

EXAMINATION ANXIETY AMONG FINAL-YEAR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS IN DANSOMAN, GHANA

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to assess examination anxiety among final year pupils in public basic schools in Dansoman, Ghana. A descriptive survey design was employed and a multistage sampling technique was used to select the sample of 261 final year students. A questionnaire was the data gathering instrument for this study. Quantitative data collected was analysed by using mean and standard deviation scores and F-tests. It was found that the students reported a moderate level of examination anxiety in relation to the 2020 Basic Education Certificate Examination. Also, significant differences were reported in examination anxiety when the pupils were grouped according to intended school options and programmes of study at the senior high, technical and vocational schools. It was concluded that the thought of going to Category “A” schools will increase pupils’ examination anxiety more than the thought of going to Category “F” schools at the senior high, technical and vocational schools. Similarly, the level of examination anxiety of students will increase if they change their programme orientations from technical programmes to humanities. It is therefore recommended that public basic schools’ teachers should transcend beyond teaching and imparting knowledge to offering counselling, encouragement and sharing personal experiences on senior high schools in the country and their classifications to students. Teachers should desist from branding senior high schools as “good and bad” during teaching. There should be strong collaboration between the school and parents with respect to the choice of programme of study at the senior high school level. Teachers should assist parents to understand that all courses or programmes at the senior high level are relevant to the economy of Ghana. This can be done through career guidance prior to school and programme selection by the various schools’ guidance personnel.

Keywords: Basic Education Certificate Examination, Examination Anxiety, Programme of Study, School Choice.