

The Land-Governance Nexus: A Longitudinal Analysis of Land Administration's Impact on Ghana's E-Government Performance and the Human Capital Paradox

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SUMMARY

A good land administration is a foundational pillar for optimising e-government systems, enabling the proficient management of land-related information and transactions that underpin a wide range of public services. This paper explores the impact of land administration (LA) reforms on Ghana's e-Government performance from 2003 to 2024, framing the analysis within the broader context of Africa's digital transformation. Utilising a quantitative approach and secondary data from the United Nations E-Government Surveys and various government reports, the analysis establishes a significant positive correlation between improvements in land administration and Ghana's ascent in the e-government rankings. Specifically, LA modernisation is shown to be a key driver of the Telecommunication Infrastructure Index (TII) and the Online Service Index (OSI). However, the study's primary contribution lies in its discovery and explanation of a counterintuitive negative correlation between Ghana's e-government progress and its Human Capital Index (HCI). This paradox suggests that quantitative gains in education are not translating into digital development dividends. The paper proposes a multi-causal explanation for this anomaly, identifying a "governance nullification effect" where weak institutions impede progress, a persistent mismatch between graduate skills and digital economy needs, and a significant "brain drain" of skilled professionals. These findings offer critical insights for policymakers, underscoring that sustainable digital transformation requires not only technological investment but also deep structural reforms in governance and education to realise human capital potential fully.

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