**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST**

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**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND LEGAL STUDIES**

**SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS**

**DEPARTMENT OF DATA SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC POLICY**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE (DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS)**

**COURSE: DATA CURATION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS**

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**(A) Commentary on Ghana Education Service Data Policy**

**1. Structure of Data Dissemination**

There exists a hierarchical structure of data dissemination within the Ghana Education Service. In the context of data policy and management, the central administrative offices maintain the oversight. Data dissemination is carried out through avenues such as the headquarters of GES, the regional/district directorate, and the IT departments in the institutions.

In the dissemination process, the decisions or data are selected by policy makers and then disseminated in a top-down arrangement to schools, teachers, and the public through the official platforms of the Service; other than this, the Service liaises with Service Providers, Affiliates, and Application platforms such as the GES PLC App in monitoring, analyzing, and disseminating the data of education and users.

**2. Format of Data Dissemination**

GES disseminates data through two main means: traditional and digital. Dissemination mostly takes the following modes as channels:

• Mobile App notification (GES PLC App)

• Email newsletters

• Website announcements

• Reports downloadable as PDF or Excel

• SMS and push notifications for urgent updates

While interfaces and data formats are generally designed to be user-friendly and standardized for accessibility across different platforms, say mobile, tablets, and computers,

**3. Data Sharing Protocols and Procedures**

GES has created sound principles for the sharing and protection of data:

• Consent-based access: Upon registration, users give their consent allowing GES to collect and use personal and usage data.

• Purpose-specific sharing: Data is shared only for purposes related to service management, user experience enhancement, contract execution, user contacting, and similar service marketing.

• Third-party sharing-control: Should data be shared with service providers, affiliates, and business partners certified by GES, binding agreements need to be executed to ensure the strict confidentiality and lawful processing of data.

• By law: GES has to share under particular legal circumstances, e.g., court orders, governmental request).

Data retention and deletion policies are also provided for; hence, users may request through their accounts that their personal data be deleted or modified.

**4. Data Visibility (Website/Social Media Handles)**

The GES data is exhibited via assorted digital platforms:

• Official Website: Used to publish policies, announcements, and study materials.

• Social media: GES is quite active on Facebook, Twitter (X), and maybe Instagram with regular updates, news, and engagement activities.

• Mobile Applications: While working with GES, apps like the GES PLC App help in the dissemination of information to stakeholders and as a platform for interactivity.

Operational data enjoys a high level of visibility; individual data, however, is kept confidential unless otherwise shared with the specific consent of the individuals involved.

**(B) Recommendations for the Improvement of Data Curation Areas**

To increase the all-round efficiency of data curation and dissemination, it may be worthwhile for GES to investigate the following areas:

**1. Improved Structure**

• Decentralize the data dissemination dashboards and create a few at regional offices for quicker decision-making.

• Have Data Officers at school and district levels responsible for real-time updates.

**2. More Types of Data**

• Use fun, easy-to-read dashboards to see and use data (like Power BI, Tableau).

• Let teachers and groups use data sets, but they must agree to some rules first.

**3. Better Ways to Share**

• Make a full plan for Data Rules that talks about keeping data safe, making names secret, and teaching users.

• Start access rules so only some can see special data.

**4. Showing More Data**

• Update the GES website with easy-to-search archives, help in many languages, and easy designs.

• Make social media better with cool pictures, stories of students doing well, and info on how schools are doing in different places.

• Start giving quick updates to those involved through apps when exams happen or when students change schools.

**References (Easy Words)**

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