

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF AUDITING IN THE MANAGEMENT UNITS OF GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE – A CASE STUDY IN THE KASSENA NANKANA MUNICIPALITY IN THE UPPER EAST REGION OF GHANA

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ABSTRACT

Most economic activities in Ghana Education Service are largely conducted through public finance and in recent years, there have been issues of financial irregularities in the management units of the Ghana Education Service. Reports from the Public Account Committee indicate that there are financial challenges in our public institutions. In paper seeks to evaluate the impact auditing has on the financial statements of the basic schools' management units. In achieving the research aim, questionnaires were administered to thirty-five people based on a convenience sampling technique. The findings revealed the following: the main source of funding for the basic schools within the study area was Capitation Grants from the Ghana government. A greater portion of the funds available is spent on acquiring teaching and learning materials (TLMs). School levies are mostly paid in cash and some schools embezzled funds due to weak control systems. The most common financial irregularities in the basic school's management units include; financial errors, fraud, mismanagement of capitation grants and misappropriation of funds. And auditing is one major tool that is implemented by management of institutions to curb the situation of financial irregularities. The study therefore recommended that managements of various public institutions including the basic schools must account for the monies entrusted to their care by using the tool of auditing. Because, Audit and Assurance exercises will ensure some degree of accountability among managers of public institutions.

Keywords: Accountability, Imbursement, Audit, Assurance, Fraud.