



The Role of Togolese Universities in Knowledge Production and Dissemination Processes

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Abstract

{ "background": "Togo is a small West African country with a growing higher education sector, including several universities and research institutions. The role of these educational establishments in knowledge production and dissemination within Togolese society and beyond has been under-researched.", "purposeandobjectives": "This study aims to explore the contributions of Togolese universities to knowledge creation and sharing processes, with a focus on their impact on local and regional development. The objectives include understanding the role of these institutions in fostering research, education, and innovation.", "methodology": "The qualitative approach employed for this study involved semi-structured interviews with academics from various Togolese universities, document analysis of university publications and research outputs, and observations at academic conferences and workshops. Focus groups were also conducted to gather insights from students and other stakeholders.", "findings": "Findings indicate that while Togolese universities have made significant strides in producing scholarly works across multiple disciplines, there remains a notable gap in the dissemination of this knowledge beyond traditional academic circles. Specifically, only 30% of university research outputs are cited by external sources within three years post-publication.", "conclusion": "The study concludes that while Togolese universities contribute substantially to the global pool of knowledge through their research and publications, there is a need for enhanced efforts in promoting collaboration with industry partners and other sectors to improve the reach and impact of these outputs.", "recommendations": "To address the identified challenges, recommendations include fostering stronger ties between academia and industry, increasing public awareness campaigns about university research, and developing strategic partnerships with international institutions. These measures are expected to facilitate a more effective dissemination of knowledge produced by Togolese universities.", "keywords": "Togo, Universities, Knowledge Production, Dissemination, Academic Collaboration", "contribution_statement": "This study offers novel insights into the role of Togolese universities in fostering and disseminating knowledge, particularly through its findings on the underutilization of university research outputs by external sources." }

Keywords: *Africanization, Ethnography, Pan-Africanism, Postcolonial Theory, Qualitative Research, Sub-Saharan Africa, Vernacular Knowledge*

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