



Lancaster University Ghana

Critical Thinking and Academic Writing III

Research Report

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The frequent power outages in Ghana

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How the frequent power outages in Ghana affects workers

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How The Frequent Power Outage In Ghana Affects Workers In Accra, Ghana

Introduction

In addition to the many talented human resources we have, Ghana is a country blessed with numerous natural resources such as Gold, Bauxite and Silver. For many reasons, electricity production and usage should not be a major concern for such a nation. Yet, for many reasons, electricity is a big cause of concern. ¹The reasons for this lack of capitalization includes lack of visionary leadership, geographic logistics, misplaced economic priorities, ethical issues as well as mishandling of the resources of the country. It can be stated though, that all these causes are being brought about by several reasons and factors including the external factors. This article seeks to highlight how the frequent power outage has affected the work population in Accra, Ghana, and recommend ways to tackle or minimize those causes at the least.

Objectives Of the Study

¹ Jonas Quashie Klutsey, Kwadwo Adusei-Asante, and Victor Fannam Nunfam, “Cultural Capital and Underdevelopment in Less Developed Countries: The Case of Northern Ghana,” *Sustainable Development* 32, no. 1 (August 21, 2023): 1096–1108, <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.2724>.

How the frequent power outage in Ghana affects workers in Accra

The prime objective of this report is to; highlight how the frequent power outage affects the work population in Accra, Ghana. This report also aims to explore the ways in which these causes can be minimized or eradicated, as well as recommend ways to do so.

Research Methodology

This method used in this study was quantitative and qualitative analysis. The sample was drawn from Accra, Ghana. The sample included office workers, service workers, factory workers, retail workers, and entrepreneurs. The following is the population distribution according to gender.

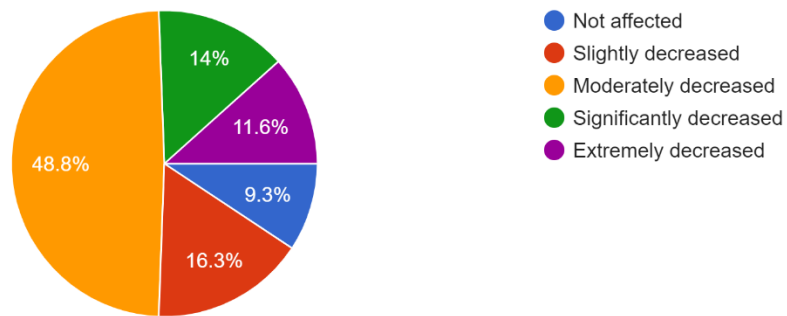
Gender	Office Worker	Factory Worker	Retail Worker	Service Industry Worker	Student	Entrepreneur	Banking	Total
Male	15	0	1	8	3	2	1	30
Female	9	0		3	1	0	0	13
Total	24	0	1	11	4	2	1	43

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The following population distribution reflects the impact of frequent power outages on worker productivity.

How has your productivity been affected by power outages?(including financial losses)

43 responses



Sampling and Data Collection

Convenience or accidental sampling can be defined as a non-probability research method where unites are included in the sampling due to convenience, especially to the researcher.² Convenience sampling method was used in the entire sample collection process, in both the quantitative and qualitative methods. The problem encountered in this sampling method was that the respondents did not answer to some of the questionnaires on time and this made it time consuming.

Ethical Consideration

² 1. P. Sedgwick, "Convenience Sampling," *BMJ* 347, no. oct25 2 (October 25, 2013), <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.f6304>, 4.

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It is well mannered and ethical to seek relevant permission from the regulatory bodies before conducting any research. ³Before this research, permission was requested from leadership at Electricity Company of Ghana and was obtained. All participants had knowledge about the primary objectives of this research and their confidentiality was kept with the researcher. This happened before consent was given.

Findings

The results from the questionnaire and interview were presented based on responses obtained from both of them. This report aimed to answer the following questions: What measures do you think should be implemented to mitigate the impact of power outages on workers? Are you aware of any steps your employer is taking to address the issue of power outages? Do you feel that the local government is adequately addressing the issue of frequent power outages? Please provide any additional comments or suggestions on how to improve the situation regarding power outages in Accra.

On the question about the measures that should be implemented to mitigate the impact of power outages on workers in Accra, and the country at large, the following answers emerged.

