

INTRODUCING THE YOUNG ONES IN TO SURVEYING PROFESSION (ESPECIALLY THE GIRL CHILD),Ghana

Basirata ABUDU-AKINDALI and Rebecca DENGURE, Ghana

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SUMMARY

Girls now make up 33% despite this growth, the number of girl child education is fewer than boys. Generally, they performed at a lower standard. Several factors such as poverty, traditional cultural beliefs and traditional gender roles have stood in the way of Ghanaian females access to education.

The question then arises who introduced the girl child education looking at the country Ghana in perspective? It has been revealed that through observation, interviews and content analysis of educational policy documents came out that the girl child education was introduced by the Basel mission on its theology of marriage and family. This went further to unveiled the importance that educating girls have far reaching impacts, including reducing poverty, improving health and reducing fertility rates, promoting gender equality and women empowerment, and contributing to economic growth and development. Also, educating young girls have a direct impact on the development of the country. An educated girl can grow up to become an educated mother who is not only more economically productive but also has the tools to educate her children and break the negative generational cycles paving the way for a more prosperous future.

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1. INTRODUCTION

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Surveying generally has always been seen and perceived by many as an exclusive preserve for men from time. Because males predominated in this field, surveying is more commonly thought of as a man's profession in Ghana. The African cultural beliefs contributed to the historical neglect of African women by suggesting that women were not to be involved in professions such as surveying, architecture, engineering etc in historical periods. Similar presumptions about women's inferiority, oppression, and subordination in African cultures exist (Gadekpo, 2005). A woman is considered manly because of her sense of assertiveness and desire for freedom (Dei, 2004). Few women who challenged the status quo to study surveying are unwilling to practice the profession due to factors such as the physical demand of the profession, inferiority complex and the danger of attacks. Very few women can muddle through the tedious routine of land survey. The idea of climbing hills and being in the bush, etc is dispiriting to most women. Also, difficulty in combining life as a surveyor with keeping the home (Domestic activities) deters a lot of Ghanaian women from pursuing the profession further.

Additionally, most clients question a female surveyor's competence, and these women have struggled to be recognised as highly competent workers.

In Ghana, there have been several instances of "land guard" assaults on land surveyors on-site, in addition to the previously mentioned factors, which discourages most women from becoming surveyors. There are ladies who are successful and prominent in every aspect in the field of surveying (Etuonovbe, 2020). In this modern era, the women in surveying made the decision to shed their background togas and take an active role in the affairs of the Ghana Institution of Surveyors (GhIS), in the field, and the nation. Considering the active involvement of women, and to maintain the above pace, women in Ghana have formed an umbrella association to champion their cause. It is named "Women – In – Surveying". The mission is to promote the practice of surveying by women to form at least 40% of the total membership of the Ghana Institution of Surveyors and actively participate in all GhIS Programs (GhIS-WinS, 2017). Until recently, female surveyors made up only about 2% of the Ghana Institution of Surveyors' total membership, and they were hardly ever seen taking part in the Institution's activities. The proportion of women has grown from 5% to about 20% since the creation of Women - In - Surveying. The Women - In - Surveying still have a lot of work to do to realise their goal, so this number is still not encouraging.

2. Women - In - Surveying (WinS)-GHANA

The Ghana Institution of Surveyors is made up of three Divisions namely Land Surveying, Quantity Surveying and Valuation & Estate Surveying. Women - In - Surveying (WinS) Ghana, a subgroup of the Ghana Institution of Surveyors (GHIS), was formally inaugurated in 2017 and comprise all women from the three divisions to speak out on issues that concern them as a group and to promote the education of Ghanaian adolescents, in particular the "Girl Child," with the aim of motivating and assisting them to select surveying as a tertiary course of study. WinS is a dynamic group made up of smart, daring, and brave women who have a clear vision for the future and the survival of our specialized field.



Fig.1 FIG Rebecca DENGURE member of the WINS at a surveying field

2.1 Objectives

- To promote the practice of surveying by women.
- To create and advance the opportunities for women in the Surveying profession.
- To equip women for wider responsibilities in the profession.
- To showcase women Surveyors as role models.
- To open avenues for women to share ideas and to get to know each other.
- To create a forum for the discussion of all matters relating to women in the Surveying Profession
- To structure a mentoring scheme to encourage the participation of young women and girls in programs of the Surveying Profession
- To organize activities like social work, fun events, study trips, family days etc.

"Girl Child," with the aim of motivating and assisting them to select surveying as a tertiary course

3. Services School is an infant and junior high educational institution for both girls and boys located in the military environment Burma Camp where academic excellence and discipline is their hallmark. The military is an institution where various professions are deployed in their operations hence the *choice* of applying to the administration of the school and their full acceptance for the demonstration and introducing the survey profession in their youthful stages to arouse their interest in the survey profession.



