integrated policy strategies that simultaneously promote education financing, digital inclusion, and good governance to improve educational outcomes in West Africa.

Keywords: Public education financing; education quality; digital access; institutional quality; SDG 4.

Assessing the Impact of ICT Tools on Citizen Participation in Urban Planning in Ghana: Insights from Wa Municipality

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Abstract

The rapid advancement of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has transformed the dynamics of urban governance and public participation in planning processes. This study assesses the impact of ICT tools on citizen participation in urban planning in the Wa Municipality of Ghana. Anchored in participatory planning and e-governance theories, the study adopts a descriptive mixed-methods design using surveys, interviews, and document reviews to investigate the extent to which ICT tools such as mobile phones, social media platforms, and web-based applications enhance communication, information access, and decision-making in local urban planning. The findings revealed that ICTs have facilitated greater interaction between citizens and municipal authorities, improved access to spatial and policy information, and promoted accountability and feedback mechanisms. Nevertheless, challenges such as poor internet connectivity, limited awareness, inadequate technical skills, and the absence of structured digital participation frameworks hinder their full potential. Institutional rigidity and lack of capacity among planning officials further exacerbate the problem. The study recommends strengthening ICT infrastructure, mainstreaming digital participation into urban planning policies, and implementing capacity-building initiatives for both citizens and local authorities. The study further concluded that enhancing ICT-driven participation can foster inclusiveness, transparency, and sustainable urban development within Ghana's decentralized planning system.

Keywords: ICT tools; Citizen participation; Urban planning; Participatory planning; Ghana

Exploring Trader Marginalisation: Identifying Excluded Groups and the Socio-Economic Basis of Market Inequality in Selected Markets in Northern Ghana.

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Abstract

Marketplaces in Northern Ghana serve as vital spaces for economic activity, livelihoods, and social interaction. Despite the critical role markets play in local economic development, existing policies and management practices have inadequately addressed the drivers of exclusion, leaving vulnerable groups without protection or representation. This study explores trader marginalisation in selected markets in Northern Ghana, identifies the groups most affected, and examines the socio-economic bases of inequality, with the aim of informing more inclusive and equitable market governance. Using a qualitative approach, data were collected through interviews with traders, market leaders, and local authorities across three urban markets in Northern Ghana. The findings showed that marginalised traders consist of economically disadvantaged individuals, traders working in open spaces, those from remote towns, and mobile traders (including pushcart users). Socially vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly and disabled, were noted as the least represented. The findings indicate that traders are often forced into insecure trading environments due to structural factors like unequal stall allocation, inadequate infrastructure and space, rising rents, and administrative practices, along with social elements such as kinship networks and exclusionary practices. These conditions work to perpetuate cycles of poverty and hinder upward mobility. The study concludes that trader marginalisation is multidimensional. It is recommended that policy interventions that prioritize equitable space allocation, inclusive governance, and targeted support for vulnerable groups be implemented. Addressing the inequalities is critical for fostering fairer participation and strengthening the resilience of market economies in Northern Ghana.

Keywords: Trader marginalisation; Market Space; Vulnerable Groups; Market Inequality; Structural drivers; Northern Markets.

The impact of Energy Consumption and Carbon dioxide (CO₂) Emissions on the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa

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Abstract

This study explored the relationship between energy consumption, CO₂ emissions and achievement of SDG 7 in Africa for the period 1990-2024 using panel data of chosen nations. The research is driven by increasing energy use on the continent and environmental challenges associated with fossil energy. To deal with endogeneity, reverse causality and dynamic persistence in macro-panel data, the study adopts two-step System Generalised Method of Moments (System GMM) estimator of Blundell and Bond (1998) and Windmeijer-corrected robust standard errors for trustworthy inference. The empirical results reveal a strong persistence in SDG 7 performance, suggesting that past gains in sustainable energy access have a substantial impact on current outcomes. The positive and statistically significant effect of energy use and renewable energy consumption on the SDG 7 attainment shows that energy access and renewable energy expansion aid Africa to achieve sustainable development. The Windmeijer correction shows a weak negative correlation of CO₂ emissions with SDG 7. This shows that carbon-intensive growth still threatens environmental sustainability. The results show statistically insignificant effects for economic and urban population expansion indicating that growth may not be sufficient for sustainable energy development without structural and institutional reforms. The Sargan over-identification test confirms the instruments of the System GMM model, and the Windmeijer correction enhances statistical inference. To accomplish SDG 7, the paper states that Africa needs a methodical shift to renewable energy, better energy infrastructure, stronger environmental governance and sustainable policy frameworks that combine economic development and environmental protection.

Keywords: Energy Consumption, CO₂ Emissions, Sustainable Development Goals, Generalised Method of Moments, Africa.

The Effect of Urban Sprawl on Agricultural Farmlands in Bamahu, Wa Municipality

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Abstract

Unmanaged urban expansion constitutes one of the most consequential yet underexamined drivers of agricultural land loss and food insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa. This study examines the spatiotemporal impacts of urban sprawl on farmlands and household food security in Bamahu, a rapidly transforming peri-urban community within the Wa Municipality of Ghana's Upper West Region. Employing a convergent mixed-methods design, the research integrates satellite-based land cover classification (Landsat 5, 8, and 9 imageries for 2006, 2009, 2015, and 2025) with household surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews administered to 97 respondents and five institutional stakeholders. Maximum likelihood classification with accuracy assessment (Kappa coefficients: 0.699–0.718) reveals a precipitous decline in agricultural land from 51.91% of total area in 2006 to 35.06% by 2015, concurrent with a nearly six-fold expansion of built-up cover from 2.87% to 15.43%. The primary drivers of farmland loss include institutional expansion, most notably the growth of the University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS), residential development, speculative land commodification, and the absence of protective agricultural zoning. These structural pressures have materially eroded food security along all four pillars: availability, access, utilisation, and stability. Over 62% of surveyed farmers reported reduced landholdings, 53.4% experienced seasonal food shortages lasting one to seven months, and the dominant coping response has shifted from subsistence production to market dependency and consumption-reduction strategies. The study concludes that without enforceable peri-urban land use frameworks, designation of agricultural protection zones, and participatory governance mechanisms, accelerating sprawl will precipitate irreversible food system collapse in communities like Bamahu. Integrated spatial planning anchored in evidence-based policy is urgently required.

