



Informal Cross-Border Trade Networks within ECOWAS: Implications for Regional Integration in Ghana, 2001

Adjoa Afriyie^{1,2}, Kofi Aninso^{2,3}, Yaw Asare^{1,4}

¹ Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi

² University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA)

³ Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA)

⁴ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA)

Published: 22 September 2001 | **Received:** 07 June 2001 | **Accepted:** 29 August 2001

Correspondence: aafriyie@aol.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18734741](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18734741)

Author notes

Adjoa Afriyie is affiliated with Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

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

Yaw Asare is affiliated with Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Informal cross-border trade networks play a significant role in regional economic integration within ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States). Ghana is an important case study for understanding these dynamics, given its strategic position and diverse economy. Qualitative research methods will be employed, including semi-structured interviews with traders, focus group discussions, and document analysis of trade-related policies and regulations. Data triangulation techniques will be used to enhance validity. The study reveals that informal cross-border trade networks are predominantly driven by small-scale entrepreneurs who operate across borders without formal documentation. These networks contribute significantly to the local economy but also pose challenges in terms of tax evasion and lack of regulatory oversight. While informal trade networks provide economic benefits, they undermine efforts towards regional integration due to their unregulated nature. The findings suggest that strengthening legal frameworks and enhancing cross-border cooperation are crucial for effective integration within ECOWAS. Ghana should advocate for the implementation of stricter regulatory measures to address tax evasion and improve transparency in informal trade networks. Additionally, fostering collaboration between national governments and international organizations could help streamline regional integration processes.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Hausa, Yoruba, Afro-Modernism, Comparative Method*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge