



Youth Participation in Legal Systems Across Africa: Ghanaian Perspectives

Kofi Abangaa¹

¹ Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA)

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Correspondence: kabangaa@yahoo.com

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Author notes

Kofi Abangaa is affiliated with Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Abstract

Youth participation in legal systems is increasingly recognised as a critical aspect of legal reform across Africa. In Ghana, various stakeholders are exploring ways to enhance youth engagement within their legal frameworks. The study employs a qualitative research approach, analysing existing laws and policies alongside interviews with key stakeholders such as judges, lawyers, and policymakers. Data is triangulated to ensure comprehensive coverage of the topic. Interviews revealed that while there are some legislative frameworks in place to encourage youth participation, implementation challenges remain significant, particularly around enforcement mechanisms and awareness campaigns. Despite existing legal protections for youth, barriers such as cultural norms and lack of resources hinder effective engagement. The need for comprehensive policy reforms is evident to address these issues effectively. Policy recommendations include the development of clear implementation guidelines, increased public education on youth rights, and support for community-based initiatives that promote youth participation in legal processes.

Keywords: *African youth, participatory law reform, youth empowerment strategies, youth courts, legal inclusion, socio-legal studies, juvenile justice systems*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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