Keywords: urban sprawl; agricultural land loss; food security; land use change; peri-urban Ghana

From Victimization to Help-Seeking: Exploring the Factors Shaping Domestic Violence Reporting in Tamale, Ghana

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Abstract

Domestic violence is a widespread and horrible problem that has a significant effect on victims, their families, and society. The purpose of this study was to explore the factors influencing victims' willingness to report domestic violence in the Tamale metropolis. The study employed a phenomenological research design. A total of 30 respondents, including current victims of domestic violence, staff of the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit, staff of the Social Welfare Department, and staff of Civil-Society Organisations that work with victims of domestic violence, participated in the study. The study employed a semi-structured interview guide for data collection. The researchers relied on thematic analysis to analyse the data in this study. The study revealed that the influence of religious and traditional authorities, stigma, reputational damage, and established forms of marital norms and obligations were found to be the socio-cultural determinants that prevent victims of domestic violence from reporting abuse to the police in the Tamale Metropolis. This implies that religious and traditional leaders have great influence on the ability of an abused person to report or not to report domestic violence. Finally, the study found that lack of trust in the judicial system, re-victimisation of domestic violence victims by domestic violence agencies, and inadequate support services by domestic violence agencies in the Tamale Metropolis were the challenges victims of domestic violence face in reporting abuse. The study recommends that the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection should work towards educating the public about the importance of reporting all forms of domestic violence to the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service and other relevant agencies as a means of obtaining timely assistance and support.

Keywords: Domestic; Violence; Authority; Victim; Abuse.

Exploring Household Experiences and Poverty Trajectories under the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme in Nadowli-Kaleo District, Ghana

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Abstract

The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Program undoubtedly remains Ghana's main cash transfer intervention for extremely poor households. Available studies on LEAP largely focus on Program outcomes, and little covers the divergent poverty trajectories of beneficiaries or how household, institutional, and contextual factors shape these trajectories in rural Ghana. This study explored household experiences and poverty trajectories under the LEAP Program in the Nadowli-Kaleo District in the Upper West Region. Anchored on the Theories of Change and Sustainable Livelihoods Framework, a qualitative design was adapted involving semi-structured in-depth interviews with 25 long-term beneficiary households, 10 comparable non-beneficiary households, 6 key informant interviews with focal persons and implementers, and 2 focus group discussions. A thematic analysis was done using NVivo 15 to identify patterns of change in household livelihoods and well-being. The findings indicate that LEAP has significant statistical implications. Beneficiary accounts indicated improvements in household consumption, healthcare access, and children's school attendance. 10 out of the 25 beneficiaries reported using cash transfers to support small-scale farming, livestock rearing, and petty trading, thereby strengthening household resilience. However, the magnitude of these gains varied across households and was constrained by irregular payment schedules, inflation, climate-related shocks, and limited livelihood opportunities. Three distinct trajectories emerged during the analysis. Gradual upward Trajectory (10 out of 25 households), stalled or chronic poverty (9 out of 25), and oscillating or downward movement (6 out of 25). Non-beneficiary households largely reported relying more heavily on migration to southern Ghana during the lean season and an unending cycle of borrowing from relatives. In a nutshell, the study concluded that LEAP contributes to poverty reduction and social inclusion but is insufficient on its own to achieve sustained livelihood transformation. Strengthening Program predictability, increasing transfer values, and integrating livelihood support interventions are critical for enhancing long-term poverty reduction.

Keywords: Poverty Trajectories; Social protection; Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty; Lived experiences; Qualitative research; Northern Ghana

Knowledge, Attitude, And Practices in Relations to Fire Emergency Preparedness in Public Tertiary Institutions in The Wa Metro Area

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Abstract

Fire incidents remain a persistent public safety risk in Ghana, and public tertiary institutions are exposed through high occupancy densities, hostels and laboratories, extensive electrical loads, and uneven enforcement of safety routines. This paper assessed fire emergency preparedness in selected public tertiary institutions in the Wa Metropolitan Area, specifically, the University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS) and Dr. Hilla Limann Technical University (DHLTU), by examining knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) and analysing the institutional and regulatory arrangements that shape readiness. The study adopted a convergent mixed methods design, using an online KAP survey, online key-informant interviews, and a planned document review. The survey yielded 92 consenting respondents, and five key informants provided role-based accounts of preparedness systems and constraints. Among respondents, knowledge was moderate (mean = 3.91/6), attitudes and risk perceptions were generally positive (mean = 3.62/5), and practices were moderate (mean = 3.07/5). Operational weaknesses were evident: drill participation was low (mean = 2.43/5), only 51.1% reported knowing the emergency contact number for fire emergencies, and awareness of institutional arrangements was limited (only 32.6% reported awareness of a fire safety policy, with substantial uncertainty about policies, wardens and external drills/inspections). The document review outcome indicated that key preparedness documents and records were not available, and interviews indicated mixed policy awareness, irregular drills, resource and equipment constraints, and limited institutionalisation of preparedness systems. The institutional arrangement index (mean = 1.93/5) was positively associated with practice scores, indicating that respondents reporting more visible arrangements also reported better preparedness practices. This paper concludes that preparedness is moderate at the individual KAP level but constrained by weak institutional visibility, documentation, drills, maintenance routines and coordination structures. Strengthening preparedness requires improved fire safety governance and structured collaboration with the Ghana National Fire Service and the National Disaster Management Organisation.

Keywords: KAP Studies; Fire emergency preparedness; Public tertiary institutions

Consumers' Willingness to Pay for Organic Vegetables and Tubers in the Wa Municipality, Ghana

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Abstract

This study investigated consumers' willingness to pay (WTP) for organic vegetables and tubers in the Wa Municipality of Ghana. The study was triggered by the growing concerns of food safety, environmental sustainability, health concerns, and the demand for organic foods, coupled with limited empirical evidence on organic food production and consumer behaviour in Northern Ghana. Specifically, the study sought to identify the types of organic vegetables and tubers cultivated, examine the methods used in the cultivation of organic foods, determine the factors influencing consumers' willingness to pay for organic vegetables and tubers, and assess consumers' willingness to pay for organic produce. This study utilized a mixed-methods research approach with a cross-sectional survey design. Structured questionnaires and interviews were used to gather primary data from farmers and consumers. Descriptive statistics, correlation, regression, and thematic analysis were used to elucidate the relationship between the socio-economic attributes, consumers' perception, and willingness to pay for organic produce. The findings indicated that most of the vegetables and tubers grown organically in Wa Municipality are tomatoes, peppers, onions, okras, lettuce, cabbage, yams, cassava, sweet potatoes, and cocoyam. The farmers adopted traditional farming techniques, including composting, crop rotation, intercropping, mulching, manual weeding, and pesticides made from neem. Despite this, some of the main limitations for organic production remain the lack of institutional support, markets, certification systems, labour intensity, and availability of organic inputs. The study also revealed that consumers were moderately willing to pay a premium for organic vegetables and tubers, based on their perceptions of health benefits, food safety, and environmental sustainability. Willingness to pay was shown to be related to income level, education, health consciousness, product availability, trust in organic labelling, and price sensitivity. The study concludes that the organic food sector in Wa Municipality has significant potential to enhance Wa households' nutritional security, environmental sustainability, and income generation. But the development of this industry still needs better institutional assistance, certification and labelling system, consumer awareness, better market infrastructure, and policy measures to remove production and marketing constraints. The study recommends that the government, NGOs, and agricultural extension services should increase awareness creation of organic produce, provide technical assistance to organic farmers, and establish reliable market systems to boost the production and consumption of organic vegetables and tubers in Ghana.

Keywords: Consumers, Willingness to Pay, Organic, Vegetables and Tubers

(Material) impact of leap on beneficiary households in the phase of indigenous social protection systems for synergy-building in Nandom municipal, Ghana

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Abstract

This study examines the material impact of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme on beneficiary households in the Nandom municipal, Ghana in the phase of indigenous social protection systems for synergy-building. Anchoring on the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF), and Social Capital Theory (SCT), and drawing on the lens of these theories, the research explores how social cash transfers influences household food security and consumption patterns, income and expenditure patterns, asset ownership and livelihood diversification, education and health outcomes as well as gender and empowerment dimensions in the phase of indigenous social protection systems. Adopting a mixed-methods approach, the study examine the impact of the LEAP programme on beneficiary households and its interaction with indigenous social protection systems. Specifically, the study investigates changes in household consumption patterns, productive investments, and livelihood diversification following LEAP enrolment in the phase of indigenous social protection systems. Employing descriptive and inferential statistical techniques including frequencies, percentages, mean scores, cross-tabulations, and chi-square tests where appropriate, and using thematic analysis to identify recurring themes related to indigenous social protection systems and synergy-building among beneficiary households and ensuring the findings from both strands are integrated through triangulation for the enhancement of validity and comprehensive interpretation. The findings indicate that LEAP has contributed positively to household welfare improvement, and reduced vulnerability among beneficiary households. The study further reveals that indigenous social protection systems complement LEAP interventions in promoting household resilience. However, inadequate transfer amounts, delayed payments, and persistent poverty challenges limit the programme's overall transformative impact. The study concludes that LEAP contributes meaningfully to household welfare and livelihood stabilization, but its effectiveness is strengthened when combined with indigenous and community-based social protection systems. Scaling up transfer value, ensuring regular disbursements, and integrating with indigenous and community-based social protection systems, are essential for deepening LEAP's transformative potential.

Keywords: Social cash transfers; Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP); Material impact; Sustainable livelihoods; Indigenous social protection systems

Barriers to the Implementation of Ghana's Spatial Planning Agenda: An Assessment of the Sekondi-Takoradi Urban Network (STUN)

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Abstract

This article investigates the extent to which the policy vision of polycentric urban development, articulated in Ghana's National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF), has been realised in practice within the Sekondi-Takoradi Urban Network (STUN). Employing a qualitative research design, the study integrates GIS-based land-use analysis with structured interviews to evaluate the implementation of Ghana's polycentric development strategy and to identify barriers to STUN's functional transformation. Spatial analysis of land-use change is complemented by thematic analysis of interview data, organised around two analytical dimensions: spatial coordination and transport integration. The findings highlight four interrelated themes that shape the assessment of STUN: its conceptualisation as a normative, polycentric urban region; the translation of this vision into a functional, polycentric system; the role of urban governance in advancing polycentricity; and the relationship among spatial planning, transport systems, and polycentric development. Despite policy commitments to balanced regional growth, STUN remains predominantly monocentric in practice. Weak spatial-transport integration, limited inclusion of informal mobility providers, and poor inter-institutional coordination undermine the framework's implementation. The article contributes to debates on urban planning in the Global South by demonstrating that policy designation alone is insufficient to achieve functional polycentricity. It argues for strengthening regional planning institutions, improving transport-land-use integration, and formally incorporating informal mobility systems to advance polycentric development beyond symbolic policy intentions.

Keywords: Polycentric urban development; S planning; Transit-oriented development; Urban governance; Ghana; Sekondi-Takoradi; National spatial development framework (NSDF)

Community Participation in Eco-Cultural Tourism Development in the Wa West District, Ghana

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Abstract

Community participation is recognized as a critical factor in the sustainable development of eco-cultural tourism, especially in rural settings with abundant ecological and cultural assets. Eco-cultural tourism combines the ecological and cultural aspects of a landscape, aiming to create a tourist paradise. This study assessed the extent, nature, benefits and constraints of community participation in eco-cultural tourism development in the Wa West District of Ghana. The authors adopted a mixed-methods research approach, combining quantitative data from household surveys with qualitative data from key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis. The study revealed that community participation is high in ecotourism-related operational activities such as cultural shows, handicrafts, and tour guiding, but low in decision-making and planning activities. The results showed that eco-cultural tourism plays a vital role in generating employment and revenue and in preserving culture, even though benefits are not equitably distributed in the Wa West District. The lack of infrastructure, institutional support, communication and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms limits community members' participation efforts in the district. The study concludes that while eco-cultural tourism has significant potential for rural development in the Wa West District, it is constrained by poor community empowerment and governance. The authors recommend fostering inclusive planning and decision-making, infrastructure development, capacity-building initiatives, and equitable benefit-sharing to encourage effective community participation and sustainable development in the eco-cultural tourism sector in the Wa West District, and by extension, in other rural areas with similar potential.

Keywords: Community participation, eco-cultural tourism, sustainable development, Wa West District, Ghana, rural tourism

Social Credit System for Academics: An AI-Driven Governance Architecture for Institutional Trust, Integrity, and Sustainability

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Abstract

Higher education institutions increasingly face challenges relating to academic dishonesty, research misconduct, governance failures, corruption, abuse of authority, and declining public trust, all of which threaten institutional legitimacy and long-term sustainability. Existing quality assurance and integrity frameworks primarily focus on compliance monitoring and post hoc disciplinary measures, offering limited capacity to proactively strengthen institutional trust. This study proposes a Social Credit System for Academics (SCSA), an integrity-centred governance framework that adapts selected principles of reputation-based governance to the higher education context while adhering to international standards of academic integrity, responsible artificial intelligence, transparency, and human rights. Using a design science research approach informed by Institutional Trust Theory and Deterrence Theory, the framework was developed through an extensive review and synthesis of contemporary literature on academic integrity, university governance, responsible AI, and institutional sustainability. The SCSA framework operationalises trust across four governance levels (micro, meso, macro, and mega) and six interconnected domains: academic integrity, professional conduct, instructional reliability, research integrity, administrative governance, and institutional resilience. The framework proposes the integration of structured, semi-structured, and unstructured institutional data through an explainable AI architecture that employs machine learning and natural language processing techniques for anomaly detection, behavioural analysis, and governance intelligence. It provides a comprehensive mechanism for identifying integrity risks, promoting accountability, supporting evidence-based decision-making, and enabling predictive institutional governance, and further incorporates due process safeguards, human oversight, privacy protections, anti-bias monitoring, and reputation recovery mechanisms to prevent misuse. The SCSA offers a novel and context-sensitive blueprint for strengthening institutional trust, enhancing governance effectiveness, improving academic quality, and supporting the sustainable development of higher education institutions in an increasingly complex educational environment.

Keywords: Academic Integrity; Institutional Trust; Responsible Artificial Intelligence; University Governance; Higher Educational Institutions; Sustainability

Gendered Pathways to Sustainable and Resilient Urban Tourism in West Africa: Integrating Climate Adaptation and Post-Pandemic Recovery through Inclusive Governance

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Abstract

Urban tourism is a driver of economic development, employment creation and cultural preservation in West Africa. However, the rising consequences of climate change, urbanisation, and the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the fragility of urban tourism destinations, highlighting the need for more resilient and inclusive governance structures. Although past research has addressed tourist resilience, climate adaptation, and gender inclusion, these issues are often examined independently, limiting their contribution to urban tourism resilience. This study examines the relevance of gender responsive governance in sustainable urban tourism resilience in four West African cities, namely Accra, Lagos, Abidjan and Dakar. This study proposes and validates the Gendered Urban Tourism Resilience Model (GUTRM) by integrating the Gender and Development (GAD) Perspective, Resilience Theory, and the Urban Tourism Sustainability Transition Framework. This mixed-method study utilised qualitative data from 40 participants and quantitative data from 384 respondents from tourism and hospitality industry stakeholders across four locations. Quantitative data were analysed using AMOS (Smart PLS) version 26, while qualitative data from interviews were examined using thematic analysis. The findings show that gender-responsive governance has a major impact on social capital, inclusive governance, and community involvement, which promotes resilience and sustainable urban tourism development in the post-pandemic setting. The most important predictor of resilience was community engagement, which showed cooperation between local communities, governments, tourism companies, and civil society organisations. The research showed that in comparison to Abidjan and Dakar, both Accra and Lagos show greater resilience as a result of better governance, improved stakeholder engagement and effective climate adaptation strategies. The study puts forth an integrated model of tourism resilience that draws together the concept of gender-responsive governance, climate adaptation and resilience. The findings from the research also have implications for practical action by governments and tourism institutions by emphasizing the importance of developing gender-responsive governance, promoting community involvement and investing in climate adaptation in order to enhance the resilience of urban tourism destinations in the West African region.

Keywords: Gender Inclusion; Urban Tourism and Resilience; Climate Adaptation and Inclusive Governance; West Africa

Assessment of Routine Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) Data Quality in the Bongo District of the Upper East Region of Ghana

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Abstract

Immunisation remains one of the most effective public health interventions for reducing childhood morbidity and mortality. The effectiveness of immunisation programmes depends largely on the availability of accurate and reliable routine data to support planning, monitoring and evidence-based decision-making. However, concerns about inaccuracies, incomplete reporting, and delays in routine Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) data continue to affect the reliability of information used for decision-making at the district level, potentially undermining service delivery and health outcomes. This study assessed the quality of routine Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) data in the Bongo District of the Upper East Region of Ghana by examining data accuracy, completeness, timeliness and consistency. A descriptive cross-sectional study using document review was conducted in nine purposively selected health facilities comprising one district hospital, two health centres and six Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) compounds. Immunisation registers and tally sheets were reviewed and compared with monthly summary reports and District Health Information Management System 2 (DHIMS2) records for the period January to December 2023. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and verification factors based on the World Health Organization Data Quality Self-Assessment framework. The study found high availability of data collection tools and strong completeness of reporting in DHIMS2 across the facilities. However, gaps were identified in documentation practices, report authentication and timeliness of report submission. While most facilities recorded verification factors within the WHO acceptable range, discrepancies including under-reporting and over-reporting were observed during data transfer and reporting. Variations in consistency across facilities also suggested weaknesses in supervision and internal data validation. The study concludes that although structural readiness and reporting performance were generally strong, weaknesses in documentation, data verification and staff capacity continue to affect the quality of routine immunisation data. Strengthening supportive supervision, routine data quality audits and capacity building for health workers is recommended to improve data reliability for decision-making.

Keywords: Immunisation data quality; Expanded Programme on Immunisation; Routine health information systems; DHIMS2; Ghana

Green Infrastructure Adoption and Climate Change Health Risk Reduction in the Bolgatanga Municipality

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Abstract

Climate change has intensified urban heat stress and associated health risks, particularly in semi-arid regions such as the Bolgatanga Municipality in Ghana. Green infrastructure is increasingly recognised as a cost-effective, nature-based strategy for enhancing urban climate resilience and reducing climate-related health impacts. This study assessed the existing green infrastructure in the Bolgatanga Municipality and examined its contribution to mitigating climate-induced health risks. Guided by a pragmatist research philosophy, the study employed a convergent parallel mixed-methods design. Quantitative data were collected from 384 households using structured questionnaires, while qualitative insights were obtained through key informant interviews with eight stakeholders. These primary data were complemented by geographic information systems, remote sensing, land-use/land-cover analysis, land surface temperature mapping, and ERA5 climate data. The findings indicate that home gardening (78.4%) and street tree planting (70.1%) were the predominant forms of GI, whereas urban parks (35.4%), rainwater harvesting systems (30.2%), green roofs (17.7%), sustainable drainage systems (16.1%), and wetland conservation (11.7%) were poorly represented. Spatial analyses revealed a sustained decline in natural vegetation between 1990 and 2025, accompanied by substantial expansion of cropland and built-up areas, resulting in increased land surface temperatures and heightened urban heat exposure. Although public awareness of green infrastructure was relatively high, implementation remained constrained by weak institutional support, inadequate planning, and limited public investment. The study concludes that green infrastructure in the Bolgatanga Municipality is largely informal, fragmented, and household-driven rather than strategically planned or institutionally supported. Strengthening municipal planning frameworks, expanding public green spaces, mainstreaming green infrastructure into urban development policies, and increasing investments in nature-based solutions are critical to enhancing urban climate resilience and reducing climate-induced health risks in rapidly urbanising semi-arid environments.

