

INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS: THE CASE OF SOME SELECTED GHANAIAN POLYTECHNICS

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ABSTRACT

The study examines the internal quality assurance practices of three Ghanaian polytechnics. It also investigates the weaknesses and challenges associated with current practices of quality assurance in Ghanaian polytechnics. Guided by the interpretive theory of social constructionism, the study used qualitative document analysis and interview techniques to investigate the perceptions of forty participants about the quality assurance practices in Ghanaian polytechnics. The study revealed that the Polytechnics have made efforts to develop internal quality assurance structures and institutional-wide quality assurance policies. Notwithstanding their quality assurance efforts, the Polytechnics have not been very successful in establishing a quality culture, weaknesses and challenges still remain. Among others, the study recommends that the Polytechnics should not copy wholesale from the universities' and international practices but should select quality assurance practices relevant to the Polytechnic context.

Keywords: Internal Quality Assurance, Quality Assurance Practices, Quality Assurance Challenges, Higher Education, Ghanaian Polytechnics.