Stabilizing power at the national level
Finding alternative means of power supply at the cooperate and personal level

³ 1. P. Sedgwick, "Convenience Sampling," *BMJ* 347, no. oct25 2 (October 25, 2013), <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.f6304>, 5.

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Getting enough cash to pay for generators and to maintain fuel supply

On the question about the steps the employer is taking to address the issue of power outages, the following answers emerged.

Financing fuel supply to help stabilize national grid

Relying on alternative supplies so if one is faulty switching to another becomes easier

Joining of sets as backup systems

On the question about whether the local government is adequately addressing the issue of frequent power outages in Accra and in the country at large, the following answers emerged.

No

No

No

On the question about providing any additional comments or suggestions on how to improve the current situation regarding the power outages in Accra and the country Ghana at large, the following responses were given

People must contribute to tackling power theft in our community

People must contribute more money to help stabilize the power instability

Ghana must minimize or reduce the electricity transported to neighboring countries
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Discussion

The study reveals the different causes and effects of power outages in Ghana from different persons. From the research conducted, the main reason for the power outage was due to financial constraints.⁴The lack of the finances is a big reason why most of the power systems do not have fuel to provide electricity. Another reason for the frequent power outage was the lack of alternative sources of power at the national level.⁵The government does not have alternative means of power such as solar, wind, or even thermal, to power parts of the nation when the main source is faulty.

Some of the affected persons include office workers, service workers, factory workers, retail workers, and entrepreneurs. The most affected workers in this survey were office workers. The workers who are in the informal sector had a difficult time continuing their work because of the difficult conditions that arose due to the lack of electricity. Other workers lost their work, their money, others were not able to meet important deadlines because of the power outage. The workers who were interviewed as part of the research were all in synchronization that the government is not taking any active steps to help resolve the power issue in the country.

⁴ 1. Festus Boamah, David Aled Williams, and Joana Afful, "Justifiable Energy Injustices? Exploring Institutionalised Corruption and Electricity Sector 'Problem-Solving' in Ghana and Kenya," *Energy Research & Social Science* 73 (March 2021): 101914, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2021.101914>, 4.

⁵ 1. Mark Amoah Nyasapoh, Seth Kofi Debrah, and Daniel Kwabena Twerefou, "Long-Term Electricity Generation Analysis and Policy Implications – the Case of Ghana," *Cogent Engineering* 10, no. 1 (May 8, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311916.2023.2209996>, 7.

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Some of the recommendations that were brought up to mitigate the effects of the frequent power outages in Accra was that Ghana should first and foremost reduce or minimize the amount of electricity being sent to other nations. Ghana sends electricity to some of our neighbors such as Benin, Burkina Faso and for an extended period, Nigeria. It is sometimes very puzzling for a country like Ghana that experiences frequent power outage, to continue giving out electricity to its neighbors. Another recommendation that was brought about by the respondent was that the Government of Ghana should take more initiatives to tackle the ongoing power theft in the nation which is brought about by the frequent illegal connection of power which normally occurs in the Northern part of the nation. ⁶Ghana has one of the highest rates of power thefts in Africa. ⁷If Ghana can properly detect and penalize people who are involved with illegal connection in the country, a lot of income can be saved and used in other areas.

Conclusion

To conclude, frequent power outages in Ghana negatively affect the working population in Accra. Over 40% of the respondents alluded the fact that the frequent power outage has significantly affected their work productivity, including their financial status. The respondents were all in synchronization that the major causes of this issue were financial constraints on

⁶ 1. Joyce A. Eledi Kuusaana, Jochen Monstadt, and Shaun Smith, "Practicing Urban Resilience to Electricity Service Disruption in Accra, Ghana," *Energy Research & Social Science* 95 (January 2023): 102885, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2022.102885>, 8.

⁷ 1. Francis Kemausuor and Emmanuel Ackom, "Toward Universal Electrification in Ghana," *WIREs Energy and Environment* 6, no. 1 (September 13, 2016), <https://doi.org/10.1002/wene.225>, 6.

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behalf of the Government of Ghana as well as the lack of alternative sources of power locally.

The respondents unanimously agreed to the fact that reducing electricity export to other nations will reduce the burden on the country. In addition, the workers agreed to the fact that more initiatives and policies on behalf of the government of Ghana to tackle power theft and illegal connection will contribute immensely to the stability of power in the nation. If all the steps and initiatives mentioned above are followed, considerable burden would be taken of the working population of Accra and the country of Ghana as a whole.

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