Keywords: Green infrastructure; climate change; climate-induced health risks; land use/land cover; GIS; urban resilience; nature-based solutions.

Environmental Awareness and Reverse Logistics Performance: A Quantitative Assessment of Ghana's Plastic Waste Management System

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Abstract

The escalating plastic waste crisis in Ghana, characterized by recycling rates between 2% and 9.5%, demands urgent examination of the behavioral factors influencing reverse logistics performance (RLP). This study investigates the direct influence of environmental awareness on reverse logistics performance within Ghana's evolving circular economy framework. Drawing upon Value-Belief-Norm (VBN) theory, which posits that environmental awareness activates personal norms driving pro-environmental behavior, this research examines whether heightened community environmental awareness creates system-level changes through multiple pathways including social pressure, policy support, and organizational responsiveness. A cross-sectional survey design was employed, targeting 1,200 households across four major Ghanaian cities: Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi, and Tamale. Stratified random sampling ensured representation across diverse socio-economic and cultural contexts. Data were collected using validated measurement instruments assessing environmental awareness dimensions (knowledge, attitudes, and concern) and reverse logistics performance indicators (collection efficiency, material quality, and recycling rates). Structural equation modeling (SEM) was utilized for hypothesis testing and path analysis. Findings reveal a statistically significant positive relationship between environmental awareness and reverse logistics performance, though the effect size indicates that awareness alone is insufficient to drive optimal system outcomes. The study identifies critical intervention points where awareness campaigns can be most effective and highlights the paradoxical situation where high urban awareness levels fail to translate into proportionate behavioral outcomes. These results contribute to evidence-based policy formulation for Ghana's National Plastic Management Policy implementation and offer insights applicable to other developing nations facing similar circular economy transition challenges.

Keywords: Environmental awareness, reverse logistics performance, circular economy, plastic waste management, Ghana, Value-Belief-Norm theory

Structural Relationships among Brand Orientation, Identity and Performance: A Comparative Study of the University of Business and Integrated Development Studies and Dr. Hilla Limann Technical University, Ghana

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Abstract

The increasing competition, internationalisation, and accountability within higher education have elevated branding from a marketing function to a strategic management imperative. Despite growing evidence linking brand orientation to organisational success, limited empirical research has examined the structural relationships among brand orientation, brand identity, and brand performance within African higher education institutions. This study seeks to investigate these relationships comparatively at the University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS) and Dr. Hilla Limann Technical University (DHLTU), Ghana, while examining the mediating role of brand identity and the moderating effect of institutional type. The study adopts a pragmatic research philosophy and employs an explanatory sequential mixed-methods design. Quantitative data will be collected from 380 management staff, academic staff, and continuing students using structured questionnaires, while qualitative data will be obtained through semi-structured interviews with key institutional stakeholders. Quantitative data will be analysed using SPSS and SmartPLS, employing descriptive statistics, measurement model assessment, Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM), mediation analysis, and Multi-Group Analysis (MGA). Qualitative data will be analysed thematically to provide contextual explanations of the quantitative findings. The study hypothesises that brand orientation positively influences brand identity and brand performance, that brand identity positively affects brand performance, and that brand identity mediates the relationship between brand orientation and brand performance. It further posits that institutional type significantly moderates these structural relationships. The findings are expected to extend brand orientation and brand identity theories within the context of African public higher education while providing empirical evidence to guide branding strategies, resource allocation, and policy formulation for Ghanaian universities. Ultimately, the study aims to contribute to improved institutional competitiveness, stakeholder confidence, and sustainable brand performance within the higher education sector.

Keywords: Brand Orientation, Brand Identity, Brand Performance, Higher Education, Structural Equation Modelling (SEM)

Reimagining Foundational Learning: Intersectionality, Disability, and Educational Inequality in Northern Ghana

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Abstract

Foundational Learning (FL) has gained renewed policy prominence as a prerequisite for equitable education and lifelong learning. Yet, dominant FL pedagogies often assume a homogenous learner, overlooking how social location, disability, gender, and geography mediate access to and participation in learning. This study interrogates how current FL approaches in Northern Ghana reproduce inequalities by failing to respond to the differentiated needs of pupils with disabilities, girls, and children from rural and marginalised communities, where early exposure to structured learning is limited or delayed. The study was anchored in decolonial and intersectional theoretical frameworks, and a mixed-methods strategy, using an explanatory sequential design, was employed to collect and analyse data. Teachers, parents, and learners from the five kindergarten schools in the Nadowli-Kaleo District were selected for interviews and focus group discussions. Findings revealed that the pedagogical models and curricular designs privilege urban and able-bodied learners while marginalising pupils with disabilities and those from rural areas. The study argues that FL, though framed as inclusive, is often embedded within epistemic and structural biases that perpetuate exclusion. It concludes that achieving meaningful FL requires context-responsive pedagogies rooted in local epistemologies, flexible assessment systems, and teacher preparation that recognises learner diversity. The study recommends reimagining FL beyond universalist templates toward approaches that accommodate differential abilities, contexts, and experiences.

Keywords: Foundational Learning; Disabilities; Pedagogies; Inequalities; Nadowli-Kaleo; Upper West

Beyond the Tragedy of the Commons: Spiritual Legitimacy, Customary Land Governance, and Community Development in Northern Ghana

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Abstract

Customary land governance is widely studied in Northern Ghana for its failures, yet its contributions to social cohesion, community development, and resource management are underexplored. This study bridges that gap using a qualitative case of the Bole Traditional Area in the Savannah Region of Ghana, where customary land governance remains active and legitimate despite pressures from land commercialisation, small-scale mining and urbanisation. Drawing on twenty key informant interviews (KII) with land custodians (tindanas), chiefs, and community members, with eight focus group discussions, two each across the four communities (Kalba, Gbeniyiri, Soma, and Datompilayiri). The study employed thematic data analysis to examine how traditional values shape land governance, conflict resolution, environmental stewardship, and access equity. This study builds on Ostrom's Common Pool Resource Theory, expanding it by showing how spiritual legitimacy is central and not peripheral to effective customary governance, a dimension historically neglected by the framework. The study reveals that land spiritual framing makes conflict resolution a moral process that sustains compliance beyond coercion, it also revealed that indigenous conservation practices function as adaptive resource management strategies underrecognised by statutory frameworks, also gendered and generational hierarchies persistently constrain women and youth land access, with reforms failing to dismantle underlying inequalities. The study suggests a hybrid governance framework that honours indigenous strategies while addressing exclusion.

Keywords: Common pool resources; customary land governance; spiritual legitimacy; hybrid land governance; gender and land.

Governing the Digital Frontier: Legal Challenges of Cross-Border Digital Trade in Ghana

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Abstract

Ghana has emerged as one of West Africa's leading digital economies, yet the legal framework governing its cross-border digital trade remains fragmented, territorially constrained, and inadequately aligned with international standards. This study employs a doctrinal legal research methodology to examine the statutory framework applicable to cross-border digital trade in Ghana, analysing the Electronic Transactions Act, 2008 (Act 772), the Data Protection Act, 2012 (Act 843), the Cybersecurity Act, 2020 (Act 1038), the Electronic Communications Act, 2008 (Act 775), and the Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992). Drawing on the verified text of each statute and making comparative reference to the EU General Data Protection Regulation, the eIDAS Regulation, the Rome I Regulation, and the regulatory frameworks of Rwanda, Kenya, and South Africa, the study identifies five categories of structural legal deficiency that impede Ghana's participation in cross-border digital trade. These are the absence of conflict-of-laws provisions governing electronic contracts; the lack of dedicated cross-border data transfer mechanisms under Act 843; the territorial limitations of domestic enforcement against foreign digital operators; the inadequacy of consumer protection remedies against foreign suppliers; and the undefined threshold for foreign digital entities "carrying on business" in Ghana under Act 992. The study further finds that whilst provisions such as sections 53 and 54 of Act 772, which render void any contractual exclusion of statutory consumer rights, are potentially powerful anti-avoidance instruments, their effectiveness is contingent on enforcement capacity that currently does not extend to foreign digital platforms. The study concludes with targeted legislative and institutional reform recommendations directed at the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation, the Data Protection Commission, and Ghana's negotiating positions within the AfCFTA digital trade protocol and ECOWAS regional frameworks.

Keywords: digital trade; electronic transactions; data protection; cross-border enforcement; Ghana; AfCFTA; conflict of laws; consumer protection; cybersecurity

Evaluating the Impact of Mathematical Knowledge in the Study of Accounting

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Abstract

The interplay between mathematics and accounting is both foundational and historically significant, evolving through various civilization and educational systems (Chatfield, 1977). In pre-colonial Africa, indigenous systems of trade and resource management featured rudimentary but effective numerical and record keeping techniques, reflecting an intuitive understanding of both accounting and mathematics (Eze, 2011). Accounting involves more than a grasp of financial principles; it necessitates the application of mathematical reasoning to accurately interpret, record, and analyze financial data (Needles & Powers, 2013; Horngren et al., 2005). Despite the well-established connection between mathematics and accounting fields, a significant gap remains between students' mathematical readiness and their performance in accounting, particularly at the secondary and tertiary levels (Adebayo, 2017; Mbekwa & de Villiers, 2019). The study was designed to establish the impact mathematics proficiency plays on accounting success and what specific mathematics knowledge was deemed relevant for accounting study. The study was approached quantitatively, using a descriptive survey design. Data were collected from 321 Business students offering accounting-related courses in SHSs in the Wa municipality. Students' performances in accounting and mathematics were measured by their termly academic scores in the subjects. In determining the relevant mathematics skills needed for accounting, responses were gathered using closed-ended questionnaires. Data analysis was using descriptive statistics and regression. The findings revealed a very strong positive statistically significant relationship between mathematical proficiency and accounting performance ($r = 0.916$, $p < 0.01$), with 83.9% of the variance in accounting performance explained by mathematical knowledge. Some core mathematical skills identified as critical for accounting success were percentages, arithmetic, ratios, and word problem-solving. The study concludes that mathematics is not merely a supportive subject but a foundational component of accounting education, recommending targeted curriculum alignment and pedagogical strategies to enhance both subjects' outcomes.

Keywords: Mathematics; Accounting; Knowledge; Academic Performance; Impact

Influence of Accounting Education on the Financial Literacy of Final-Year Accounting Students

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Abstract

Financial literacy is acknowledged as an essential skill for individuals navigating today's dynamic business landscape (Lusardi & Mitchell, 2014). For accounting students, particularly those in final-year, financial literacy is both a personal advantage and a career requirement. Academics are still interested in how much formal accounting education helps final-year students become more financially literate. While accounting education is specifically designed to equip students with financial skills, it's important to explore how it impacts their personal financial literacy beyond just professional use. The main aim was to see how completing an accounting program influences students' financial knowledge, attitudes, shapes their financial behaviour, fosters financial skills and their financial decision-making capacity. Using a quantitative approach, the study employed a cross-sectional survey design. The target group consisted of 550 final-year accounting students from different programmes in UBIDS. A sample of 227 students was selected from a population of 543, with respondents chosen through a simple random sampling method. Data were gathered using a structured, self-administered questionnaire based on a Likert scale. The analysis was conducted using both descriptive statistics and Pearson's correlation analysis. The results showed that final-year accounting students generally have a high level of financial knowledge and credit their financial decision-making skills to their academic training. The study highlighted a significant positive correlation between accounting education and the development of responsible financial attitudes ($r=0.659$, $p < 0.014$). Also, a significant strong positive correlation was found between accounting education and financial skills and financial decision making ($r=0.821$, $p < 0.012$). Accounting education plays a vital role in developing real-life financial skills among final-year students. It suggests that universities should enhance accounting curricula with practical, technology-driven, and context-specific learning experiences to further boost students' financial capabilities.

