



Informal Cross-Border Trade Dynamics within ECOWAS Regional Integration Context in Ghana

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Abstract

Informal cross-border trade (ICT) within ECOWAS is a significant component of regional integration in West Africa, with Ghana being a pivotal member state. This study focuses on understanding the dynamics and implications of ICT within this context. Theoretical analysis will be employed, drawing from existing literature on regional integration, economic geography, and African studies. A thematic synthesis approach will be used to analyse and interpret the available data. This theoretical framework provides a robust foundation for understanding the complex dynamics of informal cross-border trade within ECOWAS. It highlights the need for policy interventions that balance market-driven approaches with regulatory frameworks. Future research should focus on developing more inclusive regional integration policies, enhancing data collection and analysis methods to better capture the true impact of ICT in Ghana, and fostering greater collaboration between government agencies and private sector stakeholders.

Keywords: *West Africa, ECOWAS, Ghana, Regionalism, Informal Economy, Cross-Cultural Studies, Development Economics*

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