

Empowering Women in the Geospatial Industry, a Case Study of Ghana, West Africa

Priscilla Djaba and Stephen Djaba (Ghana)

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SUMMARY

Frequent disruptive innovations in the fields of geospatial technology are creating more opportunities in the areas of spatial sciences, natural resource management, landscape mapping, smart planning, and decision making. Despite the vital role of women in environmental management and decision making, their involvement and participation in the geospatial workforce is very low in Ghana, particularly in West African countries. Although significant strides have been made in terms of technological development on the African continent, women are yet to catch up. This paper is a qualitative research that seeks to unravel the barriers, challenges and prospects women face in the Geospatial industry. In addition, the papers probes into how women can be empowered in Land Surveying, Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry, Engineering, Mining Surveying and in the field of Cartography. Interviews were administered through people with key knowledge about the study area which included male and females in the field of Geospatial Science to establish the gender differentiated perceptions on the challenges, prospects and measures that hinders female participation in the industry. The survey instrument assessed the views of respondents on issues relating to the under-representation of women, The challenges in the working environment, physical and health related difficulties women experience, negative work-identity perceptions, the need to maintain women, the need for mentorship, views on how to encourage more women into the profession, and the future of women in the Geospatial Industry.

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