Keywords: Accounting Education; Financial Literacy; Financial Behavior; Financial Attitudes; Financial behaviour

Communication for Sustainable Agriculture: A study of Development Communication Approaches in the Upper East Region of Ghana

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Abstract

This study assesses the role of development communication approaches for promoting sustainable agricultural practices in the Upper East Region of Ghana, focusing on Bongo, Talensi, Nabdam Districts, and Kassena-Nankana Municipal. Anchored in the Diffusion of Innovations Theory and the Participatory Communication Theory, the study explores how information dissemination, stakeholder engagement, and local knowledge systems influence the adoption of sustainable farming practices. The study adopted a qualitative method, employing Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and semi-structured interviews to assess the effectiveness of communication strategies such as community radio, agricultural extension services and farmer field schools. Findings reveal an increase in awareness and knowledge of sustainable agricultural practices among farmers, mainly attributed to interactive and participatory communication approaches. Notwithstanding this achievement, persistent challenges including limited access to information channels, language barriers, socio-cultural norms, and inadequate extension support continue to threaten widespread adoption. The study highlights the importance of culturally sensitive and context-specific communication strategies that align with local content and realities. Drawing on the principles of the Sustainable Development and behaviour change communication models, the study proposes a development communication framework that prioritises inclusivity, local participation, and the integration of indigenous knowledge systems. This framework seeks to improve communication interventions' efficacy and encourage the region's long-term adoption of sustainable farming methods.

Keywords: Development Communication; Sustainable Agriculture; Diffusion of Innovations; Participatory Communication; Agricultural Extension Services.

Gender Heterogeneity in Blockchain-Based Digital Financial Inclusion: Evidence from Ghana

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Abstract

This study examines gender heterogeneity in blockchain-based digital financial inclusion in Ghana, using a sample of 506 respondents. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire administered through telephone interviews, and the analysis was conducted in Stata. The Oaxaca decomposition framework was applied to investigate, at the micro-level, the sources of the gender gap in access to and use of blockchain-based financial services. The results revealed that about 35.38% of the respondents are digitally financially included, with males disproportionately accounting for 86% of the included. Further, the Oaxaca decomposition revealed a significant gender gap of 20.1% attributable to both endowments and structural constraints. The endowment effects showed that differences in the observable characteristics, such as education, income, digital literacies and access to financial resources, account for a substantial proportion of the gender gap. The coefficient, on the other hand, indicates the presence of structural and unobservable constraints that weaken females even after controlling for the observable socio-economic characteristics. The negative interaction effect indicated that the combined effects of differences in characteristics and differential returns moderate the observed gender gap. The study's conclusion clarifies that closing the gender gap in blockchain-based digital financial inclusion requires gender-responsive policies that aim to improve women's endowments, while addressing structural impediments embedded in social norms and institutional mechanisms in Ghana. Specifically, policies should focus on supporting women's access to smartphones and the internet, a blockchain mentorship program for women, and a directive from the BoG and SEC requiring licensed exchanges and associated platforms to present sex-disaggregated data in their reporting to enable effective gender tracking.

Keywords: Blockchain; gender gap; digital financial inclusion; probit model; Oaxaca decomposition

Influence of Illegal Gold Mining (Galamsey) on Basic Education in the Nadowli-Kaleo District of the Upper West Region, Ghana

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Abstract

Illegal gold mining (Galamsey) has expanded from Ghana's southern mining belt into rural northern districts, where active mining sites at Takpo and Charikpong now operate close to basic schools in the Nadowli-Kaleo District. Junior High School pupils are increasingly drawn into mining work while remaining formally enrolled in school, yet existing literature concentrates on the southern belt and leaves the Upper West Region under-researched. The study investigated the influence of pupils' involvement in galamsey on their academic engagement and performance; the factors driving their involvement; their lived experiences; and stakeholders' perceptions of the phenomenon. A qualitative method case study of the Nadowli-Kaleo District was conducted, framed by pragmatism and the Sustainable Livelihood Theory. Twenty-three mining-involved JHS pupils were sampled through snowball selection, and sixteen educators, alongside community stakeholders, were purposively engaged. Data were collected through interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions, and documentary review of attendance and test records. Thematic analysis was complemented by descriptive triangulation of school records. Galamsey involvement led to disrupted attendance, fatigue, cross-curricular academic decline, and elevated dropout risk; attendance gaps widened from 10 to 20 per cent across two terms, and Basic 9 non-galamseers outperformed galamseers in every core subject. Entry was driven by household poverty, comparative returns favouring mining over schooling, eroded parental authority, and peer normalisation. Pupils experienced hazardous conditions, mercury exposure, gendered transactional risks, and a contracted aspirational horizon. Family approval coexisted with teacher disapproval, while community moral authority was compromised by galamsey-financed infrastructure. Galamsey exerts a substantial, structural, and multidimensional harm on basic education that school-centred interventions alone cannot remedy. The study recommends enforcement of the Children's Act, livelihood-substitution programmes, credible local employment pathways, and school-level early-warning systems supported by trauma-informed teacher training.

Keywords: Illegal Gold Mining, Galamsey, Basic Education, Child Labour, Sustainable Livelihood.

Promoting Supply Chain Resilience in Tamale Teaching Hospital: Do Digitalisation and Adaptive Capacity Matter?

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Abstract

Rising pandemics and global shocks have highlighted the need to enhance supply chain resilience in critical sectors, such as public hospitals. This study is unique in that it focuses on the only teaching hospital in the Northern part of Ghana and proposes pathways to minimise supply chain disruptions and strengthen resilience, as disruptions in such an institution can have significant regional impacts. Accordingly, the study assesses the influence of digitalisation and adaptive capacity on supply chain resilience by addressing three main objectives: identifying the most frequent supply chain disruptions at Tamale Teaching Hospital, exploring the influence of digitalisation on supply chain resilience, and evaluating the effect of adaptive capacity on resilience. Responses from interviews with 45 participants, including management, staff, customers, and supply chain and procurement experts, revealed that stockouts of essential medicines and medical supplies are the primary supply chain disruption, with delays in the payment of National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) funds being a major contributing factor. The study also found that Tamale Teaching Hospital has implemented some digitalisation, such as the Life with Health Information Management System, and is gradually integrating the Ghana Health Information Management System. Findings indicate that both digitalisation and adaptive capacity positively influence supply chain resilience. Based on these insights, the study recommends that the National Insurance Authority and Ministry of Finance minimise delays in NHIS payments, while hospital management should adopt digital innovations that can alert supply chain units and pharmacists to low stock levels before shortages occur.

