

**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST**

**SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS**

**DEPARTMENT OF DATA SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC POLICY**

**MSc. DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS**

**DATA CURATION AND MANAGEMENT (DMA 820)**

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**ASSIGNMENT ONE**

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**A. Commentary on Data Policy of Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)**

**1. Structure of Data Dissemination**

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) follows a structured dissemination model based on its legal mandate under the Statistical Service Act, 2019 (Act 1003). Dissemination is executed through general reports, thematic briefs, statistical bulletins, newsletters, policy briefs, and monthly press releases. Each publication goes through internal validation and external peer review to ensure quality and reliability. The structure ensures timely, relevant, and credible dissemination tailored to meet the needs of diverse users, including policymakers, researchers, and the general public.

**2. Format of Data Dissemination**

GSS disseminates statistical data using diverse formats such as PDF reports, Excel spreadsheets, web dashboards, infographics, and printed publications. Reports follow a standardized structure: executive summary, background, methodology, highlights, tables/charts, and APA-style references. Data visualizations adhere to design standards that promote clarity, avoid distortion, and ensure accessibility. Every chart is accompanied by concise highlights to guide interpretation.

**3. Data Sharing Protocols and Procedures**

GSS enforces clear data sharing protocols. Microdata is accessed through formal requests, with users signing data use agreements outlining permissible usage, privacy commitments, and citation requirements. Only validated data is designated as official. Experimental statistics must be clearly labeled and fully documented. GSS prohibits the publication of non-quality-assured data and uses multi-layer review processes to guard against misinformation and disinformation.

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

GSS maintains an official website ([www.statsghana.gov.gh](http://www.statsghana.gov.gh/)) as the central repository for all statistical publications and datasets. It uses social media handles—Twitter/X (@StatsGhana), Facebook, and YouTube—to broaden its outreach. These platforms are used to share infographics, key findings, press statements, and videos, making statistics more accessible to non-technical audiences and encouraging public engagement.

**B. Suggestions for Improvement**

1. Develop interactive dashboards to enable users to explore datasets in real time.
2. Translate key reports into major local languages to improve inclusivity.
3. Implement a self-service online portal for requesting and tracking data access.
4. Use social media analytics to tailor content to specific audience segments.
5. Train staff in modern data storytelling and visualization tools such as Power BI and Tableau.
6. Include academia and civil society in the early review of reports to improve relevance and uptake.