WHY WE NEED THE GIRLCHILD IN THE SURVEY PROFESSION

There is that general perception cutting across that when parents give birth to female child (a girl) they have given birth to an animal but to a male (a boy) they have a human being. 's3 wo wo)baa aaa, wa wo aboa na s3 wo wo)barima aaa, wa wo nnipa'. This kind of mentality is

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not accepted anyway in current dispensation where science and education are the order of the day. The educational reforms initiated in 1987 raised the issue of equality by removing gender streaming in all phacet of education. It also set norms for attaining equal participation of males and females throughout the educational system up to tertiary and professional levels. There is an adage that what men can do women can equally do better.

Involving women in the land and surveying profession is essential, especially if we want to have women participate as full actors in the process of economic'

ADVANTAGES OF INTRODUCING THE YOUNGER ONES

- 1. EARLY EXPOSURE:** Introducing young individuals especially the girl child to the surveying profession at a young age allows them to gain early exposure to the field. This can help them develop a deeper understanding and interest in surveying profession, which can be beneficial for their future career choices.
 - 2. SKILL DEVELOPMENT:** Starting young allows individuals to develop essential skills required in surveying, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and spatial awareness's skills can be honed over time, giving them a competitive edge in the profession and developing a strong foundation and excel in their future career.
 - 3. CAREER EXPLORATION:** by introducing young ones to surveying they have the opportunity to explore various aspects of the profession and understand its potential career paths. This early exposure helps them make informed decisions about their future and choose a career that aligns with their interest and strength.
- 1. Mentorship opportunities:** young individual entering the surveying profession can benefit from the various institutions of surveying.

Fig.2 FIG president Dr. Diane Dumashie shared pleasantries with the kids



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Fig.3 FIG president and the team demonstrated some surveying instrument to the the pupil.

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THE KIDS INTERACTING WITH THE FIG PRESIDENT AND MR DJABA

CHALLENGES OF THE YOUNG GIRL IN THE PROFESSION

- 1.The idea of climbing hills and being in the bush, etc is dispiriting to most women. Added to these, Traditional methods of surveying often use manual equipment which can be cumbersome and slow to use and record the results for women.
- 2.Gender Bias: facing stereotypes or prejudice that suggest women are less capable or suited for surveying work compared to men.
- 3.Lack of Representation: dealing with lack of female role models or mentors in the field which can make it harder to envision a successful career path.
- 4.Work Place Culture: navigating a male dominated work environment where cultural, norms, social dynamics, and communication styles may not always be inclusive or supportive.
- 5.Career Advancement: struggling to access the same opportunities for professional growth, recognition, and advancement as their male counterpart due to systematic barriers or biases.
- 6.Work-Life Balance: managing the demands of a challenging profession with personal responsibilities and expectations, which can be particularly complex for women balancing career aspiration with family commitments

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2. Recommendation |

1. To engage the younger girls in educational field trips to see surveyors on field and to observe how surveyors acquire or gather data on field and also to the office how the acquired data are being processed and their outcome or result.
2. Establishing surveying kids fun club in their various schools to enhance their interest in the survey profession.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Basirata Abudu-Akindali has MSc Geo Information science (GIS) from University of Ghana. She has BSc in Geomatics in Kaff affiliated to Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana). She has a Higher National Diploma (HND) in surveying and mapping from the Ghana School of Surveying and Mapping. She works as an Assist Geomatic Engineer at Survey and Mapping Division of Lands Commission. As part of her duties, she examines cadastral documents submitted for approval and certification.

She is a professional member of the Ghana Institution of Surveyors and a member of Women in Surveying.

She is a professional member of the Ghana Geospatial Society Professional.

CONTACTS

Given name and family name: Madam Basirata Abudu-Akindali (**Main Author**)

Organisation: Survey and Mapping Division of Lands Commission, Ghana

Address: P.O.Box CT 903

City: Accra

Country: Ghana

Tel. +233277 868 629

Email: janiceabdallah11@gmail.com

Web site:

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Rebecca Dengure MPHIL Geo Information science (GIS) from to Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana).

She has BSc in Geomatics in Kaff affiliated to Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana). She has certificate in surveying and mapping from the Ghana School of Surveying and Mapping. She works as an Assist Geomatic Engineer at Survey and Mapping Division of Lands Commission. As part of her duties, she examines cadastral documents submitted for approval and certification.

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CONTACTS

Given name and family name: Madam Rebecca Dengure(**Co-Author**)

Organisation: Survey and Mapping Division of Lands Commission, Ghana

Address: P.O.Box CT 903

City: Accra

Country: Ghana

Tel. +233240822648

Email: beccadengure@hotmail.com