Keywords: Supply Chain Resilience, Digitalisation, Adaptive Capacity, Teaching Hospital

The Impact of Sustainable Entrepreneurial Practices on Tourism Destination Resilience: The Case of Wa Metropolis in the Upper West Region of Ghana

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Abstract

Destinations across the globe, have been hit by numerous significant shocks, including geopolitical risks, rising energy and transportation cost, disruptions in supply chain, public health crisis, trade tensions, extreme weather events, among others. These recurring global threats and disruptions requires that destinations, in general, and tourism and hospitality entrepreneurs, in particular adapt and respond effectively. The study examined the impact of Sustainable Entrepreneurial Practices on Tourism Destination Resilience within the Wa Metropolis in the Upper West Region of Ghana. Data were collected from eleven tourism entrepreneurs that were purposively selected as the study participants. The data were analysed through thematic and content analyses. The study revealed that accommodation providers, tour operators, craft makers, and cultural performers have used ecofriendly products and engaged in promoting green accommodation and transportation within the destination and these activities have contributed in reducing degradation within the destination. Moreover, the study highlighted that the involvement of local communities in tourism enterprise as well as tourism decision making which in a way contributed to employment creation and increase in local incomes. Again, the findings revealed that tourism entrepreneurs adopted digital marketing practices such as online booking which aided them to adapt during global threats and disruptions. The study contributes towards destinations management practices. The study further contributes to tourism policy decisions.

Keywords: Tourism Destinations; Sustainable Practices, Entrepreneurship; Resilience; Stakeholders

The Effects of Land Use and Land Cover Change on Peri – Urban Livelihoods in the Techiman Municipality

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Abstract

This study examines the extent, patterns, and livelihood impacts of Land Use and Land Cover Change (LULCC) in Techiman Municipality, Ghana, a rapidly expanding secondary city. Grounded in a pragmatist research philosophy, the study adopts an Explanatory Sequential Mixed Methods Design, integrating remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with qualitative socio-economic analysis. Spatial assessment of Landsat and Sentinel imagery for 2015, 2019, and 2025 reveals significant conversion of agricultural land and natural vegetation into built-up areas, highlighting the accelerating pace of urban expansion. Rapid urbanization is identified as the primary driver of LULCC, particularly in peri-urban zones. The expansion of residential and commercial land uses has led to the progressive loss of farmland, undermining agrarian livelihoods and reducing households' primary sources of income and subsistence. This transformation intensifies food insecurity at both household and community levels. As traditional livelihoods decline, affected populations are compelled to adapt, often experiencing new forms of urban poverty, especially among displaced farmers with limited skills and financial resources. The study further finds that tenure insecurity exacerbates these challenges. Unclear land rights and informal land transactions increase the risk of displacement and restrict access to alternative land resources. In response, many residents diversify into informal economic activities such as petty trading, transport services, artisanal work, and casual labour. While these activities offer low barriers to entry and access to urban markets, they are typically associated with unstable incomes and underemployment. Institutional weaknesses play a critical role in shaping these outcomes. Ineffective land-use planning enforcement, weak customary land governance systems, and limited policy support for livelihood transitions contribute to unregulated land conversion and constrain sustainable adaptation strategies. Drawing on the Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF), the study demonstrates how urban-driven land changes alter access to key livelihood assets human, natural, social, physical, and financial capital thereby reshaping household survival strategies. The study recommends the integration of livelihood-sensitive approaches into urban planning, the promotion of vertical urban development to reduce land pressure, and the strengthening of land tenure systems to protect vulnerable populations. By linking geospatial analysis with socio-economic realities, this research provides important insights into the complex interactions between urbanization and livelihoods in peri-urban Ghana, contributing to more inclusive and sustainable urban development planning.

Keywords: Land Use and Land Cover Change (LULCC); Urbanization; Peri-urban Livelihoods; Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF); Land Tenure Security; Remote Sensing and GIS

Assessing the Impact of Financial Development, Financial Sustainability, Industrialization, and Public Debt on Poverty Reduction (SDG 1) in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Abstract

This study considers the impact of financial development, financial sustainability, industrialization and public debt on poverty reduction (SDG 1) in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The study employs a balanced panel data set for 34 SSA countries for the period 2019 to 2024 from the World Development Indicators data base. The logarithm of household consumption per capita is used as a proxy for poverty reduction. The share of domestic credit to the private sector is used as an indicator of financial development, insurance and financial services as an indicator of financial sustainability, manufacturing value added as an indicator of industrialization, and central government debt as an indicator of public debt. To tackle endogeneity, reverse causality, and unobserved heterogeneity, the System Generalized Method of Moments (System GMM) estimator is used. The findings reveal that financial development is positive and statistically significant with household consumption per capita in SSA, with deeper financial markets helping to reduce poverty in SSA. The statistical significance of financial sustainability, industrialization and public debt is not observed, but their signs are in line with theoretical findings. The positive and significant effect of the lagged dependent variable supports the hypothesis of persistence in poverty dynamics and the hypothesis of an improvement in household welfare through gross fixed capital formation is not challenged. The study offers an extensive study of the overall impact of financial development, financial sustainability, industrialization, and public debt on poverty reduction in SSA through a dynamic panel framework. The findings provide important policy guidance for the financial sector development, industrial transformation and debt management for achieving SDG 1.

Keywords: Poverty Reduction; Financial Development; Financial Sustainability; Industrialization; Public Debt.

POSTER TOPICS PRESENTED

1. **Assessment of Expanded Program on Immunisation (EPI) Data Quality at Bongo District in the Upper East Region of Ghana**

Clement Nyaaba; Fauster Agbenyo

2. **Impact of Urban Sprawl on Agricultural Farmlands in Bamahu, Wa Municipality**

Fauster Agbenyo; Tenkpeepuo Kuusangyele Richard; Esther Atamporka Abugre; Derbile Songzie Ruby

3. **The effects of Land Use and Land Cover Change on Peri-urban Livelihoods in the Techiman Municipality**

Samuel Kwasi Obrifo

4. **Health Experiences and Risks of Women, Children and People with Disabilities (PWDs) in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Communities of the Upper West Region, Ghana.**

Mary Boatemah Appiah

5. **Digital Financial Services, Financial Inclusion, and SME Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa: Panel Evidence from 48 Countries, 2010–2024**

Daniel Ayinbire Adakurah; Kannyiri Thadious Banyen; Godwin Addy

6. **Social Media Use and the Academic Performance of Undergraduate Students in UBIDS, Ghana**

Abdallah Issah; Dennis Puorideme; Adams Sabogu

7. **The Dynamic Influence of Financial Inclusion on Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA): Evidence from System GMM Approach**

Bennin Juatie Douri; Bismark Setsoafia Agorbortu; Adams Mahama Nasiatu

8. **The Role of Farm Credit on Cereal Crop Productivity in Ghana: Insights from the GLSS 7**

Nana Kwesi Obuobi Asare; Samuel Z. Bonye; Dramani J. M. File

9. **Wild Edible Plants and Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Northern Ghana**

Jacob Akisbadek Agyakinla; Bernard Afik Akanpabadai Akanbang; Dramani Juah M-Buu File